

Better Bus Project

Request for Expression of Interest

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| Issued |
| 01/14/2019 |

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| Deadline |
| 02/04/2019 5pm ET |

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| Submission |
| transitalliance.miami/rfi |

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Introduction

ABOUT TRANSIT ALLIANCE

We are a non-profit organization advocating for walkable streets, bikeable neighborhoods and better public transit in Miami-Dade County.

Our campaigns combine data-driven research, community engagement and policy advocacy to get Miami-Dade moving safer, faster and happier.

REVIEW TEAM

Azhar Chougle

Director, Transit Alliance

Marta Vicedo

Chair, Transit Alliance

All submissions must be uploaded via:

transitalliance.miami/rfi

Other submitters will not have access to your submission.

Questions?

help@transitalliance.miami

Transit

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Better Bus Project is the first advocacy-led and community-driven bus system redesign in the country.

Transit Alliance is leading the project with the support of the Office of the Mayor of Miami-Dade County and the Department of Transportation & Public Works.

ELIGIBILITY

We are seeking expert transportation planning firms that have an established record of performing bus network redesigns nationwide – with those redesigns leading to a marked increase in long-term ridership.

PURPOSE OF REQUEST

The primary goal of this request is to help us understand the appropriate scope and budget for an expert firm to support and advise this redesign project.

As your responses will help inform a subsequent Request for Proposals, this request is not intended to evaluate the capabilities and qualifications of respondents.

Responding to this request is your opportunity to:

- Express interest in competing for the contract
- Introduce your firm to the review team
- Outline your general approach to a system redesign
- Provide feedback on the proposed project scope
- Provide feedback on the proposed project structure
- Ask questions of the Transit Alliance team

ABOUT THE SYSTEM

Routes

95+ Bus Routes

Ridership

58 million in FY 2017

78 million in FY 2013

Operator

Miami-Dade Department of Transportation & Public Works

Circulators

25 municipalities operate circulator services

11 million rides in FY 2017

7.5 million rides in FY 2013

System Map

[County Transit Map](#)

[Circulators Map](#)

Background Information

Two out of three transit trips in Miami-Dade are on buses. We have an extensive network with local, limited and express service architected around several terminals and Metrorail service.

ABOUT THE REDESIGN

The goal of the redesign is to stem ridership loss and position the system for ridership growth by creating more effective service.

The overall network is somewhat aligned to the street grid, but stands to benefit from several key system-wide improvements:

- Increase in high-frequency services
- Creating more viable connections
- Serving new high population/employment centers
- Resolving low productivity and “rollercoaster” routes
- Integration of key municipal circulators

The redesign must be operationally cost-neutral, excluding the one-time cost to implement the new network.

Scope & Budget

TRANSIT ALLIANCE

Transit Alliance will lead and manage the project, and handle all aspects of community/stakeholder engagement and communications.

Primary Role

Project Management
Community/Stakeholder Engagement
Communications

MIAMI-DADE TRANSIT

Will facilitate every aspect of the project – from provisioning quality data, to making staff time available to support the project, to undertaking the implementation of the new network.

Primary Role

Data Provisioning
Project Support
Implementation

YOUR ROLE

To collaborate with Transit Alliance and Miami-Dade Transit on the following: an analysis of existing service, identifying latent transit demand, creating different approaches for a new network based on coverage and frequency goals, and creating a complete and implementable new network plan.

Given the unique structure of this project, your scope does not exist in isolation. Both Transit Alliance and Miami-Dade Transit will support your scope – we are relying on your national-level expertise to inform and elevate our working processes, enhance our approach, and build upon our findings to create final deliverables.

Primary Role

Existing Service Evaluation
Market Demand Evaluation
New System Visioning
New System Design

OVERALL PROJECT TIMELINE

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Feb/Mar 2019 | Project setup and RFP process |
| Oct/Nov 2019 | New network plan completed |
| June 2020 | New network implemented |

PRIMARY DATA RESOURCES

Remix, Swiftly, APC Counts, NextFare Data, Monthly Operations Reports, Omnibus Reports, GIS Data, Service Evaluation Studies, Fleet Data, Ridership Technical Reports

EXAMPLE WORKING PROCESS

One of our first steps would be to evaluate existing service. Transit Alliance will have all data compiled and ready, begin gathering community input, create static/interactive route map visualizations, perform an initial broad evaluation with Miami-Dade Transit, and hand it over to you along with all raw data. We would look for you to review, verify and improve upon our findings, transform our broad evaluation to specific route-by-route and system-wide analysis, identify additional insights, and use the information as a base to help inform our next steps.

