

To: Finance Committee

From: Laurie Linscott, Community Connector Superintendent

Date: December 11, 2014

Re: Opportunity to Purchase Rehabilitated Transit Buses

As you know, the bus fleet at Community Connector is aging rapidly, and we have reached a point where it is necessary to begin replacing some of the oldest buses. The oldest buses are 3 1996 Orion's that were eligible for replacement in 2008. The pressing need to replace buses has been an ongoing discussion with staff and Council for the past couple of years, and was recently mentioned during the fall critical issues workshop held with staff and Council.

We have recently learned of an opportunity to partner with and procure used, rehabilitated transit buses through Maine Military Authority (MMA) in Limestone. Community Connector is actively exploring this opportunity, and has tentatively indicated that we will participate. MMA has offered a program to all statewide public transit providers whereby they would locate good used buses and then rehabilitate them to "like new" condition. MMA has provided an initial, estimated a price range of \$25,000 to \$50,000 per bus, depending on the condition of the buses obtained. The delivery date could be as early as this spring, depending upon locating used buses and receiving commitments from transit providers around the state.

Funding for the three buses would come from available Federal Transit Authority (FTA) 5307 grant funds and a 15% local match. The first three buses obtained through MMA would be for Bangor routes. Staff see this as a great opportunity to begin replacing buses at a fairly low cost (new buses are in the \$375,000 to \$400,000 range) and with a fairly quick turn-around time (new buses have an 18 to 24 months delivery time)

Community Connector recommends that we be authorized to pursue this approach, and return to the Committee and / or Council when / if the need arises to appropriate or allocate any necessary funding.

Staff members will be present to answer any questions the Committee may have.