



**Department of Administration / Division of Purchases
One Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5855
Web Site: www.purchasing.ri.gov**

12 May 11

Addendum # 2

RFP # 7448548

Title: Student Transportation Services for Northern Rhode Island Schools

Submission Deadline: 23 May 11 @ 11:00 AM (Eastern Time)

- **31 question/ State responses, are posted in this addendum, along with two alternative bid forms and an addendum acknowledgement form.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jerome D. Moynihan', is located below the list of items.

Jerome D. Moynihan, C.P.M., CPPO
Assistant Director for Special Projects

**NORTHERN RI SCHOOL DISTRICTS
SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION
RFP # 7448548**

Addendum # 2

The following comments and questions were raised at the Bidders Meeting held on April 28, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at the Department of Administration, Division of Purchases. These responses supersede any comments, discussions or representations made at that meeting and are intended to answer, clarify or address those issues and questions raised.

The Northern RI School Districts coordinated bid is representative of increasing statewide partnerships between the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE) and the Rhode Island school districts. This process is the first step in the eventual consolidation of transportation programs and services under the current state legislature mandate.

- 1. Correction:** Reference, Fuel Adjustment Alternative, Pg. 47 Section 15 Form #1-Pages, 58,62,66,71,74,79,84,89,93,98,101,105,110, and 114

Elimination of Fuel Adjustment Provision:

Should a district(s) choose to eliminate the fuel adjustment provision, the cost of the contract shall be *increased or reduced* by \$_____ per year.

- 2. Delete:** Appendix D, Pg. 480 Pawtucket Bus Specifications Bus Lease- Pawtucket bus specifications are outlined on Bid Form #1-Pawtucket and must meet the equipment specifications as specified in Section 4 Equipment, pages 30-35, inclusive. All buses specified must meet school bus standards for public school student transportation as delineated by the requirements of this RFP, the State of Rhode Island and the federal government.

- 3. Request:** Copy of Attendees.
Response: The Bidders Meeting Attendance Sheet is posted on the Rhode Island State Purchasing web site. The following organizations were in attendance:

DATTCO
Northeast Bus Company
Durham School Service
Ocean State Transit
North American Central School Bus
First Student

Reminder: The Bidders Meeting is not mandatory.

4. **Question:** What is meant by Public Copy?
Response: The required bid disk will represent the “public copy”.
5. **Question:** Will you accept additional questions after Bidders Meeting?
Response: State Purchasing will accept additional written or emailed questions up to 12:00 noon on Monday, May 2, 2011 after which no additional questions will be accepted. Questions@purchasing.ri.gov
6. **Question:** Section 15, Page 46, Fuel Adjustment Clause - Vendor stated that the fuel adjustment miles per gallon rates are too high for Types C and D and that the mpg for Type A was low. Vendor suggested lowering C and D.
Response: Reviewed - No Change on this item.
7. **Question:** Will the Districts entertain a straight 5 year bid instead of the 3 year bid plus 2 option years? We will not bid unless we can amortize our capital costs over 5 years.
Response: The Districts considered a straight 5 year versus a 3 yr plus 2 option years term and chose the 3+2 option years.
8. **Question:** How many Managers are required? Is this a per district number?
Clarification: Page 27 Reference Page 48- Section 18.1. –Transportation Manager: One (1) Manager per bus depot is required, even if that depot is shared by multiple school districts. Any shared manager must be available within 20 minutes response time for any districts sharing a depot.
9. **Question:** Please clarify the in lieu of excise tax payment.
Response: Reference Pg. 28. The Contractor may elect to register those buses utilized within the District in that District, as opposed to making an “in lieu” excise tax payment to the respective municipality.
10. **Clarification:** Are spare buses required for each type of vehicle utilized?
Response: Pg. 33, Paragraph K and L. Ten per cent of the fleet or a minimum of two (2) spare buses are required by each District. Buses used for athletics and field trips are in addition to the spare vehicles required. No Change.
11. **Question:** What if we do not currently have required computer routing software?
Response: A sample purchase contract or purchase order describing the routing software shall suffice for the RFP, so long as the routing software meets those specifications contained in Section 6.10, Pg. 39.
12. **Question:** Can you clarify routing credit?
Response: The District(s) reserve the right to acquire routing and scheduling services at any time during the term of the contract and deduct the routing credit from the cost of the contract for that year.

