
EXHIBIT A
SOLICITATION INSTRUCTIONS and CONDITIONS

1. Background

The Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) is the regional public transportation provider for the Greater Lansing area. Specifically, CATA currently provides transit service to the Cities of Lansing and East Lansing, the Townships of Lansing, Delhi, and Meridian and Ingham County. CATA operates over 30 fixed bus routes and demand-response services in the rural Ingham area, as well as in Delhi and Meridian Townships and the Cities of Mason and Williamston. CATA also provides a demand-response service designed to meet the needs of persons with disabilities, called Spec-Tran. CATA provided 11.8 million passenger trips in Fiscal Year 2013. Over 3 million of those rides occurred on MSU campus that year.

2. Proposal Preparation

Each Proposal shall be made only on this RFP. Each Proposal must be enclosed in a sealed envelope with the name and address of the Proposer clearly stated. The outside of the envelope shall state the RFP number, title and due date. All blank spaces in the offer must be filled in and no changes shall be made in the wording.

As consideration for any Proposer's Proposal being considered by CATA in its award of the Contract, each Proposer hereby agrees that (1) the Proposal shall be on such form as CATA provides and shall be sealed; and (2) any revocation or modification of the Proposal shall only be on the same form(s) and submitted in the same manner as the original Proposal was submitted prior to the date on which the Proposals are due.

3. Proposal Format

The Proposal shall contain a cover letter signed by a person authorized to bind the Proposer (i) agreeing that the Proposal shall remain valid for not less than 120 days (as extended in the event of a Protest) and (ii) providing a name, physical address, and email address of such person who is administering the Proposal, who has authority to bind the Proposer and to whom CATA may submit notices and writings regarding this RFP. It is to this person and at this email address that CATA will provide notices and other matters regarding this RFP.

Proposals shall be organized as follows:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Section 1 | Qualifications |
| Section 2 | Experience |
| Section 3 | Pricing |
| Section 4 | Required Submittals (Forms and Exhibits) |

4. Submission of Proposals

The Proposer must submit its Proposal, which must be received by CATA no later than the date and time specified in Block 8 of the RFP cover page. The envelope containing the Proposal must be marked with the RFP number and title as set forth on the cover page of this RFP.

Proposals may be hand delivered, mailed or sent via a reputable national courier (such as UPS or Fed-Ex). All Proposals must be delivered to the following address:

Capital Area Transportation Authority
Attn: Purchasing & Contracts Department
4615 Tranter Street
Lansing, Michigan 48910

and **must be received** by CATA by the date and time set forth in Block 8 of the Proposal Cover Page. For example, a postmark date on a mailed Proposal will not be considered as being ~~received~~.

If a Proposal is hand delivered, it must be delivered to the front desk at the above address. In such an event, the Proposer or its agent should request a verification receipt to prove that the submission of its Proposal was timely.

Any Proposal not timely received may, in CATA's sole and absolute discretion, be rejected.

5. Late Proposals

Any Proposal received at the office designated in this RFP after the exact time specified for receipt will not be considered unless:

(1) It was sent by registered or certified mail not later than the fifth calendar day prior to the date specified for receipt of Proposals (e.g., a Proposal submitted in response to an RFP requiring receipt of Proposals by the 20th of the month must have been mailed by the 15th or earlier in order to be timely);

(2) It was sent by mail and it is determined by the Authority that the late receipt was due solely to mishandling by the Authority after receipt at the Authority's offices;

(3) It was sent by U. S. Postal Service Express Mail Next Day Service - Post Office to Addressee, not later than 5:00 P.M. at the place of mailing two (2) working days prior to the date specified for receipt of Proposals. The term "working days" excludes weekends and U. S. Federal holidays.

6. Proposal Modification or Withdrawal

Prior to the date and time set for the receipt of Proposals, a Proposal may be modified or withdrawn by the Proposer. All such modifications must be made in writing, either hand delivered, mailed or sent via a reputable national courier to the address above for receiving Proposals. Any request to withdraw a Proposal must be in writing and received by CATA (in the same manner as the Proposal was submitted) by no later than the deadline date and time set forth for the receipt of Proposal. If timely received, CATA will return unopened the Proposal if requested to be withdrawn or returned. If a modification is timely received by CATA prior to the date and time set for the receipt of Proposals, then that modification will be considered by CATA as a part of the original Proposal.

7. Revisions and Amendments to the Proposal

CATA reserves the right in its absolute discretion to revise or amend this RFP, including the scope of work, up to the time set for receipt of the Proposals. Any such revision or amendment, if any, will be sent via email to all Proposers who have requested a copy of this RFP and furnished CATA with their correct email address. In the event that this RFP is revised or amended within five (5) business days of the date set for opening Proposals, CATA may extend the RFP opening date for up to an additional five (5) business days. The form transmitting the revision or amendment must be signed by the Proposer, acknowledging its receipt, and copy of the signed document must be included in the Proposal documents. **Failure to (i) sign the form transmitting the revision or amendment and (ii) include the signed form in the Proposal may, in CATA sole and absolute discretion, result in the rejection of the Proposal.**

8. Pre-proposal Meeting

See Block 5 of the RFP cover page for whether a pre-proposal meeting (at which questions may be directed to and answered by CATA personnel) will be held in connection with this RFP and, if so, the date and time of such meeting.

