DATE                     September 7, 2016
TO                      GCTD Board of Directors
FROM                    Marlena Kohler, Purchasing Manager/DBE Officer
                        Margaret Heath, Paratransit Manager
SUBJECT
Consider Authorizing the General Manager to Award a Contract to Creative Bus Sales for the Purchase of Eight (8) Starcraft Cutaway Buses for GCTD’s Paratransit Fleet

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The mixed use demand for GO ACCESS transportation has necessitated a mixed fleet comprised of both traditional cut-aways and MV-1 vans. In January 2015, the Board approved staff recommendation to replace some cut-away units with MV-1 vans. Cut-aways facilitate group travel to senior meal congregate sites, Braille support sessions and other group trip opportunities as they present themselves. The Federal Transit Administration Useful Life of Transit Buses and Vans, (FTA VA-26-7229-07.1) dated April 2007 classifies these vehicles as Light-Duty Vehicles with a useful life of five years and/or 150,000 miles. The current GO ACCESS cut-aways have been in revenue service seven plus years and have an average odometer reading exceeding 200,000 miles. These aging vehicles have served their useful lives and should be replaced to maintain reliable service provision to our customers.

As a member of the California Association for Coordinated Transportation (CALACT), GCTD has access to purchase a variety of transit vehicles from the CALACT/MBTA purchasing cooperative. These contracts are restricted to FTA grantees geographically located within the State of California. After reviewing all available models, staff recommends the purchase eight (8) Starcraft vehicles from Creative Bus Sales, Inc. to replace up to eight of the aging El Dorado cut-aways using Federal and state compliant competitive pricing available from the CALACT contract.

These vehicles will be paid for using California Proposition 1B funds from the Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement, and Service Enhancement Account Program (PTMISEA). Funding for these vehicles has been allocated and funds are to be received shortly by GCTD. This P.O. will be issued and the vehicles delivered when funds have been received.
It is recommended the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to approve, subject to legal counsel review of the contract, the purchase of up to eight (8) Starcraft Cut-away Buses from Creative Bus Sales Inc. in fiscal year 2016-17, for a total cost not-to-exceed $891,007.28 ($111,375.91 per bus), contingent upon receipt of state funding and authorize up to an additional 5% ($5,569) to cover contingencies or possible changes which may occur during the contract period.

II. BACKGROUND

In fiscal year 2014, Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD) developed a paratransit vehicle replacement plan with a total cost of $2,600,000. One-third of the fleet was to be replaced in each of three (3) fiscal years (FY2014-15, FY2015-16, and FY2016-17). GCTD has received State Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement, and Service Enhancement Account Program (PTMISEA) funding for the first year of the three-year plan in the amount of $866,667, which was used to purchase thirteen (13) MV1 paratransit vehicles. The second phase of PTMISEA funding is expected to be received soon.

GO ACCESS provides ADA paratransit service complementary to GCTD’s fixed services in compliance with federal regulations. Complementary paratransit service is best described as origin to destination service, requiring the service to assist passengers beyond the curb when necessary. Reliable and accessible transportation is important to a growing portion of our constituency as more baby boomers move toward retirement locally. GCTD needs to maintain a portion of its fleet using 23’ cutaways to continue efficient service to the large Senior Nutrition Program and growing Adult Day Health Care groups.

The Federal Transit Administration Useful Life of Transit Buses and Vans, (FTA VA-26-7229-07.1) dated April 2007 classifies these vehicles as Light-Duty Vehicles with a useful life of five years and/or 150,000 miles. The current GO ACCESS cut-aways have been in revenue service seven plus years and have an average odometer reading exceeding 200,000 miles. These aging and progressively less reliable vehicles have served their useful lives. They are subject to an increasing number of time consuming road calls and repairs; they should be replaced to maintain reliable service provision to our customers.

GCTD collaborated with its GO ACCESS contractor, MV Transportation to evaluate several vehicle types available from the CalACT contract recently finalized in April 2016. As a member of CALACT, GCTD has access to purchase a variety of transit vehicles from the CALACT/MBTA purchasing cooperative. In 2010, the California Department of General Services (DGS) and Caltrans authorized California Association for Coordinated Transportation (CalACT) and Morongo Basin Transit Authority (MBTA) to establish a
“Purchasing Cooperative” for use by Caltrans and other FTA grantees in the State of California. Following a competitive procurement process, MBTA and CalACT awarded contracts to A-Z Bus Sales and Creative Bus Sales. The contracts are restricted to FTA grantees geographically located within the State of California.

The Cooperative provides a federal and California State compliant purchasing solution that offers a variety of ADA compliant vehicles from a low floor minivan to large cutaway vehicles at pricing GCTD would be unable to secure independently. Staff inspected several models reviewing options that would best meet the needs of GCTD in provision of GO ACCESS service to its constituents. Models from both A-Z Bus Sales and Creative Bus Sales, Inc. were evaluated and quotes were requested from both vendors. It was determined that the Starcraft vehicle provided by Creative Bus Sales offers the best value and meets GCTD’s requirements. The price difference can be attributed to Creative’s ability to complete the required CNG conversion within its shop. A-Z sends their vehicles to a reputable third party vendor in Northern CA for the conversion work. GCTD has had a positive experience with the Starcraft coach in the paratransit application; the coaches have held up well past the five year useful span.

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<tr>
<th>Creative Bus Sales</th>
<th>A-Z Bus Sales</th>
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<td>$111,375.91 per bus</td>
<td>$115,937.95 per bus</td>
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III. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

The current GO ACCESS cut-aways have been in revenue service seven plus years and have an average odometer reading exceeding 200,000 miles. These aging vehicles have served their useful lives and should be replaced to maintain reliable service provision to our customers.

It is recommended the Board of Directors authorize the General Manager to approve, subject to legal counsel review of the contract, the purchase up to eight (8) Starcraft Cut-away Buses from Creative Bus Sales Inc., in fiscal year 2016-17, for a total cost not-to-exceed $891,007.28 ($111,375.91 per bus), contingent upon receipt of state funding and authorize up to an additional 5% ($5,569) to cover contingencies or possible changes which may occur during the contract period.

CONCURRENCE:

STEVEN P. BROWN
General Manager