



May 22, 2014

To: Fox Cities Transit Commission

From: Amy Erickson – Paratransit Coordinator/Operations Supervisor

**Subject: Exercising First Option Year with Lamers Bus Lines to provide 2014 Downtown Appleton Trolley Service**

On June 26, 2013, the Fox Cities Transit Commission approved a one year contract with two one year options for Lamers Bus Lines to provide the Downtown Appleton Trolley Service for Valley Transit from July 5, 2013 through September 26, 2013 at a rate of \$71.31 per hour.

Lamers Bus Lines has been providing the Downtown Appleton Trolley Service since 2006, and are a local company, who provides charter, school bus, shuttle and specialized transportation services. They have five trolley buses available to provide the service, so a backup vehicle should always be available in case of mechanical issues. The proposed hourly cost for the 2014 option year increased approximately 1.37%; from \$71.31 per hour to \$72.29 per hour. A price analysis has been conducted on the new pricing and it has been determined to be fair and reasonable. The Valley Transit 2014 budget includes \$ 29,580 for the trolley service, with Appleton Downtown, Inc. (ADI) paying the local share.

The Downtown Appleton Trolley operates on Thursdays and Fridays from 5 p.m. until 11 p.m., and all day on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. During 2013, there were 5,756 rides provided by the Trolley service as compared to 6,256 in 2012. The lower ridership in 2012 can be attributed to construction work on Olde Oneida Street that delayed the start of the service for almost one month.

Lamers Bus Lines has agreed to continue to provide Downtown Appleton Trolley Service in 2014 at a cost of \$72.29 per hour. We have exercised the first option year with Lamers bus Lines and asked them to continue providing Downtown Appleton Trolley Service for 2014.