



# City Council Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL DATE: DECEMBER 14, 2021

FROM: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: AWARD PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT TO STRATOSSHARE INC OF SAN BERNARDINO, CA TO DEVELOP AND ADMINISTER THE RIVERSIDE CLEAN AIR CAR SHARE PROGRAM THROUGH THE DEPLOYMENT OF HYDROGEN FUEL VEHICLES THROUGHOUT THE CITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$918,599 (AS FUNDED BY THE CLEAN MOBILITY VOUCHER PILOT PROGRAM GRANT); AND EXECUTE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA RIVERSIDE TO ASSIST WITH THE DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS, AND REPORTING OF THE RIVERSIDE CLEAN AIR CAR SHARE PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$81,401 (AS FUNDED BY THE CLEAN MOBILITY VOUCHER PILOT PROGRAM GRANT)

## **ISSUE:**

Award a Professional Consultant Services Agreement to StratosShare Inc. of San Bernardino, CA to develop and administer the Riverside Clean Air Car Share Program through the deployment of hydrogen fuel vehicles throughout the city in the amount of \$918,599 (as funded by the Clean Mobility Voucher Pilot Program Grant); and execute a memorandum of understanding with the University of California, Riverside to assist with the data collection, analysis, and reporting of the Riverside Clean Air Car Share Program in the amount of \$81,401 (as funded by the Clean Mobility Voucher Pilot Program Grant).

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the City Council:

1. Award a Professional Consultant Services Agreement to StratosShare Inc., of San Bernardino, California, to develop and administer the Riverside Clean Air Car Share Program through the deployment of hydrogen fuel vehicles throughout the city in the amount of \$918,599 (as funded by the Clean Mobility Voucher Pilot Program Grant) under section 702(k) of Purchasing Resolution 23256;
2. Execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of California, Riverside to assist with the data collection, analysis and reporting of the Riverside Clean Air Car Share Program in the amount of \$81,401 (as funded by the Clean Mobility Voucher Pilot Program Grant); and
3. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute all necessary documents, including making minor and non-substantive changes.

## **BACKGROUND:**

On October 6, 2020, Council authorized a submittal of a \$1,000,000 grant application through the CALSTART “Clean Mobility Voucher Pilot Program” to establish a network of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles with free usage for qualifying low-income residents, in partnership with StratosShare and the University of California Riverside’s Center for Environmental Research and Technology. No matching funds were required of the City for the grant.

The application was subsequently awarded, and City Council approved the acceptance of grant funds on July 6, 2021, along with the resolution to permit the City Manager to execute the voucher agreement.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The City of Riverside was approached by StratosShare, a mobility service provider that operates vehicle rental stations in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, to partner in a joint grant application for Clean Mobility Options Voucher funds ([www.stratosshare.com](http://www.stratosshare.com)). StratosShare is unique because its vehicles are exclusively hydrogen fuel cell based; vehicles rented through StratosShare may be driven within a 100-mile radius of the rental station. StratosShare is an established local company with strong industry partnerships that currently has rental facilities in the City of Riverside at the Riverside Municipal Airport and the University of California, Riverside.

The grant application strongly encouraged partnership between local agencies and a mobility service provider. By partnering with StratosShare, the City of Riverside has been awarded \$1 million in program funds to administer to StratosShare for the operation of an additional 7 stations in the City of Riverside. The City has also required that qualifying low-income residents be provided with up to 2 hours of rental service per day at no charge. The qualification and administration of the program will be managed by StratosShare with input from the City. In turn, the City will provide on-street parking locations within SB 535 qualifying disadvantaged communities to locate vehicle rental stations (which would be a signed section of on-street parking). StratosShare will receive grant funding in the amount of \$918,599 for vehicle purchasing, telemetry hardware, software licensing, program marketing, voucher administration, and operations & maintenance. All grant leveraging funds would be provided/demonstrated by StratosShare’s existing funding sources and assets. No matching funds are required of the local agency through the grant program.

The University of California, Riverside’s CE-CERT also joined the grant partnership. UCR CE-CERT Team will assist in providing 5-7 parking spaces at each of two UCR affiliated parking facilities, including permitting fees and parking operational services. The CE-CERT Team will receive grant funding in the amount of \$81,401 to provide assistance with data collection, analysis, and reporting.

Under the program guidelines for the Clean Mobility Voucher Pilot Program, the project schedule includes a one-year planning/implementation phase and four years of program operation.

The City has recently finalized and executed the voucher agreement with CALSTART. The City has prepared the attached Professional Services Consultant Agreement with StratosShare and a Memorandum of Understanding with UCR CE-CERT to cement partner obligations for the grant term.

Section 702(k) of Purchasing Resolution 23256 allows for an exception to competitive procurement “When the Awarding Entity waives bidding requirements under and according to the circumstances set forth in Section 1109 of the City Charter, or when it is determined by the Manager to be in the best interests of the City to do so”. As Section 1109 of the City Charter states requirements for “Public works contracts” specifically projects that are “for construction and/or improvement of public buildings, works, streets, drains, sewers, utilities, parks or playgrounds, and every purchase of supplies or materials for any such project” it does not apply to this procurement and due to the circumstances of the grant funding the Purchasing Manager has determined the agreement to be in the best interests of the City.

The Purchasing Manager concurs that the recommended action to award is in compliance with Purchasing Resolution 23256.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This item contributes to **Strategic Priority No. 6 Infrastructure, Mobility, and Connectivity** and aligns with the goals below:

**6.1** – Provide, expand and ensure equitable access to sustainable modes of transportation that connect people to opportunities such as employment, education, healthcare, and community amenities.

**6.2** – Maintain, protect, and improve assets and infrastructure within the City’s built environment to ensure and enhance reliability, resiliency, sustainability, and facilitate connectivity.

**6.3** – Identify and pursue new and unique funding opportunities to develop, operate, maintain, and renew infrastructure and programs that meet the community’s needs.

This project aligns with EACH of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – The proposed improvements are part of a significant endeavor to improve the City’s transportation network and quality of life for the residents and visitors, which helps build community trust and results in the greater public good.
2. **Equity** – Public Works strives to improve the City’s roadway network to provide safe and reliable transportation in all areas of the City. The proposed project includes seven car sharing locations throughout the city, many of which fall within disadvantaged communities and will provide free usage to qualifying residents.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – The proposed Clean Mobility Option Voucher Program does not have a local city match and is a cost-effective option for the City to provide its residents with another transportation mobility option on a pilot basis.
4. **Innovation** – The proposed Clean Air Car Share Program encourages the usage of zero emission vehicle modes of transportation. The project aligns with the pursuit of public-private partnerships to fund innovative projects and programs that would provide public benefit.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – The proposed project encourages the usage of sustainable modes of transportation which are expected to last well into the future and furthers our

community's climate resilience.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The fiscal impact of this recommendation is \$1,000,000. Funds are budgeted and available in the Grants and Restricted Programs Fund, Clean Mobility Options Voucher Program expenditure account 9409600-440220.

Prepared by:	Gilbert Hernandez, Interim Public Works Director
Certified as to availability of funds:	Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer
Approved by:	Kris Martinez, Interim Assistant City Manager
Approved as to form:	Phaedra A. Norton, City Attorney

**Attachments:**

1. Professional Consultant Services Agreement with StratosShare
2. Memorandum of Understanding with UCR CE-CERT