



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

FOR

Financial Audit Services

Project #RFP-FY27-1

ISSUED BY:

Rural Community Transportation, Inc.
1677 Industrial Parkway
Lyndonville, VT

ISSUED ON:

August 27, 2026

I. INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

Rural Community Transportation, Inc. (RCT) is a private not for profit agency providing public transportation services to Caledonia, Orleans, Essex, Franklin, Grand Isle and Lamoille Counties in Vermont. RCT is currently comprised of four operating divisions, located in Lyndonville, Newport, St Albans, and Morrisville, Vermont.

RCT has issued this Request for Proposals (RFP) for Financial Audit Services as part of a joint procurement with several other Vermont public transportations providers, as detailed below. The anticipated term of the contract for Financial Audit Services will be three (3) years with the option for two (2) additional years.

Transit Agency Name	Main Office Location	Website	Areas Served
Advance Transit	White River Junction, VT	https://advancetransit.com/	Upper Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire (Lebanon, Dartmouth, West Lebanon, White River Junction, Hanover, Enfield, Norwich, Canaan)
Green Mountain Community Network	Bennington, VT	www.greenmtncn.org	Bennington County, Vermont
Green Mountain Transit	Burlington, VT	https://ridegmt.com/	Chittenden, Washington, Franklin, and Grand Isle Counties
Marble Valley Regional Transit District	Rutland, VT	https://thebus.com/	Rutland and Addison Counties
Rural Community Transportation	Lyndonville, VT	https://www.riderct.org/	Essex, Caledonia, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, and Orleans Counties
Southeast Vermont Transit	Wilmington, VT	https://www.moover.com/	Windham and Southern Windsor Counties
Special Services Transportation Agency	Colchester, VT	https://www.sstarides.org/	Chittenden County
Tri-Valley Transit	Middlebury, VT	https://www.trivalleytransit.org/	Addison, Orange, North Windsor, and Washington Counties
Vermont Public Transportation Association	Bennington, VT	https://vpta.net/	Information and Advocacy Statewide

The agencies listed above, and their respective successors, members, and service area municipalities, and assignees, and any future entities operating public transit service in their respective current or future service areas shall be allowed to contract for Financial Audit Services off the hourly rates of the successful proposal. Additionally, any entity which receives funding through the State of Vermont's Agency of Transportation shall be allowed to contract for Auditor Services off the price proposal of the successful proposer. The entities authorized to purchase Auditor Services pursuant to this procurement, as described in the paragraph, are sometimes referred to individually as “Purchaser” or collectively as “Purchasing Group.”

Each Purchaser that elects to purchase Financial Auditor Services pursuant to this procurement will enter into contracts (sometimes referred to as the “Contract”) directly with the successful proposer (sometimes referred to as the “Vendor” or “Contractor”) on the terms and conditions contained in this RFP and a firm fixed price based on the hour rates contained in the proposal of the Contractor. Contractors submitting proposals should be prepared to provide service to any of the Purchasers listed above.

II. PROJECT SUMMARY

Rural Community Transportation (RCT) is requesting proposals for financial auditing and tax services for a three (3) year period plus the option for two (2) additional years. As part of our commitment to financial transparency, accountability to our stakeholders, and compliance with applicable regulatory and grant requirements, we are seeking to engage an independent auditor to perform an audit of our financial statements. We are the sub-recipient of federal and state grant awards through the State of Vermont Agency of Transportation for public transportation operating assistance and capital programs. We are subject to a Single Audit.

RCT's fiscal year ends June 30th. Audit services can begin as early as the third week of August. Deliverables for the Scope of Work described below are due by September 30th each year.

III. SCOPE OF WORK

Rural Community Transportation (RCT) operates on a Fiscal Year July 1st – June 30th. The first audit will begin with Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, which ended on June 30, 2026. Audit work will commence in September 2026.

Deliverables - The firm selected must complete the following for each Fiscal Year:

- Perform a “Single Audit” for each fiscal year in accordance with Government Auditing Standards.
- Provide Annual Audit Report with Single Audit Letter, submitted electronically to the Purchaser and the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans).
- Provide Audited Financial Statements, with footnotes.
- Complete a Schedule of Federal Awards
- Tax preparation services for IRS Form 990 and Form 990T (if applicable).
- Internal Control and Compliance Review of procedures and policies related to effective grant management
- The completed audit must to be loaded onto the Federal Audit Clearinghouse website [The Federal Audit Clearinghouse](#)

III. REQUIREMENTS

The Contractor shall:

- The successful firm shall have a minimum of five (5) years of experience providing the services listed in the Scope of Work and five years experience with 501(c)(3) company audits including both federal and state tax returns, government grant audits in accordance with single audit requirements, and government auditing standards as issued by the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) and detailed CFR 2, Subtitle A, Chapter II, Part 200, Subpart F.
- All services shall be performed using fully qualified auditors with a minimum of three (3) years of experience in providing the service being requested.

- Designate a primary contact for all requests for service and an alternate contact when the primary contact is unavailable.
- Be available and accessible from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (not including federal and Vermont state holidays)
- Upon Contract award, provide Certificate of Insurance showing current general and professional liability insurance, automobile coverage, and workers compensation insurance within ten (10) days, and maintained throughout the life of the contract.
- Proof of firm Licensing and CPA certification for team members.
- The auditor meets applicable independence requirements.
- The auditor is in compliance with applicable peer review and continuing professional education (CPE) requirements.
- The auditor meets other minimum standards set forth in the RFP, such as those pertaining to the auditor's financial condition, adequacy of staffing, and experience auditing similar organizations.

IV. PROPOSAL CONTENTS

The response to this RFP shall include the following:

- A. Cover Letter/Company Overview: Include a brief cover letter that describes the contractor's interest in the project, experience, and ability to successfully complete the activities as described in the Scope of Work. This section should not exceed two (2) typed pages.
- B. Work Plan - Refer to the Scope of Work section of this RFP. Provide a description of the approach for planning the audit, conducting and timing of the fieldwork and the proper opportunity for your organization to review the reporting products before their issuance (including subsequent years). The work plan should include a time table for completion of the deliverables.
- C. References - A minimum of three verifiable references of comparable audit clients and a description of outcomes from these three auditing projects.
- D. Narrative (not to exceed 2 pages):
 - Describe what uniquely qualifies you to serve our organization, what skills your firm brings, what services your firm can offer, and what experience your firms has that others may not have.
 - Outline the history of firm and speak to the financial health of your firm and address any potential conflicts of interest that may exist.
 - List personnel of auditing staff with bios and tenure for each auditor that will be assigned to our team. Please specifically identify the primary and alternate primary contacts for the contract
- E. Price Proposal: Complete the Audit Fee Price Proposal Form in Attachment C.
 - a. Pricing shall be provided in the form of hourly rates of pay for all staff who could potentially perform work under the contract. These hourly rates will be used to arrive at a negotiated firm fixed price for each year of the contract term.
 - If for any reason government regulations providing guidance for the audit substantially increase the annual auditing work, the auditor may submit a revised fee schedule for the next annual audit, provided that the audit has been initiated and such

submittal is made at least 3 months prior to the start of the next annual audit. The Purchaser may choose to accept, negotiate, or discard this revised fee proposal and re-advertise for auditing services at its sole discretion.

