




**March 25, 2024**

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

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

**Subject:** Approval to Release Invitation for Bids for Battery Electric Bus Chargers

### **Overview**

The Orange County Transportation Authority is underway with efforts to procure up to ten, 40-foot battery electric buses, which require battery charging stations. Staff has developed project specifications and is requesting Board of Directors' approval to release an invitation for bids for battery chargers necessary to support the planned battery electric bus procurement.

### **Recommendation**

Approve the release of Invitation for Bids 3-3067 to procure 11 battery chargers for 40-foot plug-in battery electric buses.

### **Discussion**

On June 12, 2023, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors (Board) approved funding to purchase up to 11 battery chargers to support the deployment and operation of ten pilot battery electric buses (BEB) that will be added to the fleet currently used to provide OCTA fixed-route service (OC Bus). The charging stations will be installed at the Santa Ana Bus Base where the new BEBs will be assigned. Operationally, these charging stations will provide the infrastructure resiliency needed to consistently deploy the BEBs. In addition to providing back-up to the charging stations located at the Garden Grove Bus Base, installing charging stations at two OCTA bases provides flexibility to deploy BEBs from either location on various routes.

The charging stations will consist of ten 150-kilowatt battery chargers and one 450-kilowatt pantograph style fast charger, which is designed to accommodate shorter charging times based on operational needs. The electrical energy will be transferred to the bus batteries by plug-in connectors from the 150-kilowatt

battery chargers and by inductive connection from the 450-kilowatt pantograph style charger.

The chargers will be capable of supplying power evenly or sequentially to the charging stations based on bus availability and time of use electricity rates. This allows each bus to be intelligently charged in a manner tailored to the power and logistical needs of each bus. In addition, training will be provided for the operation and maintenance of the charging stations.

***Procurement Approach***

OCTA's procurement policies and procedures require the Board to approve all invitation for bids (IFB) over \$1,000,000. Staff is requesting approval from the Board to release IFB 3-3067 for battery electric bus chargers for 40-foot plug-in battery electric buses (Attachment A).

The IFB will be released upon Board approval. The budget for this effort is \$2,500,000. 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 Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget under Account No. 2114-9022-D2116-0DC.

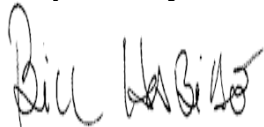
***Summary***

In order to support the OCTA Board approved zero-emission rollout plan, staff has developed a scope of work to procure equipment needed to support the operation of battery electric buses. Board of Directors' approval is requested to release Invitation for Bids 3-3067 for the purchase of 11 battery electric chargers for 40-foot plug-in battery electric buses.

***Attachment***

- A. Draft Invitation for Bids (IFB) 3-3067, Battery Chargers for 40-Foot Plug-In Battery Electric Buses

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