



City of Muscatine



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

DATE: 1-20-22

City Council

STAFF

Amy Fortenbacher, Transit Supervisor
Brian Stineman, Public Work Director

SUBJECT

Request to issue purchase order for two New England Front Runner Gas, Kneeling, Low Floor, Light Duty, Wheelchair Accessible Buses.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Presented for the City Council's consideration is a request for the approval to issue a purchase order in the amount of \$359,228.00 (\$179,614.00 each bus) to Hoglund Bus Co., Inc for the purchase of two New England Front Runner Gas, kneeling, low floor, light duty buses that are wheelchair accessible, to replace buses 247 and 248. These buses "kneel" at the curb which will allow riders in wheelchairs to have a more dignified ride compared to the buses with wheelchair lifts.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of the Public Works/Transit staff to approve the purchase order for the two low floor kneeling buses. Currently, New England is manufacturing Front Runner buses and can be delivered in five to six months after placing the order. The buses we have been purchasing do not have a delivery date, but we know from the undelivered bus we ordered in October of 2020, it is well over a year. The salesman has let us know the price is already set to increase and will not go down in the future.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

MuscaBus received a CARES grant to fund the purchase of two buses to replace 247 and 248. This prompted MuscaBus to begin the search for replacement buses. MuscaBus has been looking for a low floor bus that would provide our passengers with mobility devices a boarding/deboarding experience that is safer and easier than our current buses. CAMBUS in Iowa City obtained a New England Front Runner. The transit supervisor visited CAMBUS to observe how the kneeling and ramp worked. CAMBUS expressed how much their passengers love this bus. The steps to get onto a bus and the lift can be barriers for many with mobility devices as they can cause anxiety and fear. After deciding this

was the bus for us, MuscaBus has been communicating with the IowaDOT to get this bus on our state list of approved buses. The state put the bus on the list after doing a Federal Procurement in late December 2021.

These buses will have three positions to transport wheelchairs along with eight additional passengers. There are 14 passenger seats when not transporting wheelchairs. These buses are low floor with the ability to kneel or lower to curb height. There are no steps to get into the bus. For passengers with mobility issues an electric ramp can be used to board the bus. This ramp is very close to the ground, unlike our current buses that require a lift to get onto the bus. A lift can cause anxiety and fear for the passenger. Boarding a bus using a ramp gives the passenger with a mobility device a sense of ease and dignity. If assistance is still needed to board a passenger using a manual wheelchair, an electric Wheelchair Assist can be secured to the wheelchair and electronically pulled into the bus. This also gives comfort to the passenger and the driver that assists in boarding the passenger. We feel this bus will provide our passengers with transportation that gives them more freedom as they will not be concerned about the obstacles of getting on and off the bus.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACT

MuscaBus has a CARES grant in the amount of \$201,274 for the purchase of two light duty buses. The City portion for these two buses is \$173,954 (\$86,977 each). Going forward, these buses will be programmed in the TIP. The grant to replace the Front Runners will be the normal 15 to 20 percent match for the City. The initial expense is higher than the purchase of the current buses, but will be much less in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

Hoglund Bus Co. Quote

Bus Floor Plan

**IOWA 2022 ADA Accessible Van/Light Duty/ Medium Duty Vehicles for Public Transit
Hoglund Bus Co., Inc Order Form**

Bid# PTS2021LDB

Jan 3rd 2022 - Jan 4th 2023

Last Updated 1/9/2022

IA DOT CONTRACT # for orders

22542

Bus Quantity 2

Legal Name: Muscabus
Address: 1459 Washington St
City, State, Zip: Muscatine, IA 52761
Contact Name: Amy Fortenbacher

Phone Number: 563-263-8152
Fax Number: _____
Email Address: tenbacher@Muscatineiowa

Vendor Name: Hoglund Bus Co., Inc
Vendor Contact: Evan Saxton-Williams
Bus Manufacturer: New England Wheels
Model & Gas/Diesel: Front Runner GAS

Bus GVRW: _____
Chassis Manufacturer: Ram / Chrysler
Chassis Wheelbase: 158WB
Vehicle Length: _____

Vehicle category 158WB LOW FLOOR # of Passenger Seats 3 # of WC Positions _____

Lift Manufacturer & Model: Ramp OEM Front _____ Rear _____

Wheelchair Securements Manufacturer & Model: Q Straint Slide N Click

Floor Plan Attached (Required): Yes No _____

Inspection Site/Location: Muscabus

BASE PRICE (includes freight, all rebates from the manufacture, and Mobility rebates) \$ 141897.00