- The Purchaser will not pay “extra” for the auditor to obtain knowledge required to perform the audit. If there are any first-year costs associated with understanding the Purchaser and/or its unique business, then those costs need to be included in the negotiated firm fixed price for the first year.
- To be considered, all proposers must have the required experience necessary to conduct an audit of a 5311 Operating recipient independently fully in excess of \$500,000 annually or their proposals need to include a subcontractor with the required experience as noted in prior sections of this RFP. It is the responsibility of the proposer to determine how much time they will require from the subcontractor and to include that time in the fee proposal.
- The Purchaser will only pay for increased audit costs beyond the proposed annual fee based on changes agreed to by both the Purchaser and the audit firm in advance of expenditures on those increased costs. Any costs beyond the audit fee proposal must be documented in detail including an hour-by-hour outline of the person performing the work and the nature of the work completed. Additionally, such increased audit costs that come to light after the contract is signed may only be approved on a Change Order signed by Purchaser’s designee.
- Any additional cost due to auditing standards changes should be included in the price proposal. Any future auditing standards changes that demonstrably increase costs to the auditor will be negotiated separately.

F. Certifications:

- Federal Clause Acknowledgment: Please review the federal clauses that apply to this contract and the selected contractor and sign the Federal Clause Acknowledgment Form in Attachment B.
- 2) Debarment and Non-Collusion: Please see the Debarment and Suspension section in Attachment A and complete and include the Debarment and Non-Collusion Certification Form in Attachment B.

V. GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

One electronic proposal in PDF format must be received at RCT by **5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 18, 2026 without exception.** No proposals received after this date/time will be accepted. Proposals should be emailed to Caleb Grant, RCT Executive Director at:

cgrant@riderct.org

Please enter the following in the subject line of the email for the RFP submission “Financial Audit Services Proposal”

No telephone contact regarding this request for proposals shall be permitted. Any questions about this RFP should be emailed to DolanMunicipal@gmail.com by **5:00 PM on Tuesday,**

September 8, 2026. RCT will provide written responses to all requests for clarification regarding this RFP and will post the answers to those requests on its website (www.riderct.com/news/) by Thursday September 10, 2026 at 5:00 PM.

To be considered for award, a proposal must comply with all material aspects of the RFP. This applies to both the method and timeliness of submission and the substance of any resulting contract. Alternative proposals from the same Respondent shall not be accepted. RCT may elect to disqualify a proposal due to failure to submit a proposal in the form requested, failure to propose requested prices, failure to complete all entries or submit all forms.

If a proposal has math or other material errors that renders the proposal undeliverable for either party, the Respondent may withdraw the proposal but cannot modify it. The proposal must be withdrawn at or before the contract is awarded.

Any proposal which fails to conform to the essential requirements of the RFP, such as specifications, delivery schedule, or any alternatives to these or other requirements specifically provided for in the RFP, shall be rejected as non-responsive. If it is determined that all proposals are to be rejected, RCT shall notify each Respondent that all proposals have been rejected with a statement as to why that action was taken.

A winning Respondent, however, may be requested to delete objectionable conditions from its proposal provided these conditions do not go to the substance, as distinguished from the form, of the proposal. A winning Proposal will be rejected if RCT determines that it is unreasonable as to price. This rejection will be supported by appropriate review and analysis.

RCT reserves the right to reject proposals at any time before or after proposal opening upon evidence of collusion with intent to defraud or any other illegal practice upon the Respondent's part. Failure of the Respondent to substantially comply with proposal requirements may constitute non-compliance and may result in inability to submit proposal or to have a submitted proposal rejected.

VI. TERMS OF AGREEMENT/COMMENCEMENT OF SERVICES

The agreement between the Purchaser and the selected contractor is subject to the terms and conditions of this RFP, including the terms set forth in Attachments A, B, and C. The engagement of a contractor for Auditor Services is at the discretion of the Purchaser and is subject to termination at Purchaser's sole discretion, with or without cause. By submitting a proposal, the proposer agrees that the Purchaser will own and have all rights to any work (both hard copy and electronic formats) the Purchaser pays to have created. The Purchaser may retain other firms or contractors at its sole discretion at any time during the term of this agreement. An Award Letter will be provided to the selected consultant, which, along with this Request for Proposal and the consultant's proposal and negotiated firm fixed price, will become the contract. The contractor will bill the Purchaser net 30 on a monthly basis.

VII. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The criteria (and max score) that will be used to evaluate and score proposals are:

- 1) Experience of Firm/Company (50 points)
- 2) Expertise of Primary and Secondary Contracts (25 points)
- 3) References of Contractor (15 points)
- 4) Completeness of Proposal (10 points)

VIII. SELECTION

Proposals will be scored and then value determined when the price is considered. The selection of the successful proposer shall be based upon the most responsible and responsive proposal in accordance with the evaluation criteria for this RFP indicated above that is deemed to provide the best value to RCT.

RCT reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or to accept any proposal, or to waive any informality in any proposal, or to withhold the award if deemed in the best interest of RCT. RCT may cancel this RFP and/or the project at any time at its sole discretion.

Based upon a review of the submitted documentation, a committee of RCT management staff will make its selection of the consultant. If deemed necessary by RCT, an interview and/or negotiation with one or more proposers may take place prior to award. The interview and/or negotiation with one or more proposers will be at the exclusive option of RCT.

IX. PROTEST PROCEDURES

Protests concerning RCT's purchasing policies, the contract requirements, the specifications, the bidding procedures, or the contract award, or any other request for explanation or clarification must be submitted in writing and must include the following information:

- The name and address of the protester.
- The name and telephone number of the protester's contact person having responsibility.
- A complete statement of the grounds of the protest with full documentation of the protester's claim.

A. Pre-award Protests

Pre-award protests must be received by RCT no less than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening. RCT will respond to the protest in writing and render its final decision at least five (5) working days prior to bid opening. RCT will report such protests to the FTA regional office.

B. Post-award Protest

Post-award protests will be received no later than five (5) working days after notification of the award bid. RCT will have ten (10) working days after receipt of the formal protest package to evaluate, and issue a response, except in cases where the original bid has been awarded by the Board. In such cases, the decision to protest will be handled at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting, following completion of the staff review of the protests. RCT will report such protests to the FTA regional office.

Appeals to FTA

It is the responsibility of RCT to settle contract issues and disputes. RCT is committed to using good sound administrative practices and business judgments, as well as professional ethics. Reviews of protests by FTA will be limited to alleged failure by RCT to have followed proper protests procedures, or its failure to review a complaint or protest. Protesters dissatisfied with RCT's final decision may appeal to FTA regional or Headquarters Office within five (5) working days of the date the protester knew or should have known of the violation.

