



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

AGENDA TITLE: Approve Specifications and Advertisement for Bids for Five 35-Foot Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Buses

MEETING DATE: April 7, 1999

PREPARED BY: Public Works Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council approve the specifications for the above project and authorize advertising for bids.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The five low-floor, CNG buses requested will replace five diesel buses in the Transit fleet. Two 35-foot diesel buses that are used on the GrapeLine (vehicles 10-040 and 10-041), and three smaller diesel buses used for Dial-A-Ride (10-027, 10-028, and 10-042) will be sold at auction. We have had the 35-foot diesel buses in GrapeLine service over one and a half years, and, with the anticipated continued increase in ridership, feel the larger buses will be more accommodating than the smaller 28-foot Ford cutaways.

The new, low-floor CNG buses will accommodate 30 seated and 15 standing passengers and will have quickly deployed ramps rather than steps at the front entry/exit. Wheelchair passengers will be able to board the buses more quickly, and parents traveling with strollers and infants will board and leave more safely and conveniently. There are steps at the back of the bus for the more able bodied. The bid will be for three buses with an option for two more. (Funds have only been secured for three buses.) The Fleet Committee has reviewed the specifications.

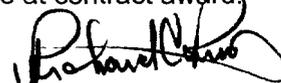
There are plans to purchase one more CNG bus, but we are considering the purchase of a trolley for Downtown and specialty use rather than a bus. Once the necessary funding is secured, we will come back to the Council on that item.

Specifications are on file in the Public Works Department.

FUNDING:	Project Estimate:	\$1,800,000 (5 dedicated CNG buses @ \$360,000/each)
	Budgeted:	1998/99 fiscal year
		FTA (CMAQ) \$1,475,478
		Air District 276,000
		TDA 48,522
		<u>\$1,800,000</u>

Planned Bid Opening Date: June 2, 1999

A request for appropriation of funds will be made at contract award.


Richard C. Prima, Jr.
Public Works Director

Prepared by Carlos Tobar, Transportation Manager
RCP/CT/lm
cc: Purchasing Officer

APPROVED: _____


H. Dixon Flynn -- City Manager