



Board Meeting Date: 10/22/2024

Title: Pupil Transportation Vehicle Fleet Electrification Update

Type: Discussion

Presenter(s): Mert Woodard – Director, Finance & Operations

Description: In May of 2024 the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) announced an award of nearly \$22,000,000 to 15 Minnesota School Districts as part of the EPA’s 2024 Clean School Bus Rebate Program. The program, funded by the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, aims to accelerate the transition to zero emissions vehicles and to replace existing school buses.

The District was among the 15 school districts selected and has been awarded funding for two electric buses. The award is for a total of \$400,000, with a maximum of \$200,000 per bus. Receiving funding is contingent upon the District “scrapping” an equivalent number of traditional buses that are currently in service.

Full-size electric buses typically cost \$350,000-400,000. Additional costs necessary to operate electric buses include facility modifications needed to install charging stations, the charging equipment, charging software, and training. Also, should a battery reach failure prematurely, the replacement cost can be as high as \$80,000.

The District has the option to purchase the buses and charging infrastructure upfront and in full, or, it can enter into a fleet electrification as a service agreement with a firm specializing in “turn-key” electric bus operations. Under such an arrangement the District would make payments across the useful life of the buses that cover the cost of the bus, charging infrastructure, electricity, on-going maintenance, extended battery warranties, and other items.

The administration is evaluating all options and has worked with its purchasing agent to submit a request for proposals for fleet electrification as a service. The administration anticipates bringing forward a recommendation at a subsequent Board Meeting.

The District retains the option of *not* pursuing fleet electrification at this time.

Recommendation: There is no recommended action.

Desired Outcomes from the Board: Discuss the District’s fleet electrification planning.

Attachments:

N/A