

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Tire Leasing Services for METRA (Annual Contract) – RFB No. 26-0034
INITIATED BY:	Finance Department

It is requested that Council approve the contract for tire leasing services for METRA from Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC (Nashville, TN), for the estimated contract value of \$48,552.40 for the first year, \$50,494.20 for the second year, \$52,512.96 for the third year, for a total estimated three-year contract value of \$151,559.56.

METRA Transit System currently has thirty-two (32) fixed route buses, and sixteen (16) Dial-A-Ride buses in service. METRA Transit System will utilize the tire leasing services for the provision and maintenance of tires for the bus fleet.

The term of the contract is for a period of three years. Per FTA regulations, the awarded vendor's yearly prices must remain as originally bid, unless there are EPA, FTA or regulatory legislative guideline changes, requiring bus manufacturers to adhere to the new regulations. The City reserves the right to re-bid the contract, if the vendor does not agree to retain the yearly prices submitted in the original bid.

Bid specifications were posted on the web pages of the Purchasing Division, DemandStar and Georgia Procurement Registry. One proposal was received on the due date of September 20, 2024. The sole responding vendor was:

Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC (Nashville, TN)

In accordance with Section 3-108, Item H of the Procurement Ordinance, the Purchasing Division performed due diligence by conducting a survey of non-responsive firms to determine if it was necessary to revise the specifications to encourage more competition. The following five (5) vendors were surveyed:

Michelin: Vendor bid in the past and has been awarded previously. Did not respond to survey.

Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company: Vendor bid in the past and has been awarded previously and provided the following statement:

- *“After our contract through RFB 12-0017, and then participation in RFB 17-0027 and RFB 20-0028 procurements, the competition was pricing in a way that was not aligned with the performance we experienced.*

Goodyear did not participate in RFB 23-0029, as well as the recent RFB 26-0034.

There is considerably more risk with leasing than with purchase. A lessor has to accurately predict tire performance to get the lease rate correct, tire attrition due to damage, manage tire recordkeeping to provide accurate billing in the lease.

Based on your fleet size, if competition is a goal, then I would recommend moving from lease to purchase. A tire purchase arrangement would have interest from tire manufacturers as well as tire dealers.

In October 2025, the FTA increased the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (small purchase threshold) to \$350,000. This would cover your 3-year estimated lease agreement, assuming purchase would be a similar spend.

You could do a Request for Quote on an annual basis to assure you are getting the best price.

Until there is stability in the marketplace and vendors are willing to take more risk, I believe you will continue to only have Bridgestone participate in a lease procurement. For these reasons, we elected not to provide a response to the RFB.”

Dunlop Tires:

- *“Dunlop Tires North America, manufacturer of Falken Commercial Tires, doesn't have that type of program and probably never will.”*

Atlanta Commercial Tire:

- *“As much as we like to expand our business opportunities, Columbus, Georgia currently would be a stretch for us which could easily impact our ability to service the contract effectively.*

We appreciate your reaching out to us and possibly in the future we may be able to accommodate that business, but for right now we will have to pass on the opportunity.”

Continental Tire:

- *“Unfortunately, we do not participate in tire leasing programs due to the amount of operational infrastructure and auditing involved.*

We would be more than happy to participate in a bid for purchase of bus tires as we produce 275/70R22.5, 305/70R22.5, and 255/70R22.5s designed for your application.

I'd be happy to put you in touch with a local dealer to provide some of these off the current state of GA contract pricing and program for you all to get some familiarity with them in case you decide to alter the bid structure to be a purchase and not a lease.”

The survey results were reviewed by METRA. As no surveyed vendor cited the desire to bid, and METRA does not wish to outright purchase tires, the decision was made to proceed with sole bid response.

