The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas, requests Expressions of Interest from firms interested in providing solutions for a procurement and construction approach for the METRONext Program.

For additional information, contact:

LaChandra Wilson
Manager, Contracts
1900 Main Street
Houston, TX 77002
Email: LaChandra.Wilson@ridemetro.org
Phone: (713) 739-3860
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1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 Purpose and Objectives

METRO is conducting a Request for Information (RFI) from interested parties for the METRONext Program. The program includes approximately 75 miles of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) routes, two-way HOV lanes, park and rides, parking garage structures, transit centers, light rail, and community connector services.

METRO encourages responses from a variety of firms and organizations such as, but not limited to:

- Lead transportation infrastructure contractors or major systems integrators on transit systems of similar size, complexity and scale,
- Industry organizations representing any of the above or related firms, and
- Local, small and/or disadvantaged businesses whose member firms might seek to participate on a team or consortium of project proposers.

METRO will review responses to this RFI to determine potential solutions for a procurement and construction approach for the METRONext Program.

1.2 Scope

The program includes approximately 75 miles of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) routes, two-way HOV lanes, park and rides, parking garage structures, transit centers, light rail, and community connector services.

The METRO Rapid University Corridor BRT project will include a 25.3-mile-long BRT guideway on City of Houston streets, a bus maintenance facility, up to 41 stations including shelters, passenger information and security systems and fare boxes. The project will improve mobility, accessibility, and system linkage between major residential areas in the Houston areas and major employment centers and connect bus routes that currently serve the 5 transit centers along this corridor. The estimated project cost is $1.5B to $2B with an anticipated start of construction in 2024. The project is now in Project Development and scheduled to be rated by the FTA for federal funding by September 2023. See figure 1 below showing the University Corridor BRT. Construction strategy will inform segmentation as we enter final design.
2.0 RFI RESPONSE INSTRUCTIONS

2.1 General

METRO is issuing this RFI to obtain feedback from construction partners in the industry to assist METRO in developing a procurement and construction approach for our METRONext Program. Please utilize University Corridor BRT Project as the context to develop responses. METRO estimates responses in the range of 3 to 5 pages. Responding to this RFI is not a requirement for future participation in this Program or Project. As a follow-up to this RFI, METRO may request written feedback and/or one-on-one informational sessions with the respondents.

NOTE: THIS RFI DOES NOT CONSTITUTE THE COMMENCEMENT OF ANY SOLICITATION PROCESS FOR THE PROJECT OR PROJECTS AND THE RFI DOES NOT REPRESENT A COMMITMENT TO PROCEED WITH ANY SUCH SOLICITATION IN THE FUTURE. THEREFORE, THOSE CHOOSING TO RESPOND TO THIS RFI WILL NOT, MERELY BY VIRTUE OF SUBMITTING SUCH A RESPONSE, BE DEEMED TO BE "PROPOSERS" OR "BIDDERS" ON THIS PROJECT OR PROJECTS IN ANY SENSE, AND NO SUCH RESPONDENT WILL HAVE ANY PREFERENCE, SPECIAL DESIGNATION, ADVANTAGE OR DISADVANTAGE WHATSOEVER IN ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCUREMENT PROCESS RELATED TO THE PROJECT. SUBMITTING A RESPONSE TO THIS RFI IS NOT A PREREQUISITE TO PARTICIPATING IN ANY FUTURE SOLICITATION.

2.2 Questions

Questions related to this RFI must be submitted in writing by 2:00 PM Central Standard Time on May 16, 2022. Submit written questions by email to:

LaChandra Wilson
Manager of Contracts
Email: LaChandra.Wilson@ridemetro.org
METRO’s response to questions will be in the form of an amendment and will be posted for prospective responders’ viewing. METRO may also issue amendments to revise the RFI if needed.

2.3 Response Due Date

Responses to this RFI will be received by METRO until **2:00 PM Central Standard Time on May 31, 2022**. The Response must be submitted as follows:

- **ONE (1) ELECTRONIC SUBMITTAL**, in PDF format, submitted via the link [https://filecloud.ridemetro.org/url/RFI4022000001](https://filecloud.ridemetro.org/url/RFI4022000001), and

- **ONE (1) HARD COPY SUBMITTAL**, in a sealed envelope bearing the name and address of the Responder and the identification **RFI No. RFI4022000001**, delivered to:

  METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS  
  Attn: LaChandra Wilson  
  1900 Main Street  
  Houston, Texas 77702  
  Re: RFI No. RFI4022000001

2.4 Response Requirements

Responder’s response must include a completed:

- Exhibit A: Responder Information
- Exhibit B: RFI Questionnaire

2.5 Use of Information

METRO reserves the right to reproduce all responses for internal use. No proprietary information will be shared (see further information below on the use and protection of proprietary information).

