



**March 23, 2026**

**To:** Members of the Board of Directors

**From:** Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Darrell E. Johnson", is written over the "From:" line.

**Subject:** Approval to Release Invitation for Bids for Compressed Natural Gas Fuel Tank Kits

**Overview**

The Orange County Transportation Authority plans to maintain a contingency fleet of 50 compressed natural gas-powered buses. Replacement fuel tanks are required on 48 of these buses to extend their useful life. Staff requests the Board of Directors approval to release an Invitation for Bids for the procurement of the compressed natural gas fuel tank kits necessary to continue operating these buses.

**Recommendation**

Approve the release of Invitation for Bids 250095 to procure 48 compressed natural gas fuel tank kits to be used for 40-foot buses.

**Discussion**

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) maintains a contingency fleet of 50 compressed natural gas (CNG)-powered buses, model year 2008. The CNG-powered buses recently replaced the nearly 30-year-old diesel-powered buses. The CNG fuel tanks installed on these buses are approaching the end of their certified 20-year service life and must be replaced to comply with safety and regulatory requirements.

The 50 CNG-powered contingency buses are reserved for emergencies or other unforeseen, justified, and Federal Transit Administration-approved activities, such as backfilling zero-emission buses and major overhaul maintenance campaigns. A contingency fleet is separate from the spare fleet and is not included in the spare ratio.

To assess the feasibility of replacing the CNG fuel tanks and to validate the required components and installation process, OCTA developed two prototype buses in April 2025. These prototypes were used to confirm the project scope, parts list, and installation requirements for a larger retrofit program covering the remaining 48 buses. The prototype installations have since been successfully completed, confirming the technical feasibility of the CNG fuel tank replacement project and establishing the necessary components and processes for full implementation.

***Procurement Approach***

OCTA's procurement policies and procedures require the Board of Directors (Board) to approve all invitations for bids (IFB) over \$1,000,000. Staff is requesting approval from the Board to release IFB 250095 for the purchase of 48 CNG fuel tank kits to be used for 40-foot buses.

The IFB will be released upon Board approval. The budget for this effort is \$2,721,744 for a two-year term. The award will be made to the lowest, responsive and responsible bidder in accordance with state law.

**Fiscal Impact**

Funding is included in OCTA's approved Fiscal Year 2025–26 Budget, Operations Division, Account No. 2114-9024-D2108-3RW, and is locally funded.

***Summary***

Board of Directors' approval is requested to release Invitation for Bids 250095 for the purchase of 48 compressed natural gas fuel tank kits to be used for 40-foot buses.

***Attachment***

- A. Draft Invitation for Bids (IFB) 250095, Compressed Natural Gas Fuel Tank Replacement

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