ATTACHMENT A MANDATORY CONTRACT TERMS

Federal Clauses

ACCESS TO RECORDS AND REPORTS

1. Record Retention. The Contractor will retain, and will require its subcontractors of all tiers to retain, complete and readily accessible records related in whole or in part to the contract, including, but not limited to, data, documents, reports, statistics, leases, subcontracts, arrangements, other third party Contracts of any type, and supporting materials related to those records. (a) A bid guarantee from each bidder equivalent to five percent of the bid price. The "bid guarantee" must consist of a firm commitment such as a bid bond, certified check, or other negotiable instrument accompanying a bid as assurance that the bidder will, upon acceptance of the bid, execute such contractual documents as may be required within the time specified.
2. Retention Period. The Contractor agrees to comply with the record retention requirements in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.334. The Contractor shall maintain all books, records, accounts and reports required under this Contract for a period of at not less than three (3) years after the date of termination or expiration of this Contract, except in the event of litigation or settlement of claims arising from the performance of this Contract, in which case records shall be maintained until the disposition of all such litigation, appeals, claims or exceptions related thereto.
3. Access to Records. The Contractor agrees to provide sufficient access to FTA and its contractors to inspect and audit records and information, including such records and information the contractor or its subcontractors may regard as confidential or proprietary, related to performance of this contract in accordance with 2 CFR § 200.337.
4. Access to the Sites of Performance. The Contractor agrees to permit FTA and its contractors access to the sites of performance under this contract in accordance with 2 CFR § 200.337.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT(ADA)

The contractor agrees to comply with all applicable requirements of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 794, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps, with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq., which requires that accessible facilities and services be made available to persons with disabilities, including any subsequent amendments to that Act, and with the Architectural Barriers act of 1968, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4151 et seq., which requires that buildings and public accommodations be accessible to persons with disabilities, including any subsequent amendments to that Act. In addition, the contractor agrees to comply with any and all applicable requirements issued by the FTA, DOT, DOJ, U.S. GSA, U.S. EEOC, U.S. FCC, any subsequent amendments thereto and any other nondiscrimination statute(s) that may apply to the Project.

CHANGES TO FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

Federal requirements that apply to the Recipient or the Award, the accompanying Underlying Agreement, and any Amendments thereto may change due to changes in federal law, regulation, other requirements, or guidance, or changes in the Recipient's Underlying Agreement including any information incorporated by reference and made part of that Underlying Agreement; and Applicable changes to those federal requirements will apply to each Third Party Agreement and parties thereto at any tier.

CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The following Federal Civil Rights laws and regulations apply to all contracts. The Contractor and any subcontractor agree to comply with all the requirements prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin of the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended 42 U.S.C 2000d, and U.S. DOT regulation "Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs of the Department of Transportation – Effectuation of the Title VI of the Civil rights Act, "49 C.F. R. Part 21 and any implementing requirement FTA may issue.

1 Federal Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Requirements. These include, but are not limited to:

a) Nondiscrimination in Federal Public Transportation Programs. 49 U.S.C. § 5332, covering projects, programs, and activities financed under 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53, prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation), disability, or age, and prohibits discrimination in employment or business opportunity.

b) Prohibition against Employment Discrimination. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964," 49 CFR Part 21, and 49 U.S.C. § 5332, prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

2 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq. and implementing Federal regulations, "Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance," 49 C.F.R. part 25 prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex.

3 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Age. The "Age Discrimination Act of 1975," as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq., and Department of Health and Human Services implementing regulations, "Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Age in Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance," 45 C.F.R. part 90, prohibit discrimination by participants in federally assisted programs against individuals on the basis of age. The Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), 29 U.S.C. § 621 et seq., and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) implementing regulations, "Age

Discrimination in Employment Act," 29 C.F.R. part 1625, also prohibit employment discrimination against individuals age 40 and over on the basis of age.

4 Federal Protections for Individuals with Disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (ADA), 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq., prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities in programs, activities, and services, and imposes specific requirements on public and private entities. Third party contractors must comply with their responsibilities under Titles I, II, III, IV, and V of the ADA in employment, public services, public accommodations, telecommunications, and other provisions, many of which are subject to regulations issued by other Federal agencies.

Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity

The Agency is an Equal Opportunity Employer. As such, the Agency agrees to comply with all applicable Federal civil rights laws and implementing regulations. Apart from inconsistent requirements imposed by Federal laws or regulations, the Agency agrees to comply with the requirements of 49 U.S.C. § 5323(h) (3) by not using any Federal assistance awarded by FTA to support procurements using exclusionary or discriminatory specifications. Under this Contract, the Contractor shall at all times comply with the following requirements and shall include these requirements in each subcontract entered into as part thereof.

1. Nondiscrimination. In accordance with Federal transit law at 49 U.S.C. § 5332, the Contractor agrees that it will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, or age. In addition, the Contractor agrees to comply with applicable Federal implementing regulations and other implementing requirements FTA may issue.

2. Equal Employment Opportunity. In accordance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e et seq., Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101, et seq.; and Federal transit laws at 49 U.S.C. § 5332, the Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable equal employment opportunity requirements, without regard to their race, color, religion, national origin, or sex (including sexual orientation). In addition, the Contractor agrees to comply with any implementing requirements FTA may issue.

3. Age. In accordance with the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 621634, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (U.S. EEOC) regulations, "Age Discrimination in Employment Act," 29 C.F.R. part 1625, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq., U.S. Health and Human Services regulations, "Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Age in Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance," 45 C.F.R. part 90, and Federal transit law at 49 U.S.C. § 5332, the Contractor agrees to refrain from discrimination against present and prospective employees for reason of age. In addition, the Contractor agrees to comply with any implementing requirements FTA may issue.

4. Disabilities. In accordance with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 794, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq., the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 4151 et seq., and Federal transit law at 49 U.S.C. § 5332, the Contractor agrees that it will not discriminate against individuals on the basis of disability. In addition, the Contractor agrees to comply with any implementing requirements FTA may issue.

5. Federal Law and Public Policy Requirements. The Contractor shall ensure that Federal funding is expended in full accordance with the U.S. Constitution, Federal Law, and statutory and public policy requirements: including, but not limited to, those protecting free speech, religious liberty, public welfare, the environment, and prohibiting discrimination; and the Recipient will cooperate with Federal officials in the enforcement of Federal law, including cooperating with and not impeding U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and other Federal offices and components of the Department of Homeland Security in the enforcement of Federal immigration law.

DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION

Debarment and Suspension (Executive Orders 12549 and 12689). A covered transaction (see 2 C.F.R. §§ 180.220 and 1200.220) must not be entered into with any party listed on the governmentwide exclusions in the System for Award Management (SAM), in accordance with the OMB guidelines at 2 C.F.R. 180 that implement Executive Orders 12549 (31 U.S.C. § 6101 note, 51 Fed. Reg. 6370,) and 12689 (31 U.S.C. § 6101 note, 54 Fed. Reg. 34131), "Debarment and Suspension." SAM Exclusions contains the names of parties debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded by agencies, as well as parties declared ineligible under statutory or regulatory authority other than Executive Order 12549. The Recipient agrees to include, and require each Third Party Participant to include, a similar provision in each lower tier covered transaction, ensuring that each lower tier Third Party Participant: (1) Complies with federal debarment and suspension requirements; and (2) Reviews the SAM at <https://www.sam.gov>, if necessary to comply with U.S. DOT regulations, 2 CFR Part 1200.

DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE)

(Does not apply to projects fully funded by the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP).)

It is the policy of the Agency and the United States Department of Transportation ("DOT") that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises ("DBE's"), as defined herein and in the Federal regulations published at 49 C.F.R. part 26, shall have an equal opportunity to participate in DOT assisted contracts. The contractor or subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this contract. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 C.F.R. part 26 in the award and administration of DOT assisted contracts. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract or such other remedy as the Agency deems appropriate, which may include, but is not limited to:

- (1) Withholding monthly progress payments;
- (2) Assessing sanctions;
- (3) Liquidated damages; and/or
- (4) Disqualifying the contractor from future bidding as nonresponsive. 49 C.F.R. § 26.13(b).

Prime contractors are required to pay subcontractors for satisfactory performance of their contracts no later than 30 days from receipt of each payment the Agency makes to the prime contractor. 49 C.F.R. § 26.29(a). Finally, for contracts with defined DBE contract goals, the contractor shall utilize the specific DBEs listed unless the contractor obtains the Agency's written consent; and that, unless the Agency's consent is provided, the contractor shall not be entitled to any payment for work or material unless it is performed or supplied by the listed DBE. 49 C.F.R. § 26.53(f) (1).

DOMESTIC PREFERENCES FOR PROCUREMENTS

a. The recipient or subrecipient should, to the greatest extent practicable and consistent with law, provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States (including but not limited to iron, aluminum, steel, cement, and other manufactured products). The requirements of this section must be included in all subawards, contracts, and purchase orders under Federal awards.

b. For purposes of this section:

(1) "Produced in the United States" means, for iron and steel products, that all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States.

(2) "Manufactured products" means items and construction materials composed in whole or in part of nonferrous metals such as aluminum; plastics and polymer based products such as polyvinyl chloride pipe; aggregates such as concrete; glass, including optical fiber; and lumber.

c. Federal agencies providing Federal financial assistance for infrastructure projects must implement the Buy America preferences set forth in 2 CFR 184.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

The contractor agrees to comply with mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency, which are contained in the state energy conservation plan issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. § 6201).

FLY AMERICA

a) Definitions. As used in this clause—

1) "International air transportation" means transportation by air between a place in the United States and a place outside the United States or between two places both of which are outside the United States.

2) "United States" means the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and outlying areas.

3) "U.S. flag air carrier" means an air carrier holding a certificate under 49 U.S.C. Chapter 411.

b) When Federal funds are used to fund travel, Section 5 of the International Air Transportation Fair Competitive Practices Act of 1974 (49 U.S.C. 40118) (Fly America Act) requires contractors, Agency's, and others use U.S. flag air carriers for U.S. Government financed international air transportation of personnel (and their personal effects) or property, to the extent that service by those carriers is available. It requires the Comptroller General of the United States, in the absence of satisfactory proof of the necessity for foreign flag air transportation, to disallow expenditures from funds, appropriated or otherwise established for the account of the United States, for international air transportation secured aboard a foreign flag air carrier if a U.S. flag air carrier is available to provide such services.

c) If available, the Contractor, in performing work under this contract, shall use U.S. flag carriers for international air transportation of personnel (and their personal effects) or property.

d) In the event that the Contractor selects a carrier other than a U.S. flag air carrier for international air transportation, the Contractor shall include a statement on vouchers involving such transportation essentially as follows:

Statement of Unavailability of U.S. Flag Air Carriers International air transportation of persons (and their personal effects) or property by U.S. flag air carrier was not available or it was necessary to use foreign flag air carrier service for the following reasons. See FAR § 47.403. [State reasons]:

e) Contractor shall include the substance of this clause, including this paragraph (e), in each subcontract or purchase under this contract that may involve international air transportation.

INCORPORATION OF FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA) TERMS

The provisions within include, in part, certain Standard Terms and Conditions required under the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR § 200), whether or not expressly set forth in the preceding contract provisions. All contractual provisions required by DOT, detailed in 2 CFR § 200 or as amended by 2 CFR § 1201, or the most recent version of FTA Circular 4220.1 are hereby incorporated by reference.

Anything to the contrary herein notwithstanding, all mandated terms shall be deemed to control in the event of a conflict with other provisions contained in this Contract. The Contractor shall not perform any act, fail to perform any act, or refuse to comply with any request which would cause a violation of the FTA terms and conditions.

NO GOVERNMENT OBLIGATION TO THIRD PARTIES

The Recipient and Contractor acknowledge and agree that, notwithstanding any concurrence by the Federal Government in or approval of the solicitation or award of the underlying Contract, absent the express written consent by the Federal

Government, the Federal Government is not a party to this Contract and shall not be subject to any obligations or liabilities to the Recipient, Contractor or any other party (whether or not a party to that contract) pertaining to any matter resulting from the underlying Contract. The Contractor agrees to include the above clause in each subcontract financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance provided by the FTA. It is further agreed that the clause shall not be modified, except to identify the subcontractor who will be subject to its provisions.

NOTICE TO FTA AND U.S. DOT INSPECTOR GENERAL OF INFORMATION RELATED TO FRAUD, WASTE, ABUSE, OR OTHER LEGAL MATTERS

If a current or prospective legal matter that may affect the Federal Government emerges, the Recipient must promptly notify the FTA Chief Counsel and FTA Regional Counsel for the Region in which the Recipient is located. The Recipient must include a similar notification requirement in its Third Party Agreements and must require each Third Party Participant to include an equivalent provision in its subagreements at every tier, for any agreement that is a "covered transaction" according to 2 C.F.R. §§ 180.220 and 1200.220.

(1) The types of legal matters that require notification include, but are not limited to, a major dispute, breach, default, litigation, or naming the Federal Government as a party to litigation or a legal disagreement in any forum for any reason.

(2) Matters that may affect the Federal Government include, but are not limited to, the Federal Government's interests in the Award, the accompanying Underlying Agreement, and any Amendments thereto, or the Federal Government's administration or enforcement of federal laws, regulations, and requirements.

(3) The Recipient must promptly notify the U.S. DOT Inspector General in addition to the FTA Chief Counsel or Regional Counsel for the Region in which the Recipient is located, if the Recipient has knowledge of potential fraud, waste, or abuse occurring on a Project receiving assistance from FTA. The notification provision applies if a person has or may have submitted a false claim under the False Claims Act, 31 U.S.C. § 3729 et seq., or has or may have committed a criminal or civil violation of law pertaining to such matters as fraud, conflict of interest, bribery, gratuity, or similar misconduct. This responsibility occurs whether the Project is subject to this Agreement or another agreement between the Recipient and FTA, or an agreement involving a principal, officer, employee, agent, or Third Party Participant of the Recipient. It also applies to subcontractors at any tier. Knowledge, as used in this paragraph, includes, but is not limited to, knowledge of a criminal or civil investigation by a Federal, state, or local law enforcement or other investigative agency, a criminal indictment or civil complaint, or probable cause that could support a criminal indictment, or any other credible information in the possession of the Recipient.

PATENT RIGHTS AND RIGHTS IN DATA

Intellectual Property Rights

This Project is funded through a Federal award with FTA for experimental, developmental, or research work purposes. As such, certain Patent Rights and Data Rights apply to all subject data first produced in the performance of this Contract. The Contractor shall grant the Agency intellectual property access and licenses deemed necessary for the work performed under this Contract and in accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. part 401, "Rights to Inventions Made by Nonprofit Organizations and Small Business Firms Under Government Grants, Contracts and Cooperative Agreements," and any implementing regulations issued by FTA or U.S. DOT. The terms of an intellectual property agreement and software license rights will be finalized prior to execution of this Contract and shall, at a minimum, include the following restrictions:

Except for its own internal use, the Contractor may not publish or reproduce subject data in whole or in part, or in any manner or form, nor may the Contractor authorize others to do so, without the written consent of FTA, until such time as FTA may have either released or approved the release of such data to the public. This restriction on publication, however, does not apply to any contract with an academic institution. For purposes of this Contract, the term "subject data" means recorded information whether or not copyrighted, and that is delivered or specified to be delivered as required by the Contract. Examples of "subject data" include, but are not limited to computer software, standards, specifications, engineering drawings and associated lists, process sheets, manuals, technical reports, catalog item identifications, and related information, but do not include financial reports, cost analyses, or other similar information used for performance or administration of the Contract.

1. The Federal Government reserves a royaltyfree, nonexclusive and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use, and to authorize others to use for "Federal Government Purposes," any subject data or copyright described below. For "Federal Government Purposes," means use only for the direct purposes of the Federal Government. Without the copyright owner's consent, the Federal Government may not extend its Federal license to any other party.

a. Any subject data developed under the Contract, whether or not a copyright has been obtained; and

b. Any rights of copyright purchased by the Contractor using Federal assistance in whole or in part by the FTA.

2. Unless FTA determines otherwise, the Contractor performing experimental, developmental, or research work required as part of this Contract agrees to permit FTA to make available to the public, either FTA's license in the copyright to any subject data developed in the course of the Contract, or a copy of the subject data first produced under the Contract for which a copyright has not been obtained. If the experimental, developmental, or research work, which is the subject of this Contract, is not completed for any reason whatsoever, all data developed under the Contract shall become subject data as defined herein and shall be delivered as the Federal Government may direct.

3. Unless prohibited by state law, upon request by the Federal Government, the Contractor agrees to indemnify, save, and hold harmless the Federal Government, its officers, agents, and employees acting within the scope of their official duties against any liability, including costs and expenses, resulting from any willful or intentional violation by the Contractor of proprietary rights, copyrights, or right of privacy, arising out of the publication, translation, reproduction, delivery, use, or disposition of any data furnished under that contract. The Contractor shall not be required to indemnify the Federal

Government for any such liability arising out of the wrongful act of any employee, official, or agents of the Federal Government.

4. Nothing contained in this clause on rights in data shall imply a license to the Federal Government under any patent or be construed as affecting the scope of any license or other right otherwise granted to the Federal Government under any patent.

5. Data developed by the Contractor and financed entirely without using Federal assistance provided by the Federal Government that has been incorporated into work required by the underlying Contract is exempt from the requirements herein, provided that the Contractor identifies those data in writing at the time of delivery of the Contract work.

6. The Contractor agrees to include these requirements in each subcontract for experimental, developmental, or research work financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance.

PROGRAM FRAUD AND FALSE OR FRAUDULENT STATEMENTS AND RELATED ACTS

The Contractor acknowledges that the provisions of the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986, as amended, 31 U.S.C. § 3801 et seq. and U.S. DOT regulations, "Program Fraud Civil Remedies," 49 C.F.R. part 31, apply to its actions pertaining to this Project. Upon execution of the underlying contract, the Contractor certifies or affirms the truthfulness and accuracy of any statement it has made, it makes, it may make, or causes to be made, pertaining to the underlying contract or the FTA assisted project for which this contract work is being performed. In addition to other penalties that may be applicable, the Contractor further acknowledges that if it makes, or causes to be made, a false, fictitious, or fraudulent claim, statement, submission, or certification, the Federal Government reserves the right to impose the penalties of the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986 on the Contractor to the extent the Federal Government deems appropriate. The Contractor also acknowledges that if it makes, or causes to be made, a false, fictitious, or fraudulent claim, statement, submission, or certification to the Federal Government under a contract connected with a project that is financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance originally awarded by FTA under the authority of 49 U.S.C. chapter 53, the Government reserves the right to impose the penalties of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and 49 U.S.C. § 5323(l) on the Contractor, to the extent the Federal Government deems appropriate. The Contractor agrees to include the above two clauses in each subcontract financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance provided by FTA. It is further agreed that the clauses shall not be modified, except to identify the subcontractor who will be subject to the provisions.

PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SERVICES OR EQUIPMENT.

a) Recipients and subrecipients are prohibited from obligating or expending loan or grant funds to:

- 1) Procure or obtain covered telecommunications equipment or services;
- 2) Extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain covered telecommunications equipment or services; or
- 3) Enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure or obtain covered telecommunications equipment or services.

(b) As described in section 889 of Public Law 115232, "covered telecommunications equipment or services" means any of the following:

- (1) Telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities);
- (2) For the purpose of public safety, security of government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes, video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities);
- (3) Telecommunications or video surveillance services provided by such entities or using such equipment;
- (4) Telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of the National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the government of a covered foreign country;

(c) For the purposes of this section, "covered telecommunications equipment or services" also include systems that use covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system.

(d) In implementing the prohibition under section 889 of Public Law 115232, heads of executive agencies administering loan, grant, or subsidy programs must prioritize available funding and technical support to assist affected businesses, institutions and organizations as is reasonably necessary for those affected entities to transition from covered telecommunications equipment or services, to procure replacement equipment or services, and to ensure that communications service to users and customers is sustained.

(e) When the recipient or subrecipient accepts a loan or grant, it is certifying that it will comply with the prohibition on covered telecommunications equipment and services in this section. The recipient or subrecipient is not required to certify that funds will not be expended on covered telecommunications equipment or services beyond the certification provided upon accepting the loan or grant and those provided upon submitting payment requests and financial reports.

(f) For additional information, see section 889 of Public Law 115232 and 200.471.

PROMPT PAYMENT

(Does not apply to projects fully funded by the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP).)

The contractor is required to pay its subcontractors performing work related to this contract for satisfactory performance of that work no later than 30 days after the contractor's receipt of payment for that work. In addition, the contractor is required to return any retainage payments to those subcontractors within 30 days after the subcontractor's work related to this contract is satisfactorily completed. The contractor must promptly notify the Agency, whenever a DBE subcontractor performing work related to this contract is terminated or fails to complete its work and must make good faith efforts to engage another DBE subcontractor to perform at least the same amount of work. The contractor may not terminate any DBE subcontractor and perform that work through its own forces or those of an affiliate without prior written consent of the Agency.

RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING

Conditions on use of funds.

- (a) No appropriated funds may be expended by the recipient of a Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement to pay any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with any of the following covered Federal actions: the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
- (b) Each person who requests or receives from an agency a Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement shall file with that agency a certification, that the person has not made, and will not make, any payment prohibited by paragraph (a) of this section.
- (c) Each person who requests or receives from an agency a Federal contract, grant, loan, or a cooperative agreement shall file with that agency a disclosure form if such person has made or has agreed to make any payment using non-appropriated funds (to include profits from any covered Federal action), which would be prohibited under paragraph (a) of this section if paid for with appropriated funds.
- (d) Each person who requests or receives from an agency a commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan shall file with that agency a statement, whether that person has made or has agreed to make any payment to influence or attempt to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with that loan insurance or guarantee.
- (e) Each person who requests or receives from an agency a commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan shall file with that agency a disclosure form if that person has made or has agreed to make any payment to influence or attempt to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with that loan insurance or guarantee.

Certification and disclosure.

- (a) Each person shall file a certification, and a disclosure form, if required, with each submission that initiates agency consideration of such person for:
 - (1) Award of a Federal contract, grant, or cooperative agreement exceeding \$100,000; or
 - (2) An award of a Federal loan or a commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan exceeding \$150,000.
- (b) Each person shall file a certification, and a disclosure form, if required, upon receipt by such person of:
 - (1) A Federal contract, grant, or cooperative agreement exceeding \$100,000; or
 - (2) A Federal loan or a commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan exceeding \$150,000, Unless such person previously filed a certification, and a disclosure form, if required, under paragraph (a) of this section.
- (c) Each person shall file a disclosure form at the end of each calendar quarter in which there occurs any event that requires disclosure or that materially affects the accuracy of the information contained in any disclosure form previously filed by such person under paragraphs (a) or (b) of this section. An event that materially affects the accuracy of the information reported includes:
 - (1) A cumulative increase of \$25,000 or more in the amount paid or expected to be paid for influencing or attempting to influence a covered Federal action; or
 - (2) A change in the person(s) or individual(s) influencing or attempting to influence a covered Federal action; or,
 - (3) A change in the officer(s), employee(s), or Member(s) contacted to influence or attempt to influence a covered Federal action.
- (d) Any person who requests or receives from a person referred to in paragraphs (a) or (b) of this section:
 - (1) A subcontract exceeding \$100,000 at any tier under a Federal contract;
 - (2) A subgrant, contract, or subcontract exceeding \$100,000 at any tier under a Federal grant;
 - (3) A contract or subcontract exceeding \$100,000 at any tier under a Federal loan exceeding \$150,000; or,
 - (4) A contract or subcontract exceeding \$100,000 at any tier under a Federal cooperative agreement,Shall file a certification, and a disclosure form, if required, to the next tier above.
- (e) All disclosure forms, but not certifications, shall be forwarded from tier to tier until received by the person referred to in paragraphs (a) or (b) of this section. That person shall forward all disclosure forms to the agency.
- (f) Any certification or disclosure form filed under paragraph (e) of this section shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which all receiving tiers shall rely. All liability arising from an erroneous representation shall be borne solely by the tier filing that representation and shall not be shared by any tier to which the erroneous representation is forwarded. Submitting an erroneous certification or disclosure constitutes a failure to file the required certification or disclosure, respectively. If a person fails to file a required certification or disclosure, the United States may pursue all available remedies, including those authorized by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code.

(g) For awards and commitments in process prior to December 23, 1989, but not made before that date, certifications shall be required at award or commitment, covering activities occurring between December 23, 1989, and the date of award or commitment. However, for awards and commitments in process prior to the December 23, 1989 effective date of these provisions, but not made before December 23, 1989, disclosure forms shall not be required at time of award or commitment but shall be filed within 30 days.

(h) No reporting is required for an activity paid for with appropriated funds if that activity is allowable under either subpart B or C.

SAFE OPERATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Seat Belt Use

The Contractor is encouraged to adopt and promote on the job seat belt use policies and programs for its employees and other personnel that operate company owned vehicles, company rented vehicles, or personally operated vehicles. The terms "company owned" and "company leased" refer to vehicles owned or leased either by the Contractor or Agency.

Distracted Driving

The Contractor agrees to adopt and enforce workplace safety policies to decrease crashes caused by distracted drivers, including policies to ban text messaging while using an electronic device supplied by an employer, and driving a vehicle the driver owns or rents, a vehicle Contractor owns, leases, or rents, or a privately owned vehicle when on official business in connection with the work performed under this Contract.

SOLID WASTES (RECOVERED MATERIALS)

(a) A Recipient or subrecipient that is a State agency or agency of a political subdivision of a State and its contractors must comply with section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6962. The requirements of Section 6002 include procuring only items designated in the guidelines of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at 40 CFR Part 247 that contain the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable, consistent with maintaining a satisfactory level of competition, where the purchase price of the item exceeds \$10,000 or the value of the quantity acquired during the preceding fiscal year exceeded \$10,000; procuring solid waste management services in a manner that maximizes energy and resource recovery; and establishing an affirmative procurement program for procurement of recovered materials identified in the EPA guidelines.

(b) The recipient or subrecipient should, to the greatest extent practicable and consistent with law, purchase, acquire, or use products and services that can be reused, refurbished, or recycled; contain recycled content, are biobased, or are energy and water efficient; and are sustainable. This may include purchasing compostable items and other products and services that reduce the use of single use plastic products. See Executive Order 14057, section 101, Policy

SPECIAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STATES

Applies to States –

a. To the extent required under federal law, the State, as the Recipient, agrees to provide the following information about federal assistance awarded for its State Program, Project, or related activities:

- (1) The Identification of FTA as the federal agency providing the federal assistance for a State Program or Project;
- (2) The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number of the program from which the federal assistance for a State Program or Project is authorized; and
- (3) The amount of federal assistance FTA has provided for a State Program or Project.

b. Documents The State agrees to provide the information required under this provision in the following documents:

- (1) applications for federal assistance,
- (2) requests for proposals or solicitations,
- (3) forms,
- (4) notifications,
- (5) press releases,
- (6) other publications.