A pre-proposal meeting, if held pursuant to this RFP, will be at CATA's Administrative Office, located at 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, Michigan, 48910. If a pre-proposal meeting is held, attendance is not mandatory in order to submit a Proposal, however, it is recommended. In regard to questions raised at this meeting, CATA will make every effort to memorialize in writing those questions and responses by CATA, and thereafter distribute that document to all persons requesting same. Only written responses by CATA in writing may be relied upon; oral responses will not be considered a part of the RFP or binding on CATA. Thus, statements made by CATA at the pre-proposal meeting may not be relied upon in any way by any person and may not be the basis of any protest. Proposers are cautioned to independently verify any matters stated at the pre-proposal meeting. Again, only statements which are made by CATA in writing may be relied upon.

9. Knowledge of Conditions

Any person (~~%Proposer+~~) submitting a proposal (~~%Proposal+~~) in response to this Request for Proposal (~~%RFP+~~) must examine the scope of work carefully and be informed thoroughly regarding any and all conditions and requirements that may in any manner affect the work to be performed under the contract to be awarded under this RFP (the ~~%Contract+~~). No allowances will be made because of lack of knowledge of any specifications, conditions or requirements of this RFP.

10. Omission

Notwithstanding the provision of drawings, technical specifications or other data by CATA, Proposers shall have the responsibility of supplying all details required to make an accurate offer of services offered even though such details may not be specifically mentioned in the scope of work or elsewhere in this RFP.

11. Communications to CATA

All questions pertaining to this RFP, or any matters relating thereto the Scope of Work, or any questions pertaining to the RFP or Proposal documents, must be in writing and must be sent only to the person identified in Block 3 of the RFP cover page. Communications sent to any other person at CATA or at any other address may, in CATA's sole discretion, be deemed to be "non-responsive" and CATA in its discretion may elect to disregard any such questions. CATA will not respond to oral inquiries, and oral statements of any nature by CATA or any of its representatives may not be relied upon for any purpose whatsoever.

12. Requests for Clarification/Questions

All questions from any Proposer regarding the RFP or matters relating thereto must be submitted to CATA in writing no later than date specified in Block 6 of the RFP cover page. Each question must identify the section number in this RFP for which clarification is being requested. CATA will respond to all properly submitted questions at least five (5) business days prior to the date that Proposals are due. All responses will be sent via email to all persons who have requested a copy of this RFP and furnished CATA with a correct email address. All such questions must be sent to the contact person listed in Block 3 of the Proposal cover page.

13. Nonsolicitation of CATA During Blackout Period

During the period from the date of this RFP, through the period that the CATA Board of Directors approves the award of Contract (including any period during which a procurement protest (~~%Protest+~~) has been filed and is pending), Proposers may not directly or indirectly contact any CATA Board member, any CATA employee, or CATA's legal counsel regarding this RFP except for questions directed to CATA as expressly provided in Section 7 above or except as expressly authorized under the Protest procedure set forth in Section 17. Any prohibited contact may result in the immediate disqualification of the Proposer from consideration for the award of the Contract and the rejection of any Protest.

14. Proposal Rejection

CATA may at any time reject any (i) Proposal which CATA deems in its sole and absolute discretion to be incomplete, (ii) Proposal which CATA deems in its sole and absolute discretion fails to conform to the requirements of this RFP, or (iii) Proposal which CATA deems, in its sole and absolute discretion, takes exception to the Scope of Work. CATA reserves the right in any event to (a) waive any informalities or irregularities in any Proposal, which CATA determines in its sole and absolute discretion, to be minor, or (b) reject all Proposals and re-solicit the procurement.

15. Award

CATA will award the Contract to the Proposer who submits a Proposal that CATA determines, in its sole and absolute discretion, is most advantageous to CATA (the ~~%Selected Proposer+~~). The procurement process relating to this RFP is solely to benefit CATA and for CATA to determine in its discretion which Proposer is entitled to enter into a Contract with CATA.

16. Next Most Advantageous Proposal

In the event that the Selected Proposer fails or refuses to enter into a Contract with CATA, then CATA may award the Contract to the Proposer who submits a Proposal that CATA determines, in its sole and absolute discretion, is the next most advantageous to CATA. CATA also reserves the right at any time, in its absolute discretion, to cancel the RFP and ~~%ebid+~~

17. Proposer Affirmation

By submitting its Proposal, the Proposer affirms and declares:

1. That the Proposer or its subcontractors have the capability to assure performance of work within the time specified under the Contract.
2. That the Proposer has the capability of providing personnel to satisfy any technical or service problems that may arise during the term of the Contract.
3. That the Proposer has the necessary facilities and financial resources to complete the Contract in a satisfactory manner and within the required time.
4. That the Proposer, if an individual, is of lawful age.
5. That no other person, firm or corporation has any interest in its Proposal or the Contract proposed to be entered into.
6. That the Proposer has not divulged to, discussed or compared its Proposal with other Proposers and has not colluded with any other Proposer or parties to a Proposal whatsoever. (NOTE: No premiums, rebates, or gratuities are permitted either with, prior to, or after any delivery of materials.) Any such violation will result in the cancellation and/or return of materials (as applicable) and the removal of the offending vendor from PROPOSER LIST(S).
7. That the Proposer and its subcontractors are not currently in arrears to CATA and have not defaulted, as a surety or otherwise, under any obligation to CATA.
8. That the Proposer is not on the Comptroller General's list of ineligible contractors.
9. That, if awarded the Contract, the Proposer shall post a notice in a conspicuous place within the plant or work site stating the Contractor shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, sex, creed, age, disability or national origin.

END OF SECTION