

**n-catt**



**National Center  
for Applied Transit  
Technology**

**Request for Quotations:**

**Consultant to Develop Technology Resilience  
Tool and Update Technology Readiness  
Assessment**

Issue Date: October 24, 2023

Deadline for Submissions: November 15, 2023

## **Tech Resilience and Assessment Tool Consultant Services Request for Quotations RFQ Number: 387153-005**

### **What This Is**

The Community Transportation Association of America, through its National Center for Applied Transit Technology (N-CATT), is soliciting bids from consultants to support N-CATT to develop a technology resilience tool that builds on an existing technology readiness assessment tool on the N-CATT website (<https://n-catt.org/resources/technology-readiness-assessment/>), as well as assess the Technology Readiness Assessment for updates to improve its usefulness for small transit agencies.

**Interested parties must follow the instructions and format set forth in this Request for Quotations, for which responses are due no later than 11:59pm Eastern Time on November 15, 2023.**

### **About N-CATT**

The National Center for Applied Transit Technology's (N-CATT) goal is to improve and make more efficient small-urban, rural and tribal transit service by assisting local transit agencies in understanding, selecting, and otherwise planning to incorporate new technology into service. N-CATT helps transportation agencies, managers, and decision-makers, such as board members or public officials, identify promising technologies, practices, and opportunities that accomplish agencies' goals or resolve particular challenges.

The recent burst of technology-based innovations in transportation has largely focused on dense urban areas. N-CATT seeks to spread the benefits of these developments to smaller transportation agencies that lack the resources and capacities of large-urban systems to research, analyze, and test new products that could enhance their services. This includes educating system managers and helping them to encourage influential stakeholders to support needed technological advancements.

Among its activities, N-CATT hosts resources such as guidebooks, podcasts, and webinars on its website for interested agencies to engage with as it relates to them. In addition, N-CATT provides technical assistance in various formats to build the internal capacity of small transit agencies.

## Overview of Services Required

The contract for the consultant services will be held between the consultant and the Community Transportation Association of America, which operates N-CATT.

### **General Framework**

Target Audience: General managers, operations managers, fleet managers, who have an interest in evaluating their agencies' preparedness for adopting and supporting new technologies.

CTAA will select one consultant to work with CTAA to develop the Technology Resilience Tool and update the Technology Readiness Assessment, combining them into one overall tool.

### **Desired Outcomes**

1. General managers, operations managers, fleet managers in small transit agencies better understand steps they should take to prepare for technology disruptions at their agencies
2. General managers, operations managers, fleet managers in small transit agencies better understand their preparedness for technology disruptions
3. General managers, operations managers, fleet managers in small transit agencies better understand aspects they should consider for implementing new technology and preparing for its disruption
4. General managers, operations managers, fleet managers in small transit agencies can articulate their technology challenges and what issues they would like to address

## Scope of Work and Project Timeline

CTAA anticipates the selected consultant will perform the following steps:

1. Task 1: Planning & Research.
  - a. Work with N-CATT to develop content and a framework for the Technology Resilience section of the Assessment
  - b. Conduct research relevant to best practices on Technology Resilience for small-urban, rural and tribal transit agencies
  - c. Collect data as determined in activity B
  - d. Assess the existing Technology Readiness Assessment Tool and identify necessary updates
  - e. Hold check-in calls with N-CATT staff to discuss informational needs or logistical matters
  - f. Work with N-CATT team to identify any other information needed to work towards final product
  - g. **Deliverables**: Content and research for determined activities; Briefings based on topics determined among N-CATT and selected consultant; work plan for Task 2.

2. Task 2: Development of Technology Resilience Tool and General Updates to Technology Readiness Assessment
  - a. Prepare a Technology Resilience Tool in a format consistent with the Technology Readiness Assessment, according to the work plan developed in Activity 1
    - i. If, in Activity 1, Consultant determines the format of the Assessment overall should be changed, then Consultant should develop the Technology Resilience Tool with this new proposed format in mind
  - b. Prepare updates to the Technology Readiness Assessment according to the work plan developed in Activity 1
  - c. Develop an accompanying narrative on the development and rationale for the Technology Resilience Tool criteria and content.
  - d. **Deliverables:** Interactive Technology Resilience Tool; updated Technology Readiness Assessment tool; accompanying narrative

The timeline for each deliverable will be worked out with CTAA and consultants. However, all work will be finished before September 30, 2024.

### **Price**

CTAA intends to execute a fixed-price contract with the selected consultant. Unless negotiated differently to both parties' satisfaction, the term of this contract would be for milestone payments based on the above scope of work.

### **Term of the Agreement**

The consultant's contract with CTAA will end upon accepted completion of all Tasks.

