

Minutes

RTA Organizational, Services and Performance Monitoring Committee Meeting

9:06 a.m., September 13, 2022

Committee Members: Biasiotta, (Chair), Moss (Vice Chair), Weiss, Welch

Other Board Members: Koomar, Lucas, McCall, Pellet

Not present: Joyce

Staff: Becker, Benford, Biggar, Birdsong Terry, Burney, Catalusci, Caver, Dangelo, Davidson, Dietrich, Dimmick, Feke, Fields, Fleig, Garofoli, Gautam, Kirkland, Manning, Miller, Mothes, Piggery, Schipper, Sutula, Tarka, Temming, Togher, Walker-Minor

Public: Clerebiej, Gibbons, Hewitt, Loh, McDonnell, Moss, Ortiz

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. Four (4) committee members were present.

RFP Procurement for a New Consolidated Train Dispatch System

Robert Piggery, Engineering Project Manager, Electrical and Shawn Becker, Program Contract Manager, made the presentation.

Project Background

The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA) owns and operates a Consolidated Train Dispatch System (CTDS). The system monitors and controls train movements via system initiated controls relayed to field devices. Data is processed and displayed on workstations located in the Integrated Control Center (ICC). In addition, the CTDS is a mission critical system that provides scheduling and reporting functions. The existing network configuration consists of three types of computers: Main Processors, Front-End Processors and Workstations.

Justification

The existing CTDS is approximately twenty-five (25) years old and the software is no longer supported by the original Systems Integrator. The current system relies on older technology such as modems, channel banks and antiquated servers, which have reached the end of their service life. The current system is from Windermere to the Airport. When there are changes in the field, they must have the vendor make the changes at a cost.

Scope of Services

Furnish, install, test and commission a new CTDS system over two years. The new system shall be equipped with the following enhanced features:

- Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) based system capable of communicating with legacy GCRTA field devices
- New modern CTDS software package that provides a graphical representation of the GCRTA rail alignment
- The software will have the capability to monitor and manipulate field devices such as switches and status indicating points.
- Enable the Train Controllers to set schedules, view system alerts, warnings, change set points, analyze, archive and present data trends
- Enable the GCRTA to decommission older technologies such as modems and channel banks.
- Two weeks of CTDS Operational Training performed by Senior Application Engineer

Technical Enhancements

- Moving from an older version of Linux to a Modern Windows and Linux based system
- Greater speed
- Open architecture – currently if changes are made like adding hardware, we are locked into the vendor proprietary software
- Enhanced graphical interface allows GCRTA Engineers and Technicians the capability of making rail alignment changes.
- Ability to integrate with outside systems such as GCRTA SCADA.

Procurement Overview

The RFP was issued on February 21, 2022. Notifications were sent to five (5) potential proposers. It was accessed on the GCRTA website by four (4) interested parties. The Office of Business Development assigned a 2% DBE goal to this procurement. Three (3) proposals were received May 5, 2022. The evaluation panel was comprised of various RTA departments using select criteria.

The recommended vendor is B&C Transit, Inc. They have served the public transit sector for over 25 years. They are a wholly owned subsidiary of Alstom and have offices in Oakland, CA with a regional office in Pittsburgh, PA. They provide high-quality engineering solutions ranging from wayside signaling and communications solutions to central control upgrades and replacements. The proposed project team has proven success. They provide “Nucleus” Software with perpetual site license that is user-friendly and end-user maintainable.

The firm’s experience includes Valley Metro Rail, Miami Dade Transit, Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Hampton Roads Transit, San Francisco Metropolitan Transit Authority, Sacramento Regional Transit District, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, among others.

The DBE Goal was set at 2% by use of US Communications & Electric, Inc.

- Installation & testing of system
- Founded in 1996
- Crains Largest Women Owned Businesses in Cleveland List
- Network cable design & integration, audio/visual, distributed antenna, security & IoT

Staff requests that the Organizational, Services & Performance Monitoring Committee recommend an award to B&C Transit, Inc. to provide a new consolidated train dispatch system in a total contract amount not to exceed \$4,000,000.00. Ms. Moss asked if this is for both rail systems. Mr. Becker said it will cover the entire rail system. Mayor Weiss asked if the price includes licensing or service fees. Mr. Becker said after 5 years, we will not be locked into their maintenance and support if we choose not to. Ms. Pellot asked how long the project will last. Mr. Becker said two years. Dr. Caver added that the system will encompass the entire cab signaling area. The LR East of E. 79th uses an automatic block signaling system and is not controlled from downtown. Ms. Pellot asked if upgrades are anticipated in the first five years. Within the five-year contract period, the vendor will assist with upgrades. Mr. Piggery said upgrades will be easier since we are not locked into the vendors software, field devices and hardware.

It was moved by Mayor Biasiotta, seconded by Mayor Weiss and approved to move to the full Board.

Competitive Procurement for Purchase of Twenty Paratransit Coaches

Dan Dietrich, Director of Fleet Management and Glenville Manning, Contract Administrator gave the presentation.

Project Overview

- RTA operates 80 Paratransit demand response vehicles servicing Cuyahoga County.