TOTAL OPTIONS (from page 2) \$ 37717.00

TOTAL OPTIONS (from page 3) \$ 0.00

VEHICLE TOTAL \$ 179,614.00

NOTES

Recipient Signature: _____

Date: _____

Vendor Signature: _____

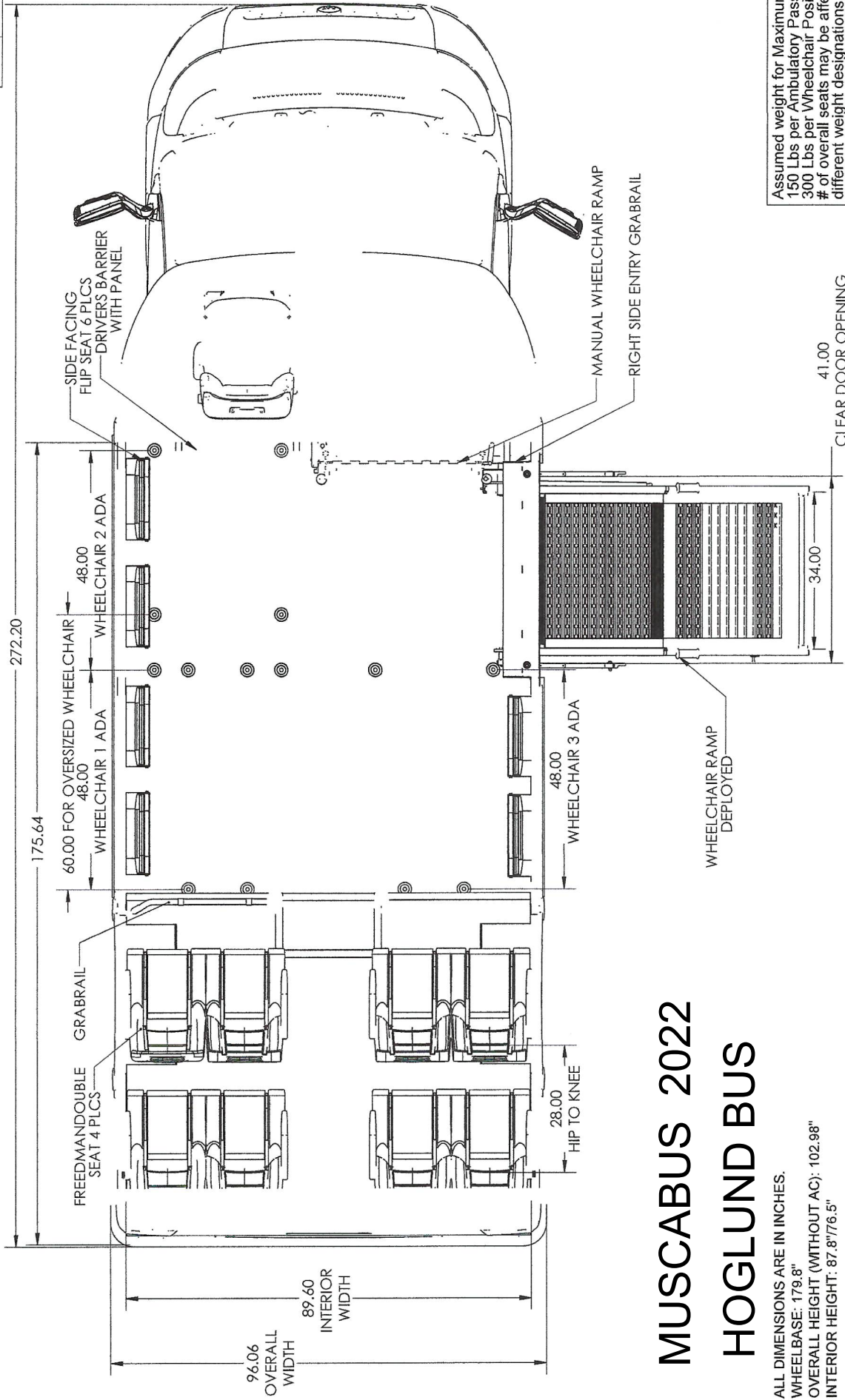
Date: _____

Seat Fabric
Floor Color -

DWG # 2021-025 HOG

IOWA DOT FLOORPLAN

NEW ENGLAND WHEELS, INC.
33 MANWING ROAD
BILLERICA MA 01821
THIS DRAWING IS THE PROPERTY OF NEW ENGLAND WHEELS, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
REV: 1.1 | Date: 10/22/2021



Assumed weight for Maximum GVWR:
150 Lbs per Ambulatory Passenger
300 Lbs per Wheelchair Position
of overall seats may be affected by different weight designations.

MUSCABUS 2022
HOGLUND BUS

ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN INCHES.
WHEELBASE: 179.8"
OVERALL HEIGHT (WITHOUT AC): 102.98"
INTERIOR HEIGHT: 87.8"/76.5"