



April 15, 2015

To: Fox Cities Transit Commission
Finance Committee

From: Debra Ebben, Administrative Services Manager and Amy Erickson, Operations Supervisor

Subject: Authorization to award a contract to Lamers Bus Lines for the provision of a Construction Circulator Service

Background:

Valley Transit is asking for authorization to award a contract to Lamers Bus Lines to provide circulator service around the construction project on Appleton Road near Highway 441. The construction project began on April 13, 2015 and runs directly through Valley Transit's Route 1 and Route 30, making it impassable without major detours and time delays. At this time, Valley Transit does not have the equipment or the manpower to run additional hours and miles needed to provide all the service required by the detour of Route 1 and Route 30.

Staff determined after consulting with East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission as well as the Wisconsin DOT 441/10 project staff that the most efficient and the least inconvenient option for our customers is to have one segment of Route 30 operate from Goodwill (Route 30 North) to the Downtown Appleton Transit Center. A separate bus runs from Piggly Wiggly on Appleton Road (Route 30 South) to the Neenah Transit Center and back. Route 1 has been modified slightly to allow it to stay on schedule in spite of the extra traffic on Oneida. A circulator operates on a continuous loop connecting both parts of Route 30 and with Route 1 and is operated by a private contractor with a smaller vehicle.

Valley Transit requested quotes for the service from four separate vendors; Running Inc., Lamers Bus Lines, Kobussen Bus, and Abby Vans. Running and Abby Vans declined to quote. Lamers quoted \$49.50 per hour and Kobussen quoted \$69.00 per hour. If the project doesn't get extended and goes as planned, the total cost should be approximately \$57,000.

Valley Transit is actively pursuing reimbursement for the service from Wisconsin DOT, as the reason for providing the service is because of the 441/10 construction project. However, we believe that even if they decline to assist us with the cost, we will be able to fund the circulator out of our existing 2015 budget.

Recommendation: Award the contract for the Construction Circulator Service to Lamers Bus Lines.