



Authorize Request for Proposals for Transit Operations Planning Software-as-a-Service

Consent

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Attachments: No

Approved by: James Corless

Referring Committee: Transportation

1. Issue:

Staff is seeking authorization to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a firm to provide services for a Transit Operations Planning Software-as-a-Service (SaaS).

2. Recommendation:

The Transportation Committee unanimously recommends that the Board of Directors: (1) authorize the release of an RFP for a firm to provide services for a Transit Operations Planning software; and (2) delegate authority to the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a contract with the selected firm.

3. Background/Analysis:

SACOG previously entered into a contract with Remix Software, Inc. for a unique transit planning software package through a Caltrans competitive grant. In August 2020, the board authorized SACOG to renew the agreement with Remix, Inc. for additional three years. The three-year contract is scheduled to end on November 30, 2023. The Remix Software, Inc. provided a cloud-based software service that offered an integrated package of data tools to analyze a broad range of transit route planning considerations. Traditional tools for use in route design and forecasting ridership were combined with visualization tools for analyzing issues such as equity, operating costs, and travel time. The planning software combined data from the American Community Survey census and Title VI data from the Federal Transit Administration to use towards an equity analysis that provided in-depth calculations on the impact of route design changes on low income and minority riders.

Currently, SACOG staff and Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) staff are the current users of the Remix planning software in the region. Staff at both agencies have used Remix planning software to design and redesign transit route scenarios and use the outcomes and data analysis to inform policy decisions at stakeholder transit agencies in the region. The software allowed staff to perform analyses in the same place that the route is designed, which prevents errors in moving them over to another software.

The transit planning software enables SACOG staff to assist several transit agencies in route optimization planning with their current service without the need of hiring a consultant firm resulting in cost savings and rapid decision making for those transit agencies. The software provides access for the transit agency's Comprehensive Operational Analysis consultants to assist with analyzing the jurisdiction's transit service area.

4. Discussion/Analysis:

SACOG is seeking to procure a firm to provide a web-based geospatial tool that streamlines the Sacramento Region's service planning processes by providing staff with the ability to complete core functions of the service planning workflow with one single SaaS tool. The SaaS will provide the functionality of traditional and highly advanced software applications and tools used for service planning process like hand-drawn maps, Google Maps, MS Excel, ArcGIS, etc. The ability to provide instant planning and scheduling geospatial analyses, demographic analyses (including Title VI & Equity analyses), and costing and resource calculations into a single product via a web-based platform. In addition, provide algorithms to simulate passenger's behavior, including headway-based and timetable-based procedures and the constraints of the impacts of fare protocols and vehicle capacity restraints.

SACOG seeks a readily available SaaS product to support the SACOG regional service planning and outreach activities. At a minimum, the product shall include the following features:

- Unlimited licensed functionalities
- Allow SACOG to grant access to the program to the regional transit agencies, contractors, and jurisdictions, for no additional fees
- Ability to import existing transit routes, stops, and vehicles (bus and rail)
- Ability to edit existing route geometry and stops (bus and rail)
- Ability to create new routes and geometries and stop locations
- Allow SACOG staff to review Census- and American Community Survey-based demographic data, as related to bus routes and associated stops
- Ability to develop schedules for bus routes
- Ability to import GIS compatible files (shape files and/or Geodatabase format) and GTFS files into the route/system maps
- Ability to have multiple patterns and schedules for routes; based on time of day and day of the week
- Ability to export Geodatabases, shape files, excel documents, PDF files, PNG files, KML files, and General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) files
- Customer support included in the fee
- Include unlimited training and Help resources, for SACOG staff and regional transit agencies

The transit operations planning software will benefit staff with time savings and increased efficiency with route observation scenarios that would traditionally be spent on outdated manual processes. The software will allow staff to develop more detailed and accurate service planning analyses and allocate more work time to other projects and tasks. The Transit Coordinating Committee (TCC) and SACOG staff agree the use of a transit operations planning software tool for route planning is an efficient and cost-effective delivery approach. SACOG will be the contract administrator of the transit operations planning software whereas it is a similar role the agency is providing for other regional SaaS tools.

SACOG plans to release an RFP to procure a firm to provide the Transit Operations Planning software for three years with two one-year options to extend the contract, and for a total not to exceed amount of \$425,000 for the life of the contract (including the option years). If approved, an RFP would be released with the goal of contracting with a firm to be effective for fiscal year 2023. A selection committee will review the qualifications

and make a recommendation for which firm to hire. The final scope of work and contract will be negotiated as an agreement between the selected firm and SACOG as the contract administrator, with input from SACOG regional transit agencies.

5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:

As agreed with the Transit Coordinating Committee, this effort will be funded through FTA 5307 formula funds and is not to exceed \$425,000 for the life of the contract (including the option years). The amounts will be programmed in SACOG's Overall Work Program. SACOG will be the holder of the software license on behalf of the SACOG regional transit agencies.

6. This staff report aligns with the following SACOG Work Plan Objectives:

Goal 2 : Connected Communities

Objective 3: Prioritize cost-effective transportation investments that enhance mobility while improving safety, air quality, and the condition of transportation infrastructure and assets.

Goal 3 : Vibrant Places

Objective 1: Develop tools and funding to help revitalize older commercial and retail corridors throughout the region.

Objective 3: Encourage development patterns that promote walkable neighborhoods.