



October 19, 2022

**RFI002-22
GWINNETT COUNTY REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

The **Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners** is soliciting a Request for Information (RFI) from qualified respondents for **Personal Rapid Transit and Podcar Services**.

RFIs should be typed or submitted in ink and returned in a sealed container marked on the outside with "RFI002-22". Submittals will be received **until 2:50 pm local time on December 01, 2022** at the Gwinnett County Financial Services - Purchasing Division – 2nd Floor, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30046. *One original marked "original", four (4) copies and one (1) thumb drive of the submittal should be returned.*

All interested respondents should attend a virtual pre-submittal conference that is scheduled for **10:00 am on November 03, 2022**. To Join, dial 1-408-418-9388 and enter access code 2331 060 2133.

Questions regarding this request should be directed to Lindsey Gravitt, Purchasing Associate II, at lindsey.gravitt@gwinnettcounty.com, **no later than November 04, 2022 at 5:00pm**.

Gwinnett County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to its programs or activities. Any requests for reasonable accommodations required by individuals to fully participate in any open meeting, program or activity of Gwinnett County Government should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the Gwinnett County Justice and Administration Center, 770-822-8165.

The written documents supersede any verbal or written prior communications between the parties. Respondents should ensure that they have all applicable addenda prior to the submittal.

**Lindsey Gravitt
Purchasing Associate II**

The **Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners** is soliciting a Request for Information (RFI) from qualified Respondents to gather data and insights on Personal Rapid Transit and Podcar technology. This information may be used in the future to facilitate a formal procurement process on determining the feasibility of deploying **Personal Rapid Transit and Podcar Technology** in Gwinnett County. Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) is a system of on-demand point-to-point travel that combines the advantages of private automobiles (on-demand point-to-point service) with the advantages of public transit (higher carrying capacity with reduced vehicle miles travel and parking demand generation). Generally, PRT operates with pods carrying two to six passengers with varying levels of autonomy within fixed guideway networks.

SECTION II – SCOPE OF INFORMATION REQUEST

1. INTRODUCTION:

Gwinnett County is currently conducting a detailed study of the County's public transit service via an update to the countywide Gwinnett Transit Development Plan (TDP). This study will evaluate travel demands, project future public transportation needs, and make recommendations to connect Gwinnett County and its residents to the places they want to go. As part of the TDP process, it's important that an evaluation of the universe of possible transit modes and technologies is undertaken. This evaluation will help the county make informed decisions about future transit technology and innovation investments most applicable to Gwinnett County.

As part of the TDP process, Gwinnett County's ability to obtain relative data and information to compare PRT to more traditional high-capacity transit options (e.g., Bus Rapid Transit, Light Rail Transit or Heavy Rail Transit) is limited due to the fact that there are no existing large-scale PRT systems implemented in the U.S. or globally. Theoretically, a benefit of PRT is that it has a much higher passenger-per-hour-per-direction line capacity than these traditional transit modes.

2. PURPOSE OF RFI:

Gwinnett County seeks responses from qualified Respondents who have experience developing PRT systems and are committed to providing the most appropriate information and knowledge to assist Gwinnett County in determining a best approach on feasible transportation modes and technologies during the TDP process.

The purpose of this RFI is to obtain information, ideas, comments and feedback from qualified Respondents and transit related businesses who are interested in providing information regarding the applicability of PRT in context to Gwinnett County. Our goal is to seek insight from Respondents on PRT related technology trends, benefits and burdens, operational requirements, implementation barriers, and cost-effectiveness. This information will aid Gwinnett County in the TDP process when making strategic planning decisions on the county's future transit investments. Gwinnett County will use information gathered through this RFI to determine the best approach for moving forward which may involve a potential PRT feasibility study.

The short-listed acceptable Respondents may be invited to a formal interview/presentation, to submit responses to a Request for Proposals (RFP). Gwinnett County may pursue the most advantageous alternative if the results of this RFI support such an approach.

This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes and does not constitute a solicitation or commitment to contract. Responses to this notice are not an offer and cannot be accepted by Gwinnett County to form a binding contract.

Gwinnett County is not obligated to conduct subsequent discussion with Respondents to this RFI and reserves the right to conduct discussions regarding its subject matter with firms that do not respond to this RFI. Upon submission, Responses to this RFI shall become the property of Gwinnett County that shall have unrestricted use thereof. Responses may be subject to public disclosure under applicable law. By submitting a Response, the Respondent agrees to the terms and conditions of this RFI.

3. BACKGROUND:

Gwinnett County is a cosmopolitan community in the northeast metropolitan Atlanta area that is home to a vibrant, diverse blend of people and places. It is the second most populous county in Georgia and has been one of the fastest growing counties in the United States for several decades.

