

## Minutes

### RTA External & Stakeholder Relations & Advocacy Committee Meeting

9:01 a.m., May 14, 2019

**Committee:** McCall (Chair), Lucas (Vice Chair), Bibb, Byrne, Welo

**Other Board members:** Clough, Joyce, Moss

**Not present:** Serrano

**Also Present:** Anderson, Astolfi, Becker, Benford, Bitto, Boylan, Brooks-Williams, Burney, Catalusci, Caver, Cottrell, Cranford, Dietrich, Faith, Ferraro, Fields, Flannery, Finnerty, Gautam, Gibbons, Gray (D), Gray (M), Harris, Houston, Jaszczak, Keshtkaran, Kirkland, Laule, Lewis, Lively, Loh, Manning, Ortega, Peganoff, Pinkney-Butts, Ponder, Ross, Schipper, Shaffer, Shariff, Sims, Singh, Stocking, Sutula, Temming, Togher, Uhas, Vukmanic, Wiehe, Wilson, Winn, Young, Zeller

Chief McCall called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. The secretary called the roll and reported that four (4) committee members were present. Rev. Lucas arrived after the roll call.

#### RFP Procurement – Federal Advocacy Consulting Services

Mike Schipper, DGM of Engineering & Project Management and Sharon Cottrell, procurement team leader, made the presentation. Jennifer LaTourette and Steve Palmer with the recommended vendor will participate via Skype. The consultant will represent GCRTA staff, executive management team and Board of Trustees at the federal level. The consultant will meet with the appropriate members of Congress and federal administration to increase awareness and support for GCRTA and advance RTA's annual federal legislative agenda. Each year, RTA distributes a Legislative Report to Congressional members and State representatives.

The consultant will attend hearings and meetings on critical issues including introduction of legislation that could affect RTA's legislative agenda. During the period of this contract, is the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill. They will schedule meetings in DC with key agencies, legislatures and their staff. Their staff is key to promoting RTA. They will monitor the federal legislative process and alert RTA to legislative development and funding opportunities. They will help draft proposed legislation for example for the rail cars. A few sentence changes in the 5309 program could make RTA eligible. They will assist with grant strategy and applications and coordinate opportunities for legislatures and their staff to visit RTA facilities to be better informed about the conditions affecting RTA.

The RFP was issued on February 5, 2019. It was accessed on RTA's website by 29 interested parties and seven firms proposed. The evaluation panel was comprised on various RTA departments using evaluation criteria. The recommended firm is Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc. in Washington, DC. The DBE goal is 0% due to a lack of certified DBE firms. Their experience includes access, knowledge, transit experience, relationships and resources. Other clients include Cleveland Clinic, Dallas Area Rapid Transit, WMATA and others. The contract term is


three years with two, one-year options. The initial base contract is \$303,000.00 NTE Base Contract (\$101,000 annually), \$115,400.00 NTE Option Year One of Two and \$115,400.00 NTE Option Year Two with a \$533,800.00 NTE Total Contract Amount. Staff requests that the External and Stakeholder Relations & Advocacy Committee recommend to the Board of Trustees the award of a contract to Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc. to provide federal advocacy consulting services for a five-year total contract amount not to exceed \$533,800.00.

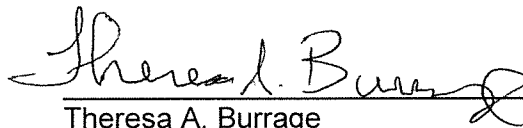
Chief McCall asked representatives via Skype with Van Scoyoc to speak about what they see for RTA and what it could mean on a federal level. In the past, RTA was represented by The Advocacy Group. Van Scoyoc will have time to travel and meet regularly. They are monitoring developments with a potential deal on an infrastructure proposal. They look forward to designing a measurable, multi-year plan. They want to help procure for rail cars. Should Congress come back with earmarks, they want to help secure that too. They have successfully procured rail projects for Dallas, L.A. and D.C. Their goal is to help RTA get funding to modernize the rail cars. They bring a bipartisan team with local connections and have a lot of transit experience.

Ms. Moss asked if there will be a conflict of interest since they advocate for other transit authorities and where would RTA fall in with other transportation contracts. Steve said they carefully separate the work for each client. They work with the congressional delegation for each transit agency and they don't cross lines. Several of the clients mentioned in the presentation are not their current clients anymore. Their current clients aren't competing for rail car modernization funds. They want money for bus and light rail. Jennifer added that they are not allowed to enter into any conflicts. The pots of money are not for mutually exclusive projects. Ohio members would not give money to systems in other states. They plan to visit four times a year. They speak to the policy makers at FTA and Capitol Hill at the time they plan to make decisions. They will speak to the Cleveland and Ohio delegation about RTA's needs regularly. They will speak to the congressional committees when it comes time to reauthorize the FAST ACT.

Mr. Bibb asked how much coordination they will do with local partners like GCP, County, City lobbyist, etc. They said they would let RTA direct them on who to work with. They have worked with GCP, TEAM NEO and others and are familiar with these entities. It's on a case by case basis. Mayor Clough added that a strong voice is needed to get the needed funds. He is also concerned about conflicts, but is confident of the client's response. Dr. Caver added that there will be on-boarding sessions to discuss needs and a strategy. They will be used as an assistant and as a best practice. The outcome and plans will be brought back to the Board.

It was moved by Mr. Bibb, seconded by Mayor Byrne and approved by unanimous vote to move this to the full board. Chief McCall adjourned the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

  
Florn'say R. Caver, Ph.D., Interim CEO  
General Manager/Secretary/Treasurer

  
Theresa A. Burrage  
Executive Secretary