- To provide reliable service, buses must be replaced on a regular cycle.
- FTA recommends replacement of cutaways not to exceed 10 years.
- The GCRTA continues to replace Paratransit cutaway buses that have been in service since 2013 and have met their useful life.
- Bus features:
 - 1,000 lb. capacity wheelchair lift
 - MORryde suspension
 - Apollo video system upgrade
- The Board of Trustees approved Resolution No. 2020-50 with Myers Equipment Corp. for the purchase of 10 El Dorado Paratransit coaches under Contract No. 2020-022. Those coaches have been received and are in use.
- The Board of Trustees approved Resolution No. 2021-52 with Myers Equipment Corp. for the purchase of 10 El Dorado Paratransit coaches under Contract No. 2021-064. Due to multiple supply chain and manufacturing issues with these vehicles, this contract was canceled.
- Note that both contracts were awarded utilizing the State of Ohio, Cooperative Purchasing Program.
- Due to the Authority not receiving 10 replacement Paratransit coaches in 2021, those vehicles must be purchased under a new contract.
- In addition, the Authority requires 10 additional replacement coaches, as planned for 2022.
- After much research, the Fleet Management Department has found that the Diamond Paratransit coach, is an alternative to the El Dorado and is available to purchase under a State of Ohio contract.
- These 20 Paratransit coaches will be funded from a competitive grant available through NOACA under the Section 5310 Program.
- 5310 are formula funds that GCRTA can specifically use for Paratransit/ADA vehicles.
- GCRTA plans to continue utilization of this grant to fund future Paratransit coach purchases.

Procurement Overview

Section 306.43 (H)(4) of the Ohio Revised Code provides political subdivisions, within the State of Ohio, the opportunity to participate in contracts executed by the State of Ohio, Department of Transportation. GCRTA will purchase 20 Paratransit coaches from Western Reserve Coach Sales, Inc. through the State of Ohio, Department of Transportation, Cooperative Purchasing Program, under State Contract No. 248-22. The State of Ohio awarded this contract as a result of a competitive solicitation. The recommended vendor is Western Reserve Coach Sales located in Alliance, Ohio. Anticipated delivery of 20 Paratransit coaches to begin around July 2023. Current customers include, but are not limited to Shaker Auto Lease Inc., Cleveland, OH; LED Transportation, Canton, OH; Midwest Innovations Inc., Massillon, OH; and Stark County Koala Kruizers, N. Canton, OH.

Staff requests that the Organizational, Services & Performance Monitoring Committee recommend to the Board of Trustees the award of a contract to Western Reserve Coach Sales, Inc., for 20 Paratransit Coaches, at a unit price of \$122,744.00, resulting in a total contract amount not to exceed \$2,454,880.00.

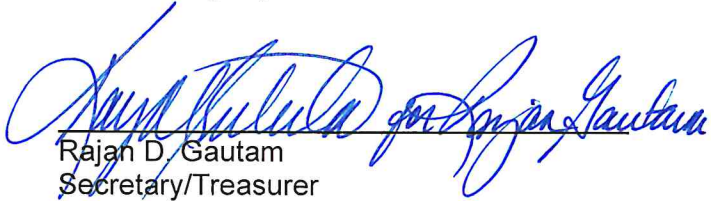
Rev. Lucas requested a sample coach to try out. The riders and operators have complained in the past about the suspension on the vehicles. Mr. Dietrich said they don't have the vehicle with the configuration we want as a sample. Hopefully in the future as the vehicle becomes available, a sample can be available. Ms. Moss noticed that their past clients were not transportation companies. She asked about the cost difference. Mr. Manning said the contractor provides vehicles to Ottawa County Transit and Youngstown RTA. The Koala's vehicle has the same design as this coach. They will check with current customers on their experience with the vehicle. They are confident the vehicles are similar to the current vehicle design.

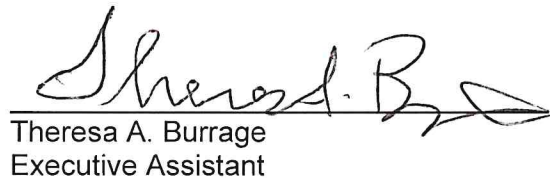
Ms. McCall said it's important that the team provides some photos and more due diligence before this is voted on next week. Mayor Biasiotta asked if we are up against a deadline and if other vehicles are available under the contract. Dr. Caver said we have a small window to get into the Ford supply chain ordering process in October. If we don't get into that window, there is not a timeline for the next window of opportunity. The price is competitive. The past vendor exited the market. Ms. Dangelo said the goal is to get in line for purchases with other agencies (Youngstown, Akron, Marietta, Sidney, etc.). We're short 10 vehicles due to the past vendor leaving the market.

An analysis was completed. They stayed in the constraints of the state contract. One other vendor did not have the Eldorado or Diamond vehicle. Their vehicle had a different construction and was more expensive and the vendor was not as responsive. If they don't get the order in by October, operationally they will have to piece together old buses. The cost to replace the propane fuel tanks on the current vehicles is \$10K a piece. Current parts are not available. Fifteen of 20 vehicles are operational. The vendors current customer list performs paratransit service even though they are not transit agencies. They will request a sample vehicle for next week. The cost of the Eldorado was \$87,781 per vehicle compared to \$122,744 for the current vehicle. The new vehicles have been budgeted and will be paid for through 5310 NOACA funds.

It was moved by Ms. Moss, seconded by Mayor Biasiotta and approved to move this to the full Board.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.


Rajan D. Gautam
Secretary/Treasurer


Theresa A. Burrage
Executive Assistant