

Minutes

RTA Operational Planning & Infrastructure Committee

9:23 a.m. February 6, 2024

Committee Members: Welch (Chair), Koomar (Vice), Love, Sleasman

Other Board Members: Biasiotta, Lucas, McPherson, Mersmann, Pacetti, Weiss

Not present: None

Staff/Other: Birdsong Terry, Burney, Catalusci, Caver, Dangelo, Davidson, Dimmick, Feke, Fields, Fleig, Freilich, Garofoli, Gautam, Hudson, Jones, Jupina, Kirkland, Laule, Miller, Moore, Schipper, Shaffer, Sutula, Talley, Togher, Walker Minor

Public: Benko, Gibbons, Khaled, Loh, O'Donnell, Yarbrough

The meeting was called to order at 9:23 a.m. Four (4) committee members were present.

RFP Procurement for On-Call Bridge Engineering Services

Kirk Dimmick, Engineer Project Manager, Bridges and Lou Catalusci, Contract Administrator II gave the presentation.

Project Overview

- Perform Bridge Engineering including analysis, inspection, evaluation and design to support GCRTA staff
- Work is by Task Order Assignment
- Total Task Orders not to exceed \$300,000 over a 24-month term
- Both Highway & Railroad project assignments
- Anticipated Assignments:
 - Annual Bridge Inspections
 - Load rating of various STEN through Girder Bridges on the Red Line East
 - Inspection and conceptual repair detail for the RTA Bridge over Brookpark Road
 - Projects with external agencies/ODOT
 - Other projects as assigned

Procurement Overview

This Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued November 12, 2023. It was accessed on the GCRTA website by twenty-three (23) interested parties. Four (4) firms proposed. Three (3) firms were interviewed. This is a Brooks Act procurement which is based on the technical ability of the proposer rather than the price. The evaluation panel consists of various RTA departments using evaluation criteria.

The recommended vendor is Michael Baker International, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio. A 7% DBE Goal will be met by utilizing 2LMN, Inc., NEAS, Inc. and Bridge Diagnostics, Inc. Michael Baker International, Inc. has successfully completed projects for GCRTA, LA Metro, Sound Transit in Seattle, WA, ODOT, and Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), among others.

Staff Requests that the Operational Planning and Infrastructure Committee recommend award to Michael Baker International, Inc. for On-Call Bridge Engineering Services III. The contract is in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 for a period of 24 months.

Ms. Mersmann asked for details on the ownership of the bridges. Mr. Dimmick said the statutes govern who maintains/owns the bridges. Sometimes there are shared agreements. RTA will maintain the area underneath the bridges. The owners must strike an agreement with RTA when the work is done. We own the Central Rail Access Bridge. We maintain the bridges over the Light Rail near E. 103, E. 116th, E. 110th and Abbey Road. Mr. Love asked if there have been conversations with other public agencies about partnering on these types of procurements. Mr. Dimmick said we have MOUs with other public agencies. Ms. Dangelo said this is to supplement RTA's staff. We are under the FTA guidelines. Mr. Schipper added that there will be several on-call contracts to supplement staff. We work with the county to schedule service interruptions.

It was moved by Mayor Koomar, seconded by Mr. Love and approved to move this to the full Board.

Baby on Board

Maribeth Feke, Director - Programming & Planning, Michele Benko, Supervisor - Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Tatyana Khaled, Data Analyst - Cuyahoga County Board of Health and Chiqueita Yarbrough, Director - Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services Inc. gave the presentation.

Baby on Board is a partnership between the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (RTA) and the Cuyahoga Ohio Equity Initiative (OEI) team. It is currently a pilot. This program is to improve the infant mortality rate for minorities by alleviating the transportation barriers to medical appointments. We have a \$500,000 grant from ODOT under the OTP2 funds for this program. It is a project designed to address transportation barriers for families who are pregnant and/or caring for a child under the age of 1yrs in Cuyahoga County. The purpose is to improve access to public transportation and provide more opportunities for families to get where they need to go by providing transit passes to eligible families and improving bus stop locations. It was initiated in late spring of 2021.

