



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Victoria F. Sheehan
Commissioner

William Cass, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Bureau of Rail & Transit
April 20, 2021

REQUESTED ACTION

1. Authorize the Department of Transportation to enter into a contract amendment with Concord Coach Lines, Inc. (Vendor 154207), Concord, NH, to increase the contract amount by \$736,600.00 from \$898,320.00 to \$1,634,920.00 for intercity bus service from Berlin, North Conway, and Littleton to Concord, NH, effective upon Governor approval. The original contract Item 37B was approved by Governor and Executive Council on May 15, 2019, and amended on January 3, 2021. Both the original contract and the amendment were presented to the Executive Council as informational Item G on March 3, 2021. 100% Federal Funds.

Funding is available as follows in FY 2021, and is contingent upon the availability and continued appropriation of funds in FY 2022, with the ability to adjust encumbrances in each of the State fiscal years through the Budget Office if needed and justified:

	<u>FY 2021</u>	<u>FY 2022</u>
04-96-96-964010-2050		
Public Transportation		
103-502664 Contracts for Operational Service	\$149,000.00	\$587,600.00

2. Further, authorize to extend the contract end date from June 30, 2021 to December 31, 2021, effective upon Governor approval.

EXPLANATION

The requested \$736,600.00 of FTA Section 5311(f) Intercity Bus CARES Act and American Rescue Plan funds will enable Concord Coach Lines to continue providing intercity bus services through December 31, 2021. Following passage of the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan, the FTA apportioned funding to all states to support operating, capital, and other expenses generally eligible under the FTA Section 5311(f) Intercity Bus Grants to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. The Department's SFY 2021 approved operating budget and submitted SFY 2022 operating budget include funds from the FTA Section 5311(f) program that provide funding for operating, capital, and planning assistance for public transportation that operates in the rural communities of New Hampshire.

The Department has allocated FTA Section 5311(f) CARES Act funding for operating assistance in SFY 2021 and 2022 to several intercity bus agencies that serve rural portions of New Hampshire, including

Concord Coach Lines. Concord Coach Lines' intercity bus services provided under this contract include roundtrip services between Littleton, Berlin, and North Conway to Concord, with continued connections to Boston. The public has come to value and rely on these transit services as they allow for rural New Hampshire, specifically the north country, to connect to Concord and to the larger national intercity bus network.

In addition, the Department has allocated other FTA CARES Act funding for commuter and intercity bus services provided by private bus operators, including Concord Coach Lines' commuter bus service between Concord and Boston. Currently, all the other CARES Act-funded contracts with private bus operators have contract completion dates of December 31, 2021, so this amendment will align the contract completion date for all CARES Act-subsidized intercity/commuter transportation services provided by private bus operators. It is anticipated that by the end of CY 2021, intercity and commuter bus ridership will recover significantly and an assessment of Concord Coach Lines needs for additional FTA funding, if any, will be conducted.

All other provisions of the agreement shall remain in effect. In the event that Federal Funds become unavailable, General Funds will not be requested to support this program.

The amendment has been approved by the Attorney General as to form and execution and the Department has verified that the necessary funds are available. Copies of the fully executed amendment are on file at the Secretary of State's Office and the Department of Administrative Services, and subsequent to the Governor and Executive Council approval will be on file at the Department of Transportation.

Your approval of this resolution is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,



Victoria F. Sheehan
Commissioner

I hereby approve this request pursuant to RSA 4:45, RSA 21-P:43, and Section 4 of Executive Order 2020-04 as extended by Executive Orders 2020-05, 2020-08, 2020-09, 2020-10, 2020-14, 2020-15, 2020-16, 2020-17, 2020-18, 2020-20, 2020-21, 2020-23, 2020-24, 2020-25, 2021-01, 2021-02, 2021-04, 2021-05, 2021-06 and 2021-08 and suspend the Manual of Procedures 150, V., 5., requirement.

5.10.21

Date



Governor Christopher T. Sununu

Attachments