

Meeting Date: January 20, 2026
Consent Agenda: Expansion Microtransit Vehicles

BACKGROUND:

With the continued growth and expansion of GRTC's microtransit LINK service, additional vehicles are required to sustain service demand and maintain an appropriate spare ratio to ensure continuity of operations. Staff proposes the acquisition of five (5) additional microtransit vehicles to expand fleet capacity and operational flexibility.

After evaluation, staff has determined that the gasoline-powered Ford Transit Van best meets current service needs in terms of size, passenger capacity, and deployment flexibility. GRTC currently operates five (5) electric Ford Transit vans of a similar configuration, which have performed reliably; however, additional electric vehicles are not recommended at this time due to extended vehicle lead times and on-site charging infrastructure limitations.

Of the five proposed vehicles, three (3) will be non-ADA compliant and two (2) will be ADA-compliant and equipped with wheelchair lifts and securement. This mixed fleet approach ensures that an ADA-accessible vehicle is always in service in each LINK service zone while increasing overall passenger capacity. The busiest LINK zones—Azalea, Ashland, and Sandston—will particularly benefit from these additional vehicles.

The non-ADA vehicles will have a passenger capacity of up to thirteen (13) passengers. The ADA-compliant vehicles will include eight (8) passenger seats and one (1) wheelchair position.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Virginia Division of Purchases and Supply (DPS) maintains a statewide contract with Sonny Merryman, Inc. (Contract No. CTR005759) for small transit vehicles, including Ford Transit Vans.
- The unit price for a 2025 Ford Transit Gasoline Van, 3.5L V6 (non-ADA), is \$103,297.00 each, for a total of \$309,891.00 for three (3) vehicles. The unit price for the ADA-compliant version is \$122,907.00 each, for a total of \$245,814.00 for two (2) vehicles.
- The total purchase amount is \$555,705.00 for all five (5) vehicles.
- If approved, the contractor will be authorized to begin production of all five vehicles immediately. The anticipated delivery timeframe is approximately one (1) year from notice to proceed; however, current production lead times remain subject to manufacturer scheduling.
- This purchase will be funded with federal, state, and local funding that was approved in FY26.

| Grant # | Federal (28%) | State (68%) | Local (4%) |
|----------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| 73026-52 | \$155,597.40 | \$377,879.40 | \$22,228.20 |

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Directors authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to issue a purchase order to Sonny Merryman, Inc., under Virginia DPS Contract No. CTR005759, in the amount of \$555,705.00 for the purchase of five (5) microtransit expansion vehicles for the LINK service.

Ellen Robertson, Secretary
GRTC Board of Directors

Date