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## SBCAG STAFF REPORT

**SUBJECT:** Electric Shuttle Purchase

**MEETING DATE:** November 18, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM:** 4K

**STAFF CONTACT:** Scott Spaulding

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve and authorize Executive Director to execute an agreement to purchase two electric shuttles funded by the 2018 SBCAG Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program grant in an amount not to exceed \$445,000 with delivery by March 31, 2022, upon review and approval by legal counsel.

**DISCUSSION:**

In March 2018, the California State Transportation Agency notified SBCAG that the agency's Cycle Three Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) Goleta Train Station grant application had competed successfully and been awarded in the full amount of \$13 million. The primary purpose of the project is to design and construct a new train station on a parcel purchased by the City adjacent to the existing passenger platform. The award includes \$400,000 to purchase two zero emission shuttle buses to provide improved connectivity between the train station and UCSB.

Subsequent to the development of the grant application in late 2017, Santa Barbara MTD developed and will soon implement a microtransit service in Goleta that will include providing connectivity between the Goleta train station and UCSB. In order to avoid duplication of service, staff has worked with Caltrans and the California State Transportation Agency to develop an alternative use of the zero-emission shuttles funded by the grant. Easy Lift, the Consolidated Transportation Service Agency for the South Coast, has agreed to operate the vehicles in non-ADA service, to provide any funding shortfall for the procurement of the shuttles, and to operate the shuttles at no cost to SBCAG. SBCAG is obligated to be under contract to procure the shuttles by January 30, 2022.

Staff has identified suitable zero-emission shuttle vehicles for use by Easy Lift and has demonstrated the vehicle locally in non-revenue service. The use of battery electric shuttle buses in non-ADA CTSA service could begin as early as January and could potentially be the first time zero-emission vehicles are used to provide this type of service in California.