TERMINATION

Termination for Convenience (General Provision)

The Agency may terminate this contract, in whole or in part, at any time by written notice to the Contractor when it is in the Agency's best interest. The Contractor shall be paid its costs, including contract closeout costs, and profit on work performed up to the time of termination. The Contractor shall promptly submit its termination claim to Agency to be paid the Contractor. If the Contractor has any property in its possession belonging to Agency, the Contractor will account for the same, and dispose of it in the manner Agency directs. Termination for Default [Breach or Cause] (General Provision) If the Contractor does not deliver supplies in accordance with the contract delivery schedule, or if the contract is for services, the Contractor fails to perform in the manner called for in the contract, or if the Contractor fails to comply with any other provisions of the contract, the Agency may terminate this contract for default. Termination shall be effected by serving a Notice of Termination on the Contractor setting forth the manner in which the Contractor is in default. The Contractor will be paid only the contract price for supplies delivered and accepted, or services performed in accordance with the manner of performance set forth in the contract. If it is later determined by the Agency that the Contractor had an excusable reason for not performing, such as a strike, fire, or flood, events which are not the fault of or are beyond the control of the Contractor,

the Agency, after setting up a new delivery of performance schedule, may allow the Contractor to continue work, or treat the termination as a Termination for Convenience.

Opportunity to Cure (General Provision)

The Agency, in its sole discretion may, in the case of a termination for breach or default, allow the Contractor [an appropriately short period of time] in which to cure the defect. In such case, the Notice of Termination will state the time period in which cure is permitted and other appropriate conditions. If Contractor fails to remedy to Agency's satisfaction the breach or default of any of the terms, covenants, or conditions of this Contract within [10 days] after receipt by Contractor of written notice from Agency setting forth the nature of said breach or default, Agency shall have the right to terminate the contract without any further obligation to Contractor. Any such termination for default shall not in any way operate to preclude Agency from also pursuing all available remedies against Contractor and its sureties for said breach or default.

Waiver of Remedies for any Breach

In the event that Agency elects to waive its remedies for any breach by Contractor of any covenant, term or condition of this contract, such waiver by Agency shall not limit Agency's remedies for any succeeding breach of that or of any other covenant, term, or condition of this contract.

Termination for Convenience (Professional or Transit Service Contracts)

The Agency, by written notice, may terminate this contract, in whole or in part, when it is in the Agency's interest. If this contract is terminated, the Agency shall be liable only for payment under the payment provisions of this contract for services rendered before the effective date of termination. **Termination for Default (Supplies and Service)** If the Contractor fails to deliver supplies or to perform the services within the time specified in this contract or any extension, or if the Contractor fails to comply with any other provisions of this contract, the Agency may terminate this contract for default. The Agency shall terminate by delivering to the Contractor a Notice of Termination specifying the nature of the default. The Contractor will only be paid the contract price for supplies delivered and accepted, or services performed in accordance with the manner or performance set forth in this contract. If, after termination for failure to fulfill contract obligations, it is determined that the Contractor was not in default, the rights and obligations of the parties shall be the same as if the termination had been issued for the convenience of the Agency.

Termination for Default (Transportation Services)

If the Contractor fails to pick up the commodities or to perform the services, including delivery services, within the time specified in this contract or any extension, or if the Contractor fails to comply with any other provisions of this contract, the Agency may terminate this contract for default. The Agency shall terminate by delivering to the Contractor a Notice of Termination specifying the nature of default. The Contractor will only be paid the contract price for services performed in accordance with the manner of performance set forth in this contract. If this contract is terminated while the Contractor has possession of Agency goods, the Contractor shall, upon direction of the Agency, protect and preserve the goods until surrendered to the Agency or its agent. The Contractor and Agency shall agree on payment for the preservation and protection of goods. Failure to agree on an amount will be resolved under the Dispute clause. If, after termination for failure to fulfill contract obligations, it is determined that the Contractor was not in default, the rights and obligations of the parties shall be the same as if the termination had been issued for the convenience of the Agency.

Termination for Default (Construction)

If the Contractor refuses or fails to prosecute the work or any separable part, with the diligence that will ensure its completion within the time specified in this contract or any extension or fails to complete the work within this time, or if the Contractor fails to comply with any other provision of this contract, Agency may terminate this contract for default. The Agency shall terminate by delivering to the Contractor a Notice of Termination specifying the nature of the default. In this event, the Agency may take over the work and compete it by contract or otherwise, and may take possession of and use any materials, appliances, and plant on the work site necessary for completing the work. The Contractor and its sureties shall be liable for any damage to the Agency resulting from the Contractor's refusal or failure to complete the work within specified time, whether or not the Contractor's right to proceed with the work is terminated. This liability includes any increased costs incurred by the Agency in completing the work. The Contractor's right to proceed shall not be terminated nor shall the Contractor be charged with damages under this clause if: 1. The delay in completing the work arises from unforeseeable causes beyond the control and without the fault or negligence of the Contractor. Examples of such causes include: acts of God, acts of Agency, acts of another contractor in the performance of a contract with Agency, epidemics, quarantine restrictions, strikes, freight embargoes; and 2. The Contractor, within [10] days from the beginning of any delay, notifies Agency in writing of the causes of delay. If, in the judgment of Agency, the delay is excusable, the time for completing the work shall be extended. The judgment of Agency shall be final and conclusive for the parties, but subject to appeal under the Disputes clause(s) of this contract. 3. If, after termination of the Contractor's right to proceed, it is determined that the Contractor was not in default, or that the delay was excusable, the rights and obligations of the parties will be the same as if the termination had been issued for the convenience of Agency.