## **Bid Requirements**

CTAA will accept and review bids that contain the following information:

- 1) A 1-page cover sheet with:
  - a. Bidder's name / Firm Name
  - b. telephone number,
  - c. email address,
  - d. physical and mailing address, and
  - e. A one-paragraph summary abstract of the bid that states (i) qualifications to perform the indicated work (one sentence), (ii) how the bidder intends to approach the indicated work (maximum of three sentences), (iii) the names, titles, corporate affiliations and pertinent experience of all individuals the bidder intends to have conduct the indicated work (one sentence per individual), and (iv) the fixed price, exclusive of travel, for which the bidder is prepared to perform this work.
- 2) A narrative of no more than three pages in length that explains – in sufficient detail – how the bidder would carry out the tasks detailed above and the bidder's understanding of how rural, small-urban, and tribal transit systems can utilize the skills covered under this project. CTAA will look for examples that the bidder's experience and qualifications demonstrates their ability

to conduct work similar in nature and scope to what is requested.

- 3) A staffing plan that includes:
  - a. A narrative of no more than two pages in length that names the individuals who will carry out this work, briefly explaining each person's role(s) in the project and identifying which individual will be CTAA's principal point of contact concerning the work to be performed,
  - b. For each individual being proposed by this consultant, a one-page resume or CV that describes that individual's qualifications and experience and summarizes previous work performed by the individual that is relevant to this solicitation, and
  - c. the price for which the bidder is prepared to perform this work, by task.
- 4) Statement that the consultant has legal authority to work in the United States. This statement shall include a Unique Entity ID (UEI) number if applicable; all consultants and subcontractors must be in good standing, with no exclusions in SAM
- 5) Statement that the consultant is not debarred or suspended from contracting with the federal government
- 6) CTAA does not anticipate bids from teams of more than one consulting firm or entity. However, if any of the individuals being proposed are not employees of the firm submitting this bid, an acceptable bid must include a letter or other signed statement from the submitter's proposed partner(s) agreeing to be included in this bid, and the bid must include items (4) through (8) from the above list for every proposed subcontractor or other external partner that is included in this bid. If the bidder has roles for which some portion of the staffing is "to be determined," the above staffing plan must include a convincing explanation for how the bidder will address that staffing need without jeopardizing timely and satisfactory completion of the work being proposed. All subcontractors must also be registered in SAM.
- 7) Three work samples that highlight consultants' ability to perform the work outlined above, preferably that are similar in type or topic to that described in this RFQ. The samples should reflect the work of the individuals in the staffing plan so that CTAA can directly gauge consultants' work quality.

### **Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Participation**

If more than 50 percent of the staff-hours proposed to be spent by employees of a certified DBE, that bid will receive additional consideration, as detailed under "Selection Criteria," below.

### **Selection Criteria and Process**

CTAA staff will review the submitted bids that are received at or prior to 11:59pm (Eastern Time) on November 15, 2023. Staff will not engage in any communication with the bidder or their employees or proposed partners prior to making its decision.

In reviewing consultants' submissions to this RFQ, CTAA will apply the following selection criteria:

Understanding of work to be done	5 points  1 = Does not meet expectations  3 = Meets expectations  5 = Far outperforms expectations
How the consultant proposes to carry out the described work to CTAA's satisfaction within the indicated time frame and within the consultant's proposed budget.	5 points
Proposed staffing plan, in terms of its reasonableness and in terms of the skills and qualifications of proposed staff.	5 points
Work samples, in terms of topic coverage, types of documents, and quality of the writing to explain whatever topics are discussed.	5 points
Cost	2 points  Scored relative to other bids
DBE status: if at least 50% of the staff-hours proposed on this project will be performed by employees of an entity that is a certified DBE in one or more states where it currently does business, the bid will receive 1 additional point	0 or 1 points

Bidders should be aware that this is part of a research project funded through a cooperative agreement between CTAA and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and they must be experienced and able to carry out work that must comply with applicable FTA regulations, policies and guidelines. Bidders without prior experience working with FTA or its grantees will need to be sure their submissions demonstrate a capacity to carry out FTA-funded work.

The selected bidder and subcontractors must be in good standing and have no exclusions in SAM.gov.

CTAA reserves the right to request additional information before making an award. CTAA also reserves the right to seek clarification from any bidder or offeror about any statement in its bid that CTAA finds ambiguous.

Selection will be made based on best value.

### **Submission Instructions**

Please submit your bid as a single document, in PDF format, to [carpenter@ctaa.org](mailto:carpenter@ctaa.org) no later than 11:59pm Eastern Time on November 15, 2023. No hard copy submissions will be accepted.

CTAA reserves the right to reject any and all bids in response to this RFQ, and may terminate this solicitation without notice at any time prior to entering into a contract for the indicated work to be performed.