This bid has been advertised, opened, and reviewed. The sole bidder was:

Vendor Name:		Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC (Nashville, TN)	
Tire Leasing – Year 1			
32ND PER TIRE SIZE	ANTICIPATED MONTHLY TIRE MILEAGE¹ x MONTHS/YEAR	BASE RATE PER MILE²	ESTIMATED FIXED ANNUAL COST
275/70R22.5	12 x 24,000	\$ 0.009026	\$ 15,596.93
255/70R22.5	12 x 2,000	\$ 0.008539	\$ 1,229.62
305/70R22.5	12 x 54,000	\$ 0.007801	\$ 30,330.29
LT225/75R16	12 x 4,700	\$ 0.004124	\$ 1,395.56
YEAR 1 TOTAL			\$ 48,552.40
Tire Leasing – Year 2			
275/70R22.5	12 x 24,000	\$ 0.009387	\$ 16,220.74
255/70R22.5	12 x 2,000	\$ 0.008880	\$ 1,278.72
305/70R22.5	12 x 54,000	\$ 0.008113	\$ 31,543.34
LT225/75R16	12 x 4,700	\$ 0.004289	\$ 1,451.40
YEAR 2 TOTAL			\$ 50,494.20
Tire Leasing – Year 3			
275/70R22.5	12 x 24,000	\$ 0.009763	\$ 16,870.46
255/70R22.5	12 x 2,000	\$ 0.009235	\$ 1,329.84
305/70R22.5	12 x 54,000	\$ 0.008437	\$ 32,803.06
LT225/75R16	12 x 4,700	\$ 0.004461	\$ 1,509.60
YEAR 3 TOTAL			\$ 52,512.96
TOTAL PRICE FOR THREE (3) YEAR BID:			\$ 151,559.56
¹ Anticipated Monthly Tire Mileage are vehicle miles. Anticipated monthly miles is for all six (6) wheel positions. ² Base Rate Per Mile is a per vehicle mile rate.			

Funds are budgeted each fiscal year for this ongoing expense: Transportation Fund - Transportation- FTA – METRA FTA - Tire Leasing; 0751-610-2400-MFTA-6545 (80% 5307 Federal and 20% local funds).

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR TIRE LEASING SERVICES FOR METRA FROM BRIDGESTONE AMERICAS TIRE OPERATIONS, LLC (NASHVILLE, TN), FOR THE ESTIMATED CONTRACT VALUE OF \$48,552.40 FOR THE FIRST YEAR, \$50,494.20 FOR THE SECOND YEAR, \$52,512.96 FOR THE THIRD YEAR, FOR A TOTAL ESTIMATED THREE-YEAR CONTRACT VALUE OF \$151,559.56.

WHEREAS, Metra Transit System currently has thirty-two (32) fixed route buses, and sixteen (16) Dial-A-Ride buses in service; and,

WHEREAS, the tire leasing services will be utilized by METRA Transit System for the provision and maintenance of tires for the bus fleet; and,

WHEREAS, the term of the contract is for a period of three years. Per FTA regulations, the awarded vendor’s yearly prices must remain as originally bid, unless there are EPA, FTA or regulatory legislative guideline changes, requiring bus manufacturers to adhere to the new regulations. The City reserves the right to re-bid the contract, if the vendor does not agree to retain the yearly prices submitted in the original bid.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the Mayor and/or his designee hereby authorizes the annual contract for tire leasing services for METRA from Bridgestone Americas Tire Operations, LLC (Nashville, TN), for the estimated amount of \$48,552.40 for the first year, \$50,494.20 for the second year, \$52,512.96 for the third year, for a total estimated three-year contract value of \$151,559.56. Funds are budgeted each fiscal year for this ongoing expense: Transportation Fund - Transportation- FTA – METRA FTA - Tire Leasing; 0751-610-2400-MFTA-6545 (80% 5307 Federal and 20% local funds).

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the _____ day of _____, 2026 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____
- Councilor Anker voting _____
- Councilor Chambers voting _____
- Councilor Cogle voting _____
- Councilor Crabb voting _____
- Councilor Davis voting _____
- Councilor Garrett voting _____
- Councilor Hickey voting _____
- Councilor Huff voting _____
- Councilor Tucker voting _____

Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor