

**THE RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY REQUEST FOR
QUALIFICATIONS REGARDING BUS SHELTER SERVICES**

RFQ NO. 17-10

A. Overview

This is a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to obtain information, ideas, and recommendations for the installation and use of bus shelters for the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA).

An electronic copy of this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is available on the State of Rhode Island, Department of Administration, Division of Purchases Website. The website address is: www.purchasing.ri.gov/RIVIP/ExternalBidSearch.asp. RIPTA solicitations can be found under Public Bid Opportunities, Quasi Public Sector, listed under the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority.

Responses to this RFQ are due by January 17, 2017 at 1:00 pm EST.

Responses should be sent to the following address in an envelope clearly labelled RFQ 17-10

Michael J. McGrane, Contracts Manager
Rhode Island Public Transit Authority
705 Elmwood Avenue, Room 217
Providence, RI 02907

Please contact RIPTA's Contracts Manager, Michael J. McGrane, at (401) 784-9500 extension 214 or mmcgrane@ripta.com, with any questions you may have regarding this Procurement.

B. Background

The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) provides approximately 18.5 Million transit trips annually on a network of fixed route, zone and paratransit service throughout the state of Rhode Island. The agency directly operates approximately 235 fixed route vehicles and 130 paratransit vans. Over 50 bus routes serve RIPTA's main passenger facilities, which are located in downtown Providence, Pawtucket, and Newport, RI. In addition, RIPTA's system provides major connections throughout the Metropolitan Providence area, including East Providence, Warwick, as well as Narragansett and Woonsocket.

There are approximately 4,000 RIPTA bus stops throughout the state, with bus shelters at roughly 341 stop locations. Pursuant to an existing contract with RIPTA, a third party has installed and owns these shelters. The third party sells advertising space on the shelters and remits a portion of that advertising revenue to RIPTA on an annual basis.

C. Scope of this RFQ

RIPTA is issuing this RFQ in order to solicit information, ideas, and recommendations for the scope and features of an agreement under which a third party would install new shelters, potentially modify existing bus shelters, and maintain those shelters (collective Shelter Services). In exchange for performing these Shelter Services, a third party would have the right to use the shelters for any lawful business purpose, so long as that purpose did not interfere with the shelters' primary use - *i.e.*, for passengers to be protected from the elements while waiting for RIPTA buses. Historically, RIPTA shelters have been used for the business purpose of advertising, which is an acceptable use of the shelters. However, RIPTA is also interested in obtaining information as to what other uses shelters might be put to. RIPTA also wishes to obtain information regarding what technologies and features may be available for integration into bus shelters.

The information obtained through this RFQ process will be used, in whole or in part, to generate a Request for Proposals (RFP) solicitation regarding Shelter Services, to which any firm may respond.

D. Information Requested

Responses to this RFQ should include at least the following information:

- Possible business models under which a firm would provide the Shelter Services, including possible business uses for which the shelters could be used;
- Proposed approaches for replacing existing shelters, modifying existing shelters, and providing new shelters, as well as a proposed timeframe for doing so;
- Recommendations on the length of an agreement between RIPTA and a third party firm to provide the Shelter Services;
- Descriptions and specific examples (in pictorial form or renderings) of shelters that could be provided, including a description of the materials that would be used in the shelters and the expected life of the shelters;
- Technologies that could be integrated into shelters, including but not limited to: Solar power, Wi-Fi connections, and the capability for the streaming of real-time information regarding bus arrivals and departures;
- Ideas for any passenger amenities that could be included in the shelters.

In addition to the foregoing, responses to this RFQ may include any other information that the responder thinks would be relevant to the Shelter Services that could be provided to RIPTA.