

## BACKGROUND

December 17, 2008

### METROLINX TRANSIT PROCUREMENT INITIATIVE (TPI)

On Wednesday, December 17, Metrolinx announced the winning contracts for the 2009 joint transit bus procurement. The 2009 joint procurement is the largest collective bus purchase in Ontario's history.

The contracts for up to 160 buses – valued at up to \$70 million – have been awarded to New Flyer Industries Canada ULC and City View Bus Sales. This is the first municipal bus purchase to comply with the Province's Canadian content policy.

- The key objectives of the TPI are to:
  - ❖ Reduce the unit costs of buses;
  - ❖ Reduce costs in the transit vehicle procurement process;
  - ❖ Improve scheduling and buying power for transit systems; and
  - ❖ Reduce uncertainty for manufacturers through longer production runs, predictability and performance-based specifications.
- The TPI was transferred from MTO to Metrolinx in June 2008.
- In August 2008, Metrolinx issued three separate RFPs on MERX for the following vehicle types to be delivered in 2009 and 2010:
  - ❖ 9-metre (30') low-floor urban diesel transit bus;
  - ❖ 12-metre (40') low-floor urban diesel transit bus; and
  - ❖ 12-metre (40') low-floor urban diesel-electric hybrid transit bus.
- A rigorous four-stage evaluation process, facilitated by Metrolinx and carried out by the fleet managers from the participating municipalities was used to assess the proposals submitted by the bus manufacturers. Compliance with each stage of the review was required for proposals to proceed to the next stage of evaluation.
- A Fairness Commissioner was retained to oversee each stage of the procurement process to ensure that the process was fair and open to all bus manufacturers.
- The total value of these contracts is estimated to be worth up to \$70 million in 2009. The contracts are for one year with an option year for 2010.
- It is anticipated that some of the new buses will be used to provide expanded transit services, while others will be used to replace aging buses to provide more reliable service with fewer breakdowns. The expansion of services and increased reliability of new buses help to promote transit as a more attractive mode of transport in communities across Ontario.

- The buses being ordered through the TPI will all be fully accessible, low-floor vehicles, improving the accessibility of municipal transit across the province. All buses purchased with provincial transit funding must be fully accessible.
- The buses will also be capable of supporting the installation of advanced Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS).

- 30 -

Media contact:

Jacque Menezes  
Senior Associate, Public Affairs and Media  
Metrolinx  
Phone: 416-874-5923  
[Jacque.Menezes@metrolinx.com](mailto:Jacque.Menezes@metrolinx.com)  
[www.metrolinx.com](http://www.metrolinx.com)

*Disponible en français*