

Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit, Inc.
Special Meeting of the Board of Directors
April 12, 2023 | 12:30pm via Zoom

Attendees

Board Members: Kelley Cooper; Deborah Dawson; Jennifer Dotson; Lisa Holmes; Ducson Nguyen; Frank Proto; Denise Thompson

Absent: Gary Stewart; Laura Lewis

TCAT Staff: Susan Brock; Taylor Hessler; Scot Vanderpool

Call to Order

D. Thompson called the meeting to order at 12:31pm.

J. Dotson had to leave the meeting at 12:33pm.

S. Vanderpool introduces **Resolution 2023-xx Local Match for Low or No Emission (Low-No) Program**. The local match for the grant application is \$796,000, which S. Vanderpool explains would come from either the Modernized Enhancement Program (MEP) or Accelerated Transit Capital (ATC) Program; both are New York State funding sources. The application is for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), which would provide enormous cost savings and increased sustainability. The BESS would charge overnight when demand charges are lower and hold enough energy to charge the electric buses at midday.

F. Proto asked for a future calculation that would show the cost savings from this system. L. Lewis asked for the current number of TCAT electric buses. S. Vanderpool said we currently have 7, but we are expecting to have 20 total in 2024; 13 of which would be 40-foot buses, and the rest smaller electric vehicles.

F. Proto moved the resolution, with a second from D. Dawson. D. Dawson suggested adding the total amount of the grant application to the resolution, which she and the mover (F. Proto) agreed was a friendly amendment. The resolution passed as amended during the meeting with a vote of 6-0-0 as follows:

RESOLUTION 2023 – 12
LOCAL MATCH FOR LOW OR NO EMISSION (LOW-NO) PROGRAM

WHEREAS, pursuant to contract, Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit, Inc. (TCAT) provides public transit bus services throughout Tompkins County, New York, with the use of buses owned by Tompkins County and operated and maintained by TCAT, and

WHEREAS, TCAT supports Tompkins County's application to the 2023 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Low or No Emission (Low-No) Program for financial assistance in procuring a 1200kW/5400kWh microgrid Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), which

has a total cost of \$3,980,000, to support efficient and cost-effective electric fleet charging, and

WHEREAS, TCAT supports local comprehensive plans that call for greenhouse gas emission reductions and sustainable transportation; in particular, the Ithaca-Tompkins County Transportation Council's 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan which states that an overarching goal of the plan is to "minimize negative environmental impacts of transportation including: dependency on fossil fuel energy use, emissions, noise pollution and non-point source pollution," and

WHEREAS, TCAT and Tompkins County see electric bus technology as integral to moving to a sustainable transportation future and have been replacing aging diesel buses that are expensive to maintain, have low fuel efficiency, and were manufactured prior to more recent emissions requirements with electric buses, and

WHEREAS, TCAT and Tompkins County seek to procure and install the BESS described above, which will, among other things (1) minimize TCAT's energy bills by storing energy at off-peak times to allow for the seamless integration of renewable energy sources, thus distributing energy when tariffs are at their highest; (2) make TCAT less dependent on the energy grid and keep TCAT's electric buses running during power outages by using energy back-up; and (3) reduce TCAT's overall carbon footprint and allow TCAT to continue its role as a leader in delivering better bus mass transit environmental outcomes, and

WHEREAS, TCAT is required to identify local funding sources as a part of the Low-No Program application, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the TCAT Board of Directors authorizes an amount not to exceed Seven Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand Dollars (\$796,000) from the 2025 Modernized Enhancement Program (MEP) and the Accelerated Transit Capital Program (ATC) to include as a local match for Tompkins County's 2023 Low-No Program grant award.

Adopted by the TCAT Board of Directors on this the 12th day of April, 2023.

Next Meeting

The next regular Board meeting will be April 27, 2023.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:50pm (Motion by D. Dawson, second by K. Cooper).

Minutes respectfully submitted by Taylor Hessler, Recording Secretary, January 25, 2024.