

**DATE:** April 24, 2023

**TO:** Board of Library Trustees

**FROM:** Tarri Ryan, Library Manager, Youth and Bookmobile

**SUBJECT:** **Report on the New Bookmobile Vehicle**

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I am pleased to provide an update on the Library's Bookmobile service, which has been an important part of our outreach to the community. We have procured a 2022 Ford E-Transit 350 Extended Length Cargo Van for our next Bookmobile. This model represents, for the manufacturer, the first all-electric vehicle of its kind for size, weight, and capacity. Work to customize the chassis as a Bookmobile will begin early summer with an anticipated early fall vehicle arrival.

Trends for Bookmobile service are moving toward using Sprinter vans due to their streamlined chassis and the ability to customize the interior and its features. A streamlined and responsive Bookmobile service model is especially suited for Mountain View with Narrow Street Ordinances and anticipated population growth.

The benefits of an all-electric Sprinter van as our Bookmobile are numerous. Due to its size, we are able to expand the service to less-accessible areas of the City. One feature is customized carts that can be rolled out of the vehicle. This feature allows for browsing materials off the Bookmobile, expanding access to customers with mobility issues or to larger groups. With easy-to-remove carts that can be moved off the vehicle, our staff would be able to tailor the service and materials offered according to the needs of the customers at the stops.

Aside from customized carts and shelving units for off-vehicle access, the new Bookmobile will have WiFi hotspot capability, charging stations, interior and exterior emergency lighting, an awning, an outdoor speaker system, and a wheelchair/book cart lift.

Moreover, the new all-electric Bookmobile aligns with Mountain View's goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below 2005 levels by 2030. As the new Bookmobile produces zero tailpipe emissions and can be charged using renewable energy sources, it supports the City's long-term sustainability goals.

We are also excited to announce that we will be holding a public vote for the final design of a vinyl Bookmobile wrap. Beginning late spring, the public will be able to vote to select the wrap that will go on the vehicle from three proposed designs. The designs incorporate the new City

branding and logo and the Library's mission to help our community to connect, create, and learn. Engaging our community in this process will help us promote the Library's services and generate awareness, excitement, and anticipation for the new all-electric Bookmobile.

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