The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) anticipates the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking the services of a consultant to provide a turnkey and expandable Intercounty Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) System for the Lower Hudson Transit Link (LHTL) project.

The project will deploy a high-quality, high-frequency regional Bus Rapid Transit service between Rockland and Westchester Counties. The service will also support links to other bus and commuter rail service to Manhattan, with an emphasis on an intercounty BRT system to serve bi-county trips and longer distance intra-county trips. The system will conveniently connect major concentrations of residential, employment, commercial, entertainment, medical, and educational land uses, and provide key connections to existing local bus (e.g., Transport of Rockland, Westchester Bee-Line) and rail (Metro-North, NJ Transit) services. The system is expected to expand in the future, as ridership and available funding allow.

The Scope of Services for this project includes the following tasks:

- Project planning and execution,
- Provision and storage of vehicle fleet,
- Provision of an operation and storage facility,
- Provision and installation of on-board, in-shelter, and back office technology,
- Operation of the BRT service, meeting all operating performance standards,
- Advertising and marketing of the BRT service.

Responsive and responsible consultants interested in receiving the RFP should submit a brief, one-page Letter of Interest (LOI) to the e-mail address of the Contact Person listed below. The LOI should include, at a minimum, the firm name, address, e-mail address, and phone number of a contact person at your firm. A letter announcing the release of the RFP will be e-mailed to all parties submitting a LOI. When ready, the RFP will be posted to the NYSDOT website and will contain all the information necessary for firms to submit a complete proposal. It is expected that the RFP will be released on or after June 27, 2016. If the release of the RFP is substantially delayed for any reason, the due date for proposals will be extended appropriately.

PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE: A pre-proposal conference may be held with the location, time and date to be announced.

COMBINED M/WBE GOAL: The combined M/WBE subconsultant participation contract goal for this solicitation is 23% of total contract value over the contract term.

LETTERS OF INTEREST: Responsive and responsible consultants interested in receiving the RFP should submit a brief, one-page Letter of Interest (LOI) to the e-mail address of the Contact Person listed below. The LOI should include, at a minimum, the firm name, address, e-mail address, and phone number of a contact person at your firm. For a full description of the project and requirements, please visit the NYSDOT website at: https://www.dot.ny.gov/business (click on “Consulting Services” and then click on the “Ads” or “Opportunities” tab). An e-mail shall be
sent to all parties who register in advance that the RFP has been posted to NYSDOT’s website and is now ready for downloading.

DESIGNATED CONTACT PERSONS: Peter Russell, NYSDOT Contract Management, e-mail: Peter.Russell@dot.ny.gov or Patricia Kappeller, e-mail Patricia.Kappeller@dot.ny.gov. Under the requirements of the State Procurement Act, all communications regarding advertised projects are to be channeled through NYSDOT Contract Management’s Designated Contacts. Until a contract is approved by the State Comptroller, contact with any other NYSDOT employee concerning this project should not be made unless otherwise directed by NYSDOT Contract Management. Communications made contrary to this policy and deemed an attempt to influence the outcome, may result in disqualification.

Procurement Lobbying Law Compliance

Required Forms: The consultant shall sign and e-mail/fax the following forms. These forms are part of and due with the consultants’ proposals.

a) “Offerer’s Affirmation of Understanding of and Agreement pursuant to State Finance Law §139-j (3) and §139-j (6) (b)”

b) “Offerer Disclosure of Prior Non-Responsibility Determinations”.

NYSDOT Guidelines and Procedures

Under the requirements of the State Procurement Act all communications regarding advertised projects are to be channeled through NYSDOT Contract Management (*Designated Contacts). Until a designation is made, communication with any other NYSDOT employee concerning this project that is determined to be an attempt to influence the procurement may result in disqualification.


Contacts Prior to Designation:

Any communications involving an attempt to influence the procurement are only permitted with the following Designated Contact Persons:

- The Contract Management Designation Contract Analyst
- The Contract Management Designation Analyst Supervisor
- The Contract Management Civil Rights Unit Supervisor
- The Contract Management Assistant Directors
- The Contract Management Director

These are some communications exempted from this restriction:

- Participation in a pre-proposal conference
- Submittal of written questions when written responses will be provided to all offerers
- Protests, complaints of improper conduct or misrepresentation

If any other NYSDOT employee is contacted and they believe a reasonable person would infer that the communication was intended to influence the procurement, the contact must be reported by the NYSDOT employee. If the Department determines an impermissible contact was made, that offerer cannot be awarded the contract. A second violation would lead to a four-year bar on
the award of public contracts to the offerer.

**Contacts after designation**

NYSDOT identifies its primary negotiation contacts. The designated contacts include:

- The Contract Management Negotiation Contract Analyst
- The Contract Management Negotiation Analyst Supervisor
- The Contract Management Civil Rights Unit Supervisor
- The Contract Management Assistant Directors
- The Contract Management Director
- The Consultant Management Bureau consultant job manager
- The Consultant Management Bureau consultant job manager’s immediate supervisor
- Individual(s) that the Department may identify at or after designation

The law does not limit who may be contacted during the negotiation process. However, if any NYSDOT employee is contacted and they believe a reasonable person would infer that the communication was intended to influence the procurement, the contact must be reported by the NYSDOT employee.

**Information Required from Offerers that contact NYSDOT staff, prior to contract approval by the Office of the State Comptroller:**

The individuals contacting NYSDOT should refer and shall be prepared to provide the following information, either by e-mail or fax as directed by NYSDOT. Person’s name, firm person works for, address of employer, telephone number, occupation, firm they are representing, and whether owner, employee, retained by or designated by the firm to appear before or contact the NYSDOT.

**Applicability to an executed contract**

Restrictions similar to those described above apply to approval or denial of an assignment, amendment (other than amendments that are authorized and payable under the terms of the procurement contract as it was finally awarded or approved by the comptroller, as applicable), renewal or extension of a procurement contract, or any other material change in the procurement contract resulting in a financial benefit to the offerer. The staff noted above as well as the project manager and consultant manager are considered designated contact persons. The Department may identify other contact persons for each of these processes.

**Rules and Regulations and More Information on this Law, Please Visit:**

[http://ogs.ny.gov/ACPL](http://ogs.ny.gov/ACPL)
[http://www.ogs.ny.gov/aboutogs/regulations/advisoryCouncil/MtgReportTable.htm](http://www.ogs.ny.gov/aboutogs/regulations/advisoryCouncil/MtgReportTable.htm)

or contact the designated NYSDOT Contact Persons noted above.