Termination for Convenience or Default (Architect and Engineering)

The Agency may terminate this contract in whole or in part, for the Agency's convenience or because of the failure of the Contractor to fulfill the contract obligations. The Agency shall terminate by delivering to the Contractor a Notice of Termination specifying the nature, extent, and effective date of the termination. Upon receipt of the notice, the Contractor shall (1) immediately discontinue all services affected (unless the notice directs otherwise), and (2) deliver to the Agency's Contracting Officer all data, drawings, specifications, reports, estimates, summaries, and other information and materials accumulated in performing this contract, whether completed or in process. Agency has a royalty free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish or otherwise use, all such data, drawings, specifications, reports, estimates, summaries, and other information and materials. If the termination is for the convenience of the Agency, the Agency's Contracting Officer shall make an equitable adjustment in the contract price but shall allow no anticipated profit

on unperformed services. If the termination is for failure of the Contractor to fulfill the contract obligations, the Agency may complete the work by contract or otherwise and the Contractor shall be liable for any additional cost incurred by the Agency. If, after termination for failure to fulfill contract obligations, it is determined that the Contractor was not in default, the rights and obligations of the parties shall be the same as if the termination had been issued for the convenience of Agency Termination for Convenience or Default (CostType Contracts)

The Agency may terminate this contract, or any portion of it, by serving a Notice of Termination on the Contractor. The notice shall state whether the termination is for convenience of Agency or for the default of the Contractor. If the termination is for default, the notice shall state the manner in which the Contractor has failed to perform the requirements of the contract. The Contractor shall account for any property in its possession paid for from funds received from the Agency, or property supplied to the Contractor by the Agency. If the termination is for default, the Agency may fix the fee, if the contract provides for a fee, to be paid the Contractor in proportion to the value, if any, of work performed up to the time of termination. The Contractor shall promptly submit its termination claim to the Agency and the parties shall negotiate the termination settlement to be paid the Contractor. If the termination is for the convenience of Agency, the Contractor shall be paid its contract closeout costs, and a fee, if the contract provided for payment of a fee, in proportion to the work performed up to the time of termination. If, after serving a Notice of Termination for Default, the Agency determines that the Contractor has an excusable reason for not performing, the Agency, after setting up a new work schedule, may allow the Contractor to continue work, or treat the termination as a Termination for Convenience.

CONFORMANCE WITH ITS NATIONAL ARCHITECTURE

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) projects shall conform to the National ITS Architecture and standards pursuant to 23 CFR § 940. Conformance with the National ITS Architecture is interpreted to mean the use of the National ITS Architecture to develop a regional ITS architecture in support of integration and the subsequent adherence of all ITS projects to that regional ITS architecture. Development of the regional ITS architecture should be consistent with the transportation planning process for Statewide and Metropolitan Transportation Planning (49 CFR Part 613 and 621).

FEDERAL TAX LIABILITY AND RECENT FELONY CONVICTIONS

(1) The contractor certifies that it:

- (a) Does not have any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability; and
- (b) Was not convicted of the felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months. If the contractor cannot so certify, the Recipient will refer the matter to FTA and not enter into any Third Party Agreement with the Third Party Participant without FTA's written approval.

(2) Flow Down.

The Recipient agrees to require the contractor to flow this requirement down to participants at all lower tiers, without regard to the value of any subagreement.

SEVERABILITY

The Contractor agrees that if any provision of this agreement or any amendment thereto is determined to be invalid, then the remaining provisions thereof that conform to federal laws, regulations, requirements, and guidance will continue in effect.

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

The contractor agrees that it and its employees that participate in the Recipient's Award, may not:

- (a) Engage in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the Recipient's Award is in effect;
- (b) Procure a commercial sex act during the period of time that the Recipient's Award is in effect; or
- (c) Use forced labor in the performance of the Recipient's Award or subagreements thereunder.

Attachment B

Federal Clause Acknowledgment

By signing below, the firm acknowledges and agrees to the following federal clauses outlined in Attachment A that apply to this procurement:

Signature of Firm's Authorized Official_____

Name and Title of Firm's Authorized Official_____

Company Name_____

Date _____

GOVERNMENT-WIDE DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION

Recipients, contractors, and subcontractors that enter into covered transactions are required to verify that the entity (as well as its principals and affiliates) with which they propose to contract or subcontract is not excluded or disqualified. This is done by: (a) checking the SAM exclusions; (b) collecting a certification from that person (found below); or (c) adding a clause or condition to the contract or subcontract.

Instructions for Certification: Signing below indicates the prospective lower tier participant is providing the signed certification.

(1) It will comply and facilitate compliance with U.S. DOT regulations, "Nonprocurement Suspension and Debarment," 2 CFR part 1200, which adopts and supplements the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (U.S. OMB) "Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement)," 2 CFR part 180,

(2) To the best of its knowledge and belief, that its Principals and Subrecipients at the first tier:

a. Are eligible to participate in covered transactions of any Federal department or agency and are not presently:

1. Debarred,
2. Suspended,
3. Proposed for debarment,
4. Declared ineligible,
5. Voluntarily excluded, or
6. Disqualified

b. Its management has not within a three-year period preceding its latest application or proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against any of them for:

1. Commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) transaction, or contract under a public transaction,
2. Violation of any Federal or State antitrust statute, or,
3. Commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making any false statement, or receiving stolen property,

c. It is not presently indicted for, or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State, or local) with commission of any of the offenses listed in the preceding subsection 2.b of this Certification,

d. It has not had one or more public transactions (Federal, State, or local) terminated for cause or default within a three-year period preceding this Certification,

e. If, at a later time, it receives any information that contradicts the statements of subsections 2.a – 2.d above, it will promptly provide that information to FTA,

f. It will treat each lower tier contract or lower tier subcontract under its Project as a covered lower tier contract for purposes of 2 CFR part 1200 and 2 CFR part 180 if it:

1. Equals or exceeds \$25,000,
2. Is for audit services, or,
3. Requires the consent of a Federal official, and

g. It will require that each covered lower tier contractor and subcontractor:

1. Comply and facilitate compliance with the Federal requirements of 2 CFR parts 180 and 1200, and
2. Assure that each lower tier participant in its Project is not presently declared by any Federal department or agency to be:
 - a. Debarred from participation in its federally funded Project,
 - b. Suspended from participation in its federally funded Project,
 - c. Proposed for debarment from participation in its federally funded Project,
 - d. Declared ineligible to participate in its federally funded Project,
 - e. Voluntarily excluded from participation in its federally funded Project, or
 - f. Disqualified from participation in its federally funded Project, and

(3) It will provide a written explanation as indicated on a page attached in FTA's TrAMS platform or the Signature Page if it or any of its principals, including any of its first tier Subrecipients or its Third-Party Participants at a lower tier, is unable to certify compliance with the preceding statements in this Certification Group.,

Certification

Contractor: _____

Signature of Authorized Official: _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

Name and Title of Contractor's Authorized Official: _____

CERTIFICATION AND RESTRICTIONS ON LOBBYING

I, _____ hereby certify
(Name and title of official)

On behalf of _____ that:
(Name of Bidder/Company Name)

- No federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, and officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any federal contract, the making of any federal grant, the making of any federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
- If any funds other than federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, and officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form – LLL, “Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,” in accordance with its instructions.
- The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all sub-awards at all tiers (including sub-contracts, sub-grants and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all sub-recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by 31 U.S.C. § 1352. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Name of Bidder/Company Name: _____

Type or print name: _____

Signature of authorized representative: _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

ATTACHMENT C

Audit Fee Price Proposal

Please provide hourly rates for staff for each of the Fiscal Years:

	Hourly Rate				
Position	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30
Primary Contact					
Alternate Primary Contact					
Senior Accountant					
Junior Accountant					
Administrative Staff					
Other: _____					

Name of Firm: _____

Authorize Representative: _____

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date