2.6 Disclaimer

METRO does not intend to award a contract based on this RFI or otherwise pay for the information solicited. This RFI does not constitute a solicitation for proposals for METRO to enter into negotiations to award a contract. This RFI is for planning purposes only and shall not be considered as a request for proposal or as an obligation on the part of METRO to acquire any products or services. No entitlement to payment of direct or indirect costs or charges by METRO will arise from submitted responses received from responders to this RFI or METRO’s use of such information. Responses to this RFI will not be returned. Whatever information is provided in response to this RFI may be used to access tradeoffs and alternatives available for determining how to proceed with an acquisition. Any proprietary information that is submitted may be used in establishing requirements, but specific responder submitted information will be safeguarded as proprietary.

METRO is a governmental entity subject to the public information laws of the state of Texas, subpoena from courts of law and other governmental proceedings ‘public laws’). If METRO receives a request for confidential information related to the services provided under this RFI, METRO shall immediately notify the firm/vendor that such confidential information has been requested pursuant to the public laws. Upon notification to the firm/vendor by METRO of the request to make such confidential information public, firm/vendor shall, at its own expense, take all action available to firm/vendor to prevent disclosure of such information. However, METRO shall comply with all such public laws, and specifically, if the Texas Attorney General determines that such confidential information is public, METRO shall release such confidential information to the public.

2.7 METRO’S ETHICS AND SAFETY HOTLINE is a reporting system, administered by a third-party vendor, by which employees, Contractors, and others may report concerns or complaints they may have about improper conduct or safety conditions at METRO. Employees and Contractors may report confidentially and anonymously if desired, free of any retaliation. This reporting mechanism satisfies the Federal Transit Administration’s Employee Safety Reporting Program Rule requirements (49 CFR 673.23(b), 673.27 (b) and 673.29 (b)). Employees and Contractors may submit a report to the Hotline through one of the following methods: Toll-Free: 1-888-60-REPORT (888-607-37678); Fax: 215-689-3885; Website: [www.Lighthouse-services.com/ridemetro](http://www.Lighthouse-services.com/ridemetro); E-Mail: [reports@lighthouse-services.com](mailto:reports@lighthouse-services.com).
3.0 EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT A: RESPONDER INFORMATION

Instructions: Please complete this form and include it with the Response.

Company Name: ________________________________________________

Date of Incorporation: ____________________________________________

Mailing Address: ________________________________________________

Company Phone Number: _________________________________________

Company Web Site: ______________________________________________

Approx. Number of Employees:____________________________________

Person responsible for the information contained in RFI Response

Name: __________________________________________________________

Title: __________________________________________________________

Direct Phone Number: ____________________________________________

Email: __________________________________________________________
EXHIBIT B: RFI QUESTIONNAIRE

Instructions: Provide a response to the questions below and include it in the Response. A response to each question is requested but not mandatory. Please do not renumber or reorder the questions.

1. In one (1), single-sided page, please list your firm’s experience on projects similar to those within METRONext. Indicate timeline, date, contract value, and your firm’s role.

2. METRO is considering Competitive Sealed Proposal (CSP) delivery method on projects within the METRONext Program, including but not limited to road and bridge projects, and vertical building projects. What factors would most influence your decision to participate in such a procurement?

3. METRO is considering Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) delivery method on projects within the METRONext Program, including but not limited to vertical building construction projects, and potentially road and bridge projects. What factors would most influence your decision to participate in such a procurement?

4. What is the ideal contract size for your firm depending on contract type (i.e., range in $M, including minimum and maximum contract values)?

5. At what dollar limit would your firm or team create a joint venture?

6. Based on your experience with various procurement delivery methods and working with METRO and other entities, what are your suggestions or recommendations that would allow METRO to design a better contract framework (including terms and conditions) for project delivery?

7. What is your recent experience in the industry on how your firm has addressed escalation in the market? What would you like the agency to consider in order to mitigate this risk?

8. How has your firm addressed Covid-19 impacts on your current projects? What would you like the agency to consider on future projects to address this type of risk?

