ADDENDUM NO. 2

September 28, 2022

RE: RFI-B3 – Student Transportation Technology Platform

FROM: Purchasing Office
            Howard County Public Schools
            10910 Clarksville Pike
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TO: PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTORS

This addendum forms a part of the RFI Documents and modifies the Original Documents as noted below. This Addendum consists of six (6) pages.

CHANGE TO DUE DATE:

CANCEL THE FOLLOWING DUE DATE:
Tuesday, October 4, 2022, 3:00 PM EST

CHANGE TO THE FOLLOWING DUE DATE:
Friday, October 14, 2022, 3:00 PM EST

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

1. **Question:** Who will be able to read the final RFI? Will other RFI participants and/or your current vendors receive copies of the final submitted RFIs? Is it subject to Freedom of Information requests?
   a.   If the RFI is being shared, is there a way to limit certain components of the response to a more limited audience to protect our organization's competitive advantages, or should those be described in a more generic manner for the time being?

   Answer: All information submitted as part of this proposal is subject to release under the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA). If you would like the Howard County Public School System to consider redactions in the event that your proposal is subject to a MPIA request, submit a proposed MPIA copy including justifications for each redaction and under what specific exemption that justification is qualified for redaction.

2. **Question:** How quickly is the HCPSS seeking to move if the right vendor(s) have components available for use? Are you seeking to have some of this in place for the 2023/2024 school year?

   Answer: N/A

3. **Question:** Are there any applicable grants or other Federal / State funds?

   Answer: We are unaware of any.

4. **Question:** Can you define *"150 schedule specialized services routes."*

   Question a: Are these buses, other vehicles, are they driven by one of the 28 vendors, or parents / caregivers?

   Answer: It is the approximate number of vehicles we utilize to provide our special needs service. This was meant to describe the special needs and non-pub component of service.

   Question b: Are these to / from school, or for ancillary activities like sports, field trips, etc?

   Answer: All services.

5. **Question:** The RFI mentions *"to include the planning and management of non-vehicular modes."* Is this to tie into the vehicular routes, e.g. someone walking to a bus stop, or in lieu of a vehicle, e.g. walking or biking to school?

   Answer: Correct

6. **Question:** Can you provide examples of customer requests and incident management.

   Answer: These include items such as, but not limited to, customer requests for route and stop information, complaints regarding service delivery, managing on-road accidents or rider behavioral issues, etc.

7. **Question:** Do you have a specific list of variables / key performance indicators to track for each contractor?

   Answer: These are not currently defined but will be related to operational variables such as route timing, route coverage, vehicle reliability, etc.

8. **Question:** Is Howard County Receiving any revenue income from BusPatrol's Stop Arm Violations system? Will this be required from any future video systems?

   Answer: The revenue is collected through HCPD and goes into the general fund for safety initiatives. The BusPatrol system is standalone from the Stop arm system so doesn't necessarily need to integrate.

9. **Question:** Are all of the current vendors capable of API's in the event a completely Integrated system is not selected.

   Answer: Please note the systems currently in place, as per the RFI.

10. **Question:** Will all driver interaction for dispatch management be required from a tablet?

Answer: Not necessarily. While that is a possibility, two-way radios or other means of dispatch would be considered and submissions encouraged.

11. **Question:** What type of route management will be required from the fleet management module?

    Answer: The purpose of the RFI being for vendors to inform HCPSS of their capabilities. This level of detail is not required at this time.

12. **Question:** Can you describe the major functions of Contractor management?
    Answer: All activities associated with ensuring the delivery of services in accordance with contract requirements.

13. **Question:** To compile a thorough and thoughtful response to HCPSS's RFI, we respectfully request a 2-week extension of the proposal deadline to October 18, 2022. We appreciate your close consideration of this request.

    Answer: An extension will be granted. Please review Addendum.

14. **Question:** When does the District intend to launch the new software solution? Would the District be open to a phased rollout starting September 2023?

    Answer: No timeline has been determined.

15. **Question:** Can the District expand on its dynamic route planning and management requirements for non-vehicular modes of transportation. What particular outcome is the District hoping to achieve?

    Answer: Routing involves more than buses. Transportation is responsible for developing safe zones for students to walk/bike. Also, we would like to include areas where crossing guards are present or necessary.

16. **Question:** Is the District planning to replace all their current student transportation technology, or does it want the vendor to integrate with parts of their current system?

    Answer: The purpose of the RFI is for vendors to inform HCPSS of their capabilities. The results of the RFI will influence our future decisions.

17. **Question:** What are the current challenges the district is facing which are driving this RFI?