The goal of this process is to utilize the strengths of each entity effectively – Transit Alliance’s ability to effectively engage and communicate locally, Miami-Dade Transit’s in-depth knowledge of the existing system, and your national-level expertise on successful system design and planning to create specific deliverables.

This unique process is designed to ensure the output of this project creates long-term sustainable improvements that can be carried forward after the project is completed.

TENTATIVE BUDGET

\$200,000 – \$300,000

Please carefully review the proposed scope below, as the structure of this project and your role within it may differ from past redesign projects.

You are being hired as a subcontractor to Transit Alliance to perform a defined scope that we will support.

Although our project will also drive goals around reliability, ease of use, and dedicated infrastructure – these additional items are not a part of your scope.

01 Existing Service Evaluation

Evaluate all current routes and overall system design against performance metrics, geographical coverage, frequency of service, overlaps and gaps, and existing transfer and travel patterns – creating an accurate top-level and route-by-route view of the current system in order to inform guiding standards and principles for a new network based on identified shortfalls and areas for improvement.

| Transit Alliance | Miami-Dade Transit | <i>Your Role</i> |
|--|---|---|
| Collate data and initial community input to create static/interactive visualizations and perform broad evaluation with MDT | Provision data and perform broad evaluation in collaboration with Transit Alliance providing existing system insights | Develop scope and methodology of analysis, create route-specific and system-wide analysis, recommendations to proceed |

02 Market Demand Analysis

Identify latent transit demand in areas of high population and employment density that may be under-served (or not served at all) by existing transit services alongside analyzing existing traffic patterns.

| Transit Alliance | Miami-Dade Transit | <i>Your Role</i> |
|---|---|---|
| Collate data and create static visualizations to perform broad analysis with MDT and community engagement to identify gaps in service | Perform broad analysis in collaboration with Transit Alliance advising on operational constraints and relevant past service | Develop scope and methodology of analysis, create report from provided inputs, source additional data if needed |

03 New System Visioning

Examine various approaches as determined by priorities of coverage, frequency and effective use of existing resources. Identify benefits and drawbacks of each approach, specifically pertaining to forecasted ridership changes. Create draft overall system approaches based on above, and materials to support public and stakeholder engagement efforts.

| Transit Alliance | Miami–Dade Transit | <i>Your Role</i> |
|---|--|---|
| Community and stakeholder engagement to inform parameters, identify specific pain points and priorities, and get feedback on approaches | Collaborate with Transit Alliance to create broad recommendation set based on previous analyses and engagement efforts | Create draft overall system approaches based on broad recommendation set and identify drawbacks and benefits of each approach |

04 New System Design

Develop a complete and implementable new route network plan based on the process above, along with a Title VI service equity analysis for the new network.

| Transit Alliance | Miami–Dade Transit | <i>Your Role</i> |
|--|--|---|
| Assist in development of final plan and perform community and stakeholder engagement for adjustments | Collaborate on final system approach and provide guidance on operations and implementation | Create complete network plan (defined below) and perform complete service equity analysis |

A complete network plan includes:

- List and naming of all new routes for the system with designations within family of services
- Alignment with short turns, branches and time-of-day modifications
- Span of service (hours of revenue service)
- Level of service (frequency defined throughout the day)
- Running Times by routes and their segments
- Recovery Times by route
- Route Time Points
- Bus Stops along Route
- Vehicle Type Requirement (seating capacity)

Questionnaire

Please upload your response at transitalliance.miami/rfi – Apple Pages, Microsoft Word, PDFs and TXT files are all acceptable.

We recommend brief answers of 100 – 150 words per question, but there is no limit to the length of your response.

INTRODUCE YOUR FIRM

- Your Name
- Your Firm's Name and Website
- Notable Redesign Projects (City, Year, Brief Description)

You may optionally attach a general slide deck or CV.

YOUR INTEREST

- What aspects of this project most interest you?

SCOPE AND BUDGET

– Does your approach to a redesign project generally follow the structure and scope we have outlined? If not, how does it differ?

– Do you find the scope described to be appropriate to the project's intended goals and outcomes? If not, what would you add or remove?

– Do you find the budget range to be appropriate to your role, the workload, and working process set forth in the scope? If not, explain why.

– Do you find the working process and collaborative approach described to be appropriate to the project? If not, why?

– How would you structure your project budget – an estimated number of hours for each scope item based on the defined scope, or another approach?

– Are there any other factors or considerations you would like to raise that we should consider that may discourage you from submitting a proposal?

Thank you

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LEARN MORE
transitalliance.miami/better

CONTACT US
help@transitalliance.miami