

**2005 Single Source Purchase of Two Orion VII Low Floor Hybrid Buses For Transit**

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**Recommendation:**

That the single-sourcing of two Orion VII Low Floor Hybrid Buses from Orion Bus Industries Ltd. be approved.

**Report Summary**

This report recommends that a specific piece of equipment required by Mobile Equipment Services Branch, Asset Management and Public Works Department, be single-sourced.

**Report**

These units are being purchased in order to evaluate the hybrid buses available in the marketplace.

**Budget/Financial Implications**

- The total estimated cost for two Orion VII Low Floor Hybrid Buses is \$1,498,000, inclusive of GST.
- Funds are available in the 2005 Capital budget.

**Justification of Recommendation**

- In 2008, a report must be submitted to City Council outlining the alternatives available to replace the current trolley buses.
- New Flyer Industries and Orion Bus Industries are the two major North American manufacturers of hybrid buses. Both manufacturers have substantial hybrid units in revenue service.
- Four New Flyer low floor hybrid buses are also planned to be purchased.
- The Orion VII hybrid buses being purchased are based on Toronto Transit Commission specifications. They are

the lowest cost hybrid unit and the structure will not corrode as it is comprised of stainless steel.

- Orion Bus Industries Ltd. is the largest producer of hybrid buses with hundreds in service, the largest fleet being New York City.
- Hybrid buses will become a more significant part of the fleet in the future. It is essential that other suppliers' products be evaluated prior to making future purchasing commitments. Orion is the only other production model available.