



Staff Report

TO: City Council
FROM: Kari Mendoza, Administrative Services Director
DATE: April 4, 2023
SUBJECT: Approval of Fuel Source Technology for the City of Beaumont Transit Zero-Emission Bus Rollout Plan

Description Review information for discussion and select a Fuel Source Technology to proceed with the Zero-Emission Bus Rollout and Implementation Plans.

Background and Analysis:

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted the Innovative Clean Transit (ICT) regulation in December 2018. Per the regulation, small transit agencies are required to submit a board-approved Zero-Emission Bus (ZEB) Rollout Plan by July 1, 2023. In response to this mandate, City staff has participated in the development of a Zero-Emission Bus Rollout and Implementation Plan with the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and the Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE).

This regulation was implemented with the goal of achieving a 100% ZEB Fleet by 2040. This goal is to be accomplished through the purchase of new buses in accordance with the purchasing mandate shown in the table below. Beginning in 2026, 25% of annual bus purchases must be zero-emission technology. Beginning in 2029, 100% of annual purchases must be zero-emission.

Starting January 1	ZEB Percentage of Total New Bus Purchases
2026	25%
2027	25%
2028	25%
2029	100%

The completion of the ZEB rollout plans will allow CARB to assess the financial impacts of the regulation on transit agencies and plan for future funding assistance opportunities to aid all agencies to reach the goal by 2040.

The smaller transit agencies in the Riverside County area approached RCTC for assistance in the development of the ZEB Rollout Plans to meet the ICT regulation. The smaller transit agencies include the cities of Corona, Banning, Beaumont, Riverside, and Palo Verde Valley Transit Agency (Blythe).

RCTC agreed to assist and applied for grant funding from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) FY 2021-2022 Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant program under the Sustainable Communities Competitive-Technical category. In June 2021 RCTC secured a Caltrans grant in the amount of \$271,380 to match the \$202,420 in State Transportation Improvement Program Planning, Programming, and Monitoring funds.

On April 13, 2022, RCTC awarded a contract to CTE, a 501c-3 nonprofit engineering and planning firm, to develop the ZEB Rollout Plans for the five smaller transit agencies. In addition to each transit agency's ZEB Plan, RCTC will also be preparing a countywide ZEB Financial Strategy to assist the transit operators with implementation. Following the award of the contract, RCTC and CTE initiated the kickoff meeting with Beaumont on July 7, 2022, to discuss the key activities and schedule the development of the ZEB Plans.

Fiscal Impact:

The cost to prepare this staff report is estimated at \$325. There is no fiscal impact on the general fund for the selection of zero-emission bus fuel technology. A funding plan for the implementation of zero-emission buses and infrastructure will be developed and included in future budgets through the annual Short Range Transit Plan.

Recommended Action:

Approve the mixed-fleet fuel source technology as the recommended technology in the development of the City of Beaumont Transit Zero-Emission Bus Rollout Plan.

Attachments:

- A. Zero-Emission Transition - PowerPoint Presentation
- B. Existing Conditions Report
- C. Zero-Emission Transition Financial Analyses