13. **Question:** Please clarify what is meant by specialized equipment, Pg. 34.
Response: Reference Pg. 34, regarding Specialized Equipment (GPS and/or AVS) is optional equipment, the cost of which should be identified on Bid Form 1 and will be billed separately to those districts which may require it in the future.
14. **Question:** Please clarify the pricing for Bus Monitors/Aides.
Response: The cost per day per bus for special education transportation is to include the cost of Bus Monitors/Aides, as designated on Bid Form #1. Should the District(s) choose to employ their own Bus Monitors/Aides; the cost will be deducted from the cost per day per bus according to the rate identified on Bid Form #1 Bus Monitor/Aides Unit cost per Hour.
15. **Correction:** On Pg 39, last paragraph: delete the reference to “Section 6.10 on Page 24” since the paragraph is location in Section 6.10. The paragraph as amended stands.
16. **Question:** Regarding Section 7, Indemnification and Insurance, Item 7.3 on Page 41. Vendor noted that the required limits for the categories of Uninsured and Under Insured values are extremely high and expensive and are more than the State required minimum and requested that the values be considered for change.
Response: Given the current economic climate there are more people driving without insurance. The state minimum requirement of \$ 20,000/\$40,000 would be grossly insufficient in the event of a bus accident involving an uninsured or under insured driver. The requested rates in addition to the Excess Coverage requirement are designed to protect the school districts from liability exposure in the event of an accident where students are injured as a result of an accident with an uninsured or under insured driver. No Change.
17. **Question:** Please clarify current contractor stipulation on page 43, 10.2. Is an incumbent Contractor required to submit all information and documents identified in Section 10.3?
Response: Yes, an incumbent contractor is required to furnish all information and documentation as required in the RFP in order for RIDE and State Purchasing to determine whether that contractor is both a responsive and responsible bidder.
18. **Question:** Please reconsider allowing the cost of the contract to be reduced if the COLA goes down. The contractors have no way to reduce wages if the COLA decreases and that decrease is applied to the contract.
Response: Reference Pg. 45, Cost of Living Adjustment, Section 14. This item was reviewed. In the event of a decreased COLA, the contract costs shall be decreased for that year.
19. **Comment:** Section 17.3, Pg. 48. Attorneys request a change in “charging cost to Contractor”.
Response: No Change
20. **Question:** Fuel Adjustment Clause: When is the Benchmark Date for the fuel price basis? Would you entertain a May 1st date?
Response: Fuel price benchmark date is July 1, 2011-No Change.

21. **Question:** Bid Form 1 does not include adjustments for Driver hours, only for mileage adjustments.
Response: Reference Pg. 52 Paragraph 2. Attached is Bid Form 1A which includes the required cost information for Drivers hourly adjustments. Bid Form 1A is to be submitted in the sealed envelope along with the Bid Form 1- Cost Proposals.
22. **Comment:** My page numbers for Form 1 are different than stated.
Response: Depending on formatting and column widths of the receiving software, page numbers may vary. Pages 57-116 inclusive MUST be submitted in a separate sealed envelope marked: "School Bus Transportation-Cost Proposals-Bid Form 1 and Bid Form 1A.
23. **Question:** Can we be assured that every community will make an award?
Response: RIDE and State Purchasing will review all submissions and will make a recommendation to the individual participating school committees for an award to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder. Those school committees may accept or reject that recommendation.
24. **Question:** Will Districts see all pricing submitted?
Response: After the RIDE/State Purchasing award is made, the submitted proposals and prices are public documents and may be viewed by any interested party.
25. **Question:** Will all Districts award for year 1?
Response: Districts with option years remaining on their current contracts may choose not to award for year 1 if it is in their best interest to do so.
26. **Question:** Form 1 indicates Year 1: July 1, 2011- Explain.
Response: Form 1 Year 1 refers to the Start Date of the contract. FY2012 or 2011-12 refers to the fiscal year.
27. **Question:** What is the timeline for award?
Response: RIDE anticipates a proposal review by the end of May and a recommended award to the participating school committees immediately thereafter.
28. **Question:** Can a bidder submit a bid for only a portion of the transportation required by a District?
Response: No, the bid does not allow a bidder to bid on only a portion of the transportation required by a District. Under Alternative #1 a bidder may bid on all of the Districts collectively. Under Alternative #2 a bidder may bid on single districts, but must bid on all of the required transportation for that district.

29. Additional clarifying information -- The following Districts have option years available on their current contracts:

<u>District</u>	<u>Option Year(s) and Pricing for Option Year(s)</u>
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Burrillville	Contract expires 6/30/12 and then the Two year option applies.
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Pricing is increased 2.9% each year with a base year of \$303 per bus per/day for regular transportation; \$65 per bus/per day for late runs; \$288 per bus/per day for an 8-16 passenger special education bus; \$308 per bus/per day for a 3-4 wheelchair passenger bus; \$45 per hour for Athletic/field trips; \$23 per hour for special education aides; and \$19 per hour for monitors.

North Providence	Contract with Dattco expires 6/30/11. A one year Extension option for FY12 exists.
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There is no price increase for the FY12 extension. Existing rate of \$320 per day per vehicle for the first 5 hours of live time and then \$56/hr for each additional hour applies.

Smithfield	Contract expires 6/30/12 and the rate For FY12 is adjusted by COLA which has Not been determined at this time. This is not an extension.
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30. Question: What is meant by “alternative approaches”?

Response: Reference- Page 5, Paragraph 4: Alternative approaches....: Alternatives to the specifications will be considered BUT must be clearly delineated and specified as an “Alternative Approach.”

31. Additional Information: Item 2 General, regarding the Note on Page 28 for Johnston. The following information has been added to the existing paragraph:

No fence surrounds the Johnston facility. Security cameras are mounted in the parking lot area.

TO BE SUBMITTED IN SEALED ENVELOPE ALONG WITH
BID FORM 1

ALTERNATIVE # 1

FORM 1A

Northern School Districts Single Contractor Award

Driver Time Adjustments (+/- 5 hours per day):

Increase or Decrease Driver Time Rate: \$_____ per hour

ALTERNATIVE # 2

FORM 1A

Northern School Districts Multiple Contractor Award

Driver Time Adjustments (+/- 5 hours per day):

Increase or Decrease Driver Time Rate: \$_____ per hour

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Company: _____

Date: _____

TO BE SUBMITTED WITH RFP

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ADDENDUM

ADDENDUM # 2 May 9, 2011