    Answer: The HCPSS transportation program is in a state of transition. This RFI is part of the process and designed to explore how current technologies can best support this transition.

18. **Question:** What is the district's current annual spend on transportation related software and technology (e.g. annual spend, monthly recurring, one time?)

    Answer: The System cannot provide an answer to this question.

19. **Question:** Given the district's priority of modernization, what is the district's budget for the upcoming year(s)? (e.g. how much is the district willing to spend to modernize their student transportation systems?)

    Answer: The System cannot provide an answer to this question.

20. **Question:** Do all current vendors use the same software / technology (e.g. the software referenced under RFI Section 3.a (Current Technologies in Use)?

    Answer: No

21. **Question:** When are the existing software and technology contracts coming up for renewal (since the district is looking for an integrated, end-to-end solution across all software and hardware)?
    o   Are all contacts coming up for renewal at the same time ?

    o   If not, how does the district hope the end-to-end solution will work in the coming year(s)?

    Answer: The purpose of the RFI being for vendors to inform HCPSS of their capabilities. This level of detail is not required at this time.

22. **Question:** How many yards do you have currently in operation?

    Answer: 0. We are 100% contractor operated.

23. **Question:** What fleet/parts maintenance software do you use currently?

    Answer: 0. We are 100% contractor operated.

24. **Question:** What type of vehicles are currently in use?

    Answer: Mainly conventional 11/12 regular needs buses, and an assortment of special needs buses. Type II buses may be used in the future.

25. **Question:** How old are the current vehicles?

    Answer: The oldest buses are 12 years max with the ability to apply for a 1 year extension.

    Question a: Does the district plan to replace the current vehicles/ equipment with new models in the coming year(s)?

    Answer: Buses are replaced annually through the contract bid process.

26. **Question:** What technology is on the bus?

    o   **Question a:** Are GPS, tablets, Student RFID readers installed?

    Answer: Yes, no, no

- ○ **Question b:** If yes, what is the current set up?

  Answer: N/A

- ○ **Question c:** Who is the current provider?

  Answer: Zonar

- ○ **Question d:** What hardware is used on the buses?

  Answer: Video and audio equipment, GPS equipment, and a tablet

27. **Question:** Is the vendor expected to issue (new or replacement) Student RFID cards?

    Answer: Possibly

28. **Question:** Is the vendor expected to issue / install cameras and vehicle diagnostics?

    Answer: Possibly

29. **Question:** Can you provide additional details on this "Mapping backbone – Provide information regarding the mapping systems utilized in all planning and visualization software offerings."

    Answer: HCPSS leverages geospatial data regularly for a variety of reasons such as collaborating on projects with local government. We want a modern mapping system that allows for easy exporting and sharing of data in a ubiquitous format (for example, .shp).

30. **Question:** How will you evaluate the options submitted? (e.g. scoring rubric for evaluation)

    Answer: This is not a Request for Proposal. Responses will not be evaluated.

31. **Question:** Will vendors have the opportunity to showcase / demo their technology in a live presentation / demonstration?

    Answer: It depends on the quality of the response and the information provided.

32. **Question:** Will an RFP be issued after the RFI?

    Answer: Possibly, it depends in large part on the results of this RFI.

33. **Question:** What is the anticipated "go-live" date for service / implementation? (e.g. Month / Year)

    Answer: The System does not have a go-live date at this time.

34. **Question:** Are responding vendors required to submit pricing information as part of the RFI?

    Answer: No, we are not asking for pricing information.

35. **Question:** Please provide additional information on the following:
    - What is the purpose of and how does the district envision use /application of:

        - "…planning and management of non-vehicular modes such as safe biking and walking routes, and that this data will

        Answer: Please see answer to Question 15.

        - be similarly available to planners, managers, vehicle operators…"

        Answer: Transparency and accessibility in the availability of data is a key goal. This includes all stakeholders, such as the HCPSS Transportation Office, contracted vehicle operators, school administrators, and central HCPSS administration.

36. **Question:** What are some of the challenges / pain points the district, schools, and parents have experienced with the current GPS and/or InfoFinder solution?

    Answer: This is not relevant to the request for information.

37. **Question:** Is there a reason why some components of the Versatrans and Zonar solutions have not been implemented, such as "Versatrans My Stop (not implemented)"?

    Answer: This is not relevant to the request for information.

38. **Question:** A bid was awarded in 2019, why is the district putting out another bid?

    Answer: This is not a bid. It is a request for information related to changes implemented and planned after the conclusion of the 2019 competitive solicitation.