9. What other key risks and potential mitigation strategies would allow METRO to make the projects within the METRONext Program attractive?

10. An owner-controlled insurance program (OCIP) is planned for the METRONext Program. From a contractor’s standpoint, what is your input on lessons learned and best practices that would assist METRO in shaping the next OCIP program?

11. Are there any projects within the METRONext program that you think may be suitable for a Public Private Partnership? If so, please elaborate.

12. What additional information would assist METRO in shaping a construction strategy that is equitable and leads to positive outcomes for all project partners?
AMENDMENT - REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (RFI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amendment No.</th>
<th>RFQ No.</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>001</td>
<td>RFI4022000001</td>
<td>METRONext Projects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COMPANY NAME AND ADDRESS (To be completed by Bidder)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issued By</th>
<th>Issue Date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY Procurement Division 1900 Main Street Houston, Texas 77002</td>
<td>05/23/2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The hour and date specified for receipt of Proposals is:

- [✓] Not extended
- [ ] Extended to

Date: _______ Time: _______

The RFI is amended as follows:

- **SOLICITATION QUESTIONS & ANSWERS** (continue to next page)

Except as provided herein, all instructions and provisions of the RFI, as heretofore changed, remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

Proposers must acknowledge receipt of the amendment prior to the hour and date specified for proposal delivery, by one of the following methods:

1. By signing and returning one (1) copy of this amendment with your submittal;
2. By separate letter acknowledging receipt.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROPOSER (Authorized Representative)</th>
<th>METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY (Authorized Representative)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BY NAME: ___________________________</td>
<td>BY NAME: LaChandra Wilson _______________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIGNATURE: _________________________</td>
<td>SIGNATURE: _________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TITLE: _____________________________</td>
<td>TITLE: Manager, Contracts ____________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIGNATURE DATE: ____________________</td>
<td>SIGNATURE DATE: ___________________________</td>
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SOLICITATION QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. I was hoping you could assist me a bit on how I can submit to the RFI responses, this is my first time completing and RFI I normally do RFQ/SOQ. Is there a template I can follow, or could you provide a bit of information as to how I to fill out questions for Exhibit B: RFI Questionnaire.

   **Answer:** The format of Exhibit B should serve as a guide for the Responder to create a word document and provide a response to each item. Please convert the document to a PDF before submission.

2. I need attendance list for pre-submittal meeting for this RFI, RFI4022000001.

   **Answer:** A pre-submittal meeting was not conducted for RFI No. RFI4022000001, thus, an attendance list does not exist.

3. What is the DBE participation?

   **Answer:** METRO has a race and gender-neutral Small Business Program. Each project is reviewed for small business goal establishment which can be satisfied by METRO certified Small Businesses or by certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprises.

4. Do you know if there will be any right of way acquisition for this project?

   **Answer:** This RFI does not represent a sole project as METRONext is a collection of projects, and needs of project are specific to each project’s objective and deliverables—see [https://www.ridemetro.org/Pages/METRONext-Moving-Forward-Plan.aspx](https://www.ridemetro.org/Pages/METRONext-Moving-Forward-Plan.aspx) for more details.

5. I am looking for a plan holders list for the above mentioned RFI. If this is available, please forward it to me at your convenience.

   **Answer:** No plans/drawings are included in this RFI, therefore, a plan holders list will not be published.

6. [My firm has] security camera systems that use artificial intelligence that communicate to the end user using 5G network and just 110 Volt power source. We also have Gun shot detection devices that are wireless and can dial 911 immediately. We also have a laminate that gets applied to existing glass and can withstand riot protection and ballistic resistance for multiple caliber rounds. Is this something that can be used for this Project?

   **Answer:** Yes, METRO is open to reviewing additional information on the products your firm offers for potential use on the METRONext projects.

7. Where can I find the University Corridor BRT Project? The METRONext Program states that we should utilize that Project to develop responses.

   **Answer:** Please use the link [https://www.ridemetro.org/Pages/METRORapid-University-Corridor-Project.aspx](https://www.ridemetro.org/Pages/METRORapid-University-Corridor-Project.aspx) to review information on University Corridor. Also, the virtual public meeting had presentation materials that can be accessed at [https://metrorapid-ucp.com/](https://metrorapid-ucp.com/).

8. Are [Responders] able to add a cover page and back cover? Will that count toward the 3-5 page range?

   **Answer:** Yes, the Responder may add a cover and back page which will not count towards the page limitation stated in the RFI.