Eligibility

1. Family is pregnant or caring for a child less than one years of age
2. Family resides in Cuyahoga County
3. Family does not have transportation to meet medical & social needs
4. Family must be actively engaged with a Baby on Board community partner agency

Partner Requirements

There are 14 community partners participating in the program. They are required to:

- Identify a designee at partnering organization to run the program.
- Coordinator or designee must complete initial *enrollment survey*
- Coordinator or designee must contact the recipient of the transit pass to complete a *survey*.
- Coordinator or designee must enter all completed enrollment and follow up surveys on a weekly basis to receive additional transit passes from CCBH
- Coordinator or designee is responsible for providing transit passes to family

Structural Upgrades and Advertising

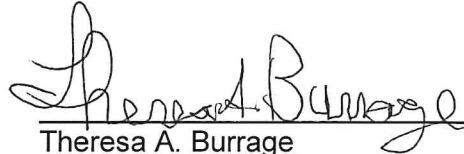
They were able to make improvements such as larger shelters, solar lights, family seating, adding trash cans, program wraps for BOB shelters and moving shelters to safer location. There have been

mortality zip codes. Ms. Benko said they do work with partners in those areas and look for potential partners. Dr. Walker Minor added that she sits on the First Year Cleveland committee which focuses on infant mortality. Mr. Sleasman asked for the agencies to have access to the bus stops for their clients. Ms. Birdsong Terry wants the numbers to be higher and to develop goals so the funding can be used up. Ms. Pacetti added that there is a tradeoff to using all the money and proving that the program has an impact by getting the percentages down.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.



Rajan D. Gautam
Secretary/Treasurer



Theresa A. Burrage
Executive Assistant

several advertising campaigns (shelters, bus wraps). They have distributed 2,230 passes to program participants.

Infant Mortality Data

The infant mortality rate for Black non-Hispanic between 2019-2023 is 3.7%. For whites it is 12.1%. Overall, it was 6.7% and 5.7%. They looked at the mortality rates per zip code in Cuyahoga County. Zip code 44127 (28%) was the highest. In 2021, 112 passes were distributed, 652 in 2022 and 1,466 in 2023. Twenty-eight percent used passes for medical appointments, 43% take the bus daily and 24% walk over 11 minutes to bus/train stop. Participants were surveyed on what they'd like to see at most stops. They include more seating (27.5%), shelter (24.2%), real time information (19.4%), solar lighting (15.3%) and trash cans (13.3%).

Data Summary

- As transit passes increase, there's a chance to enhance routes and service frequency in response to rising demand.
- A survey reveals user preferences and satisfaction levels, indicating an overall effective public transportation system.
- User feedback highlights specific areas for potential improvements.

NEON Health Services Mom's & Babies First program focuses on maternal health, infant vitality, and holistic care. They serve 300 women annually. Some of their major barriers include transportation. They serve:

- Low-income African American women ages 15-35
- Cleveland and the inner ring suburbs
- Average family size of 3.5
- To date over 750 weekly passes to over 200 families distributed

They have seen a surge in the program from 2021-2023 due to expansion of the program. Initially the program only focused on zip codes 44108, 44110 and 44112. Now it covers the entire county.

Benefits

- Increases accessibility to core needs including food, health care, social support, education and employment
- Encourages program/appointment compliance by incentivizing follow up
- Improves social emotional health and self esteem
- Empowers clients to become self-sustaining, productive, and motivated

Next Steps for 2024

- Continue expansion of the Baby on Board partners
- Exploring increasing the child age limit beyond 1yrs old
- New streamlined survey in 2024
- Continue to increase marketing of program

Ms. Mersmann asked for more information on the potential for expansion, the healthcare partners and real-time bus information. Ms. Feke said there is money left. We can expand to 2 or 3 years olds and can extend the length of the program. Ms. Yarbrough added that they also focus on agencies that direct the patients to the various programs. Dr. Walker Minor added that they have focused on the Federally Qualified Health Centers because they are direct services. Mr. Sleasman asked about the upgraded shelters and their connection to road construction. Ms. Feke said they will share the list of shelters with the city. Mr. Sleasman asked if we could drill down on some of the highest infant