

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
purchasing@newtonma.gov
Fax (617) 796-1227

February 3, 2022

ADDENDUM #2
INVITATION FOR BID #22-39

SUPPLY & DELIVER SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

THIS ADDENDUM IS TO: NOTIFY BIDDERS THAT BIDS WILL NOT BE OPENED AT THE TIME AND PLACE THEY ARE DUE AND PROVIDE ANSWERS TO THE SUBMITTED QUESTIONS

- A. BIDS ARE DUE AT THE TIME AND PLACE SPECIFIED IN THE INVITATION FOR BID (IFB). THE BID OPENING WILL BE HELD AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE THEREAFTER AT THE FOLLOWING TIME AND PLACE:¹**

Newton Education Center, 100 Walnut, Street, Newtonville, MA 02460 at 10:30 a.m., Room 304

B. QUESTIONS:

Q1. Would it be possible for the bid opening to be in person? Would moving meeting to NPS be an option?

A1. See Section (A) above.

Q2. When do you anticipate adding Electric Buses? If an electric bus is acquired, who would drive? How much would you pay contractor?

A2. NPS is still in preliminary discussions in regard to electric buses. The anticipated time frame on adding these would be in years 3 to 5 within the term of the awarded bus contract. The City will discuss and negotiate with the Contractor at the appropriate time.

Q3. Would you consider changing this bid to a 3 year contract now in anticipation of bringing on electric buses during the life of this contract?

A3. No. The specified contract term is five (5) years.

Q4. When are questions due by and when will the addendums be available? How will they be distributed?

A4. Questions are due by noon Friday, Feb. 4th and will be answered by one or more addenda, the last to be posted and emailed to all bidders of record no later than Monday, Feb. 7th. All City bids and addenda are available on its web site, www.newtonma.gov/bids. It is the sole responsibility of the Contractor downloading the IFB to ensure it has received and acknowledged any and all addenda prior to the bid opening. Bidders may notify the City that they downloaded the IFB by email purchasing@newtonma.gov or by fax at 617-796-1227 with its NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE, FAX, AND INVITATION FOR BID #22-39. Such notices is necessary to receive all addenda electronically.

Q5. Item 1.1 on page 40 mentions 'swing buses' and possibly needing additional buses due to expansion. Do you still anticipate needing approximately 6 swing buses? In regard to needing additional buses, when do you anticipate this happening and how many additional buses do you anticipate.

A5. Approximately six swing buses are anticipated. In 2025-2027 we anticipate new construction and will need additional buses at that time. Attendance as a whole has been down so it will be based on attendance and need at that time.

¹ The purpose of a bid opening at a different location than the place of submission is to allow for an in person opening in accordance with COVID health practices. The provision relating to a conference call at p. 3 of the IFB is deleted.

Q6. Item 7.2 on page 48 refers to lap belts and the future of adding shoulder belts. Current buses cannot be retrofitted with shoulder belts.

A6. NPS would like to keep the future possibility of shoulder seat belts on the table as an option but at this time it is acceptable that current buses have lap belts.

Q7. Item 7.7 on page 49 refers to monitors. If NPS is employing monitors why does it reference the possibility of the contractor to hire a monitor?

A7. NPS currently employs monitors on Metco buses only. We would only ask the Contractor to employ a monitor on the wheelchair bus if needed. According to the contract, one out of 31 contracted buses should be a wheelchair bus.

Q8. In regards to Metco monitors, how does the pick-up and drop off work? Bus stop, bus yard? Where does live time start?

A8. We currently are reviewing this and want to limit the amount of driving as the bus monitors need to be on the bus prior to picking up any students. Metco is aware of this issue as we hire new monitors going forward. Currently all monitors are being picked up at one bus stop.

Q9. Do you plan on making any changes to the actual run-time, live and not-live? Newton is the only district that currently does it like this. Changes have created a financial problem by eliminating kindergarten routes and adding more late bus routes up to 8:00 p.m. This requires an increase in the amount of drivers, more dead time and increased cost to Contractor as a result of having to pay over-time.

A9. Actual run-time will not change. Live time is only when students (or monitors) are on the bus.

Q10. Do bus cameras need to be digital? Is there a model or style required?

A10. We have no preference on the digital camera make or model as long as they work and meet the NPS transportation needs.

All other terms and conditions of this bid remain unchanged.

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU ACKNOWLEDGE ALL ADDENDA ON YOUR
BID FORM OR SEPARATE EMAIL. FAILURE TO ACKNOWLEDGE ALL ADDENDA COULD
RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR BID AS NONRESPONSIVE.**

Thank you.



Nicholas Read
Chief Procurement Officer