Our transit division is housed within the Department of Transportation of Gwinnett County, has operated service since 2001. The backbone of Gwinnett County's transit system is fixed route service. Gwinnett County's population is approximately 983,656 and more than 126,000 transit trips are provided on a monthly basis. In 2021, Gwinnett County delivered 808,825 fixed route trips (i.e., unlinked passenger trips). Approximately 20 percent of Gwinnett County residents have access to fixed route service, while approximately 40 percent of Gwinnett County workers have access as well. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) complementary paratransit is provided, as well as demand-response senior services transportation organized by the Senior Services Department of Gwinnett County. In 2021, Gwinnett County delivered 20,342 ADA paratransit trips (i.e., unlinked passenger trips). Gwinnett County has 81 buses to support fixed route service and 7 vehicles to support ADA paratransit service. With extensive experience providing demand-response transportation options for 21 years, Gwinnett County staff have been exploring the potential for recent technological developments to improve various types of existing demand-response transportation and provide on-demand transportation options. More details regarding Gwinnett County's transit service are available online.

In order to serve areas of the County that do not have enough density to support fixed route transit, Gwinnett County embarked on a Microtransit pilot from September 2018 through April 2019 to test local interest in, and ridership for, Microtransit service. "Microtransit," also known as "on-demand transit" and other descriptive terms, involves providing "shared ride" (i.e., more than one passenger) direct trips in response to origins and destinations provided by passengers – most commonly with real time trip requests and bookings enabled through the use of an app. It is differentiated from fixed route in that there are no established routes, as the service is focused on direct trips based on origins and destinations provided by passengers, responding dynamically in real time to provide direct trips. Some variants combine fixed route and aspects of Microtransit in the form of deviated fixed route, but Gwinnett County is not pursuing such a variant at this time.

Gwinnett County's Microtransit pilot operated in Snellville, Georgia, from September 2018 through April 2019. The service area was approximately 17 square miles in total, and a total of 33,376 trips were provided during the 7.5 months of service operations with the final month of ridership in April 2019 totaling 6,465. Customers within the service area were welcome to utilize the service and could take as many trips as they wanted. Gwinnett continues to work toward enhancing the mobility options for the County in expanding service to citizens.

4. OBJECTIVES TO UNDERSTANDING PRT APPLICABILITY (Respondents should address the following):

Gwinnett County is looking to obtain additional information to understand the full range and capabilities of PRT technology. The goal is to investigate innovative technology options, including PRT that can positively impact mobility, economic development, equity, and sustainability in Gwinnett County. Key objectives for this RFI include:

1. Identify the fundamental aspects and concept of operations on how PRT systems work.
2. Define the major benefits of a PRT system (e.g., flexibility, safety, travel time savings, cost-effectiveness, security, and sustainability).
3. Develop a listing of PRT systems and vehicle types including systems that are operational, undergoing testing or in the research & development phases. Include a comparison of advantages and disadvantages for each.
4. Discuss the general applicability of constructing PRT guideways and stations along Gwinnett County rights-of-way, including interstate corridors, county roads, medians, sidewalks, trails, overhead powerline easements, etc.
5. Discuss the pros and cons of PRT compared to other modes of transportation, such as, autonomous vehicles, microtransit, ride-sharing, and especially to other rapid transit modes (i.e., HRT, LRT, and BRT).
6. Describe the key implementation drivers for PRT as well as financial considerations to project delivery including estimated ranges of cost for capital, operating and maintenance, construction timeframes, and other financial inputs.

SECTION III – RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS

Respondents should outline each of the categories below in their responses.

1. **Company Background:** Respondent to provide company history, including date established, the type of ownership and years in business.
2. **Qualification:** Qualification of the firm, organizational chart, vision and mission of the company, areas of expertise, resumes of the project management team.
3. **Experience:** Respondent to provide detailed information of completed projects in the United States of America, including information as to the size, name and location, capital costs of projects, annual operating expenses, special system of infrastructure requirements, highlights of the projects, obstacles encountered, and lessons learned.
 - a. Respondent to provide experience and successful examples of related PRT planning, consulting, design, engineering, implementation, and management.
4. **Feasibility:** Respondent shall provide a demonstration of the feasibility of construction, operations and financial stability.
5. **Interview/Demonstration:** Respondents may be invited to a formal interview/presentation. A demonstration of the PRT related technology trends, benefits and burdens, implementation barriers, cost effectiveness, as described in the Objectives to Understanding PRT Applicability (1 to 6). This could be a presentation, a video, or a report.

1. PREFERRED SUBMITTAL FORMAT:

The County and Transit requests that the Respondents organize and submit their response (One original marked "original", six copies and one thumb drive) in the following tabbed order with as specified below:

- Typewritten
- Submitted in a binder, single-sided
- Submitted with a one-page cover letter prepared on the company's letterhead and signed by an authorized representative of the company. Provide a summary in the cover letter that provides the company's expertise as it relates to this RFI.
- Submitted with the respondent Information page.
- Submitted with a table of contents and tabbed accordingly reflecting the information requested in the corresponding section of this RFI and organized in the same manner

Respondent Information

Legal Business Name _____

Federal Tax ID _____

Address _____

Does your company currently have a location within Gwinnett County? Yes No

Representative Signature _____

Print Authorized Representative's Name _____

Telephone Number _____ **Fax Number** _____

E-Mail Address _____

Contact Person (if someone other than the authorized representative listed above) _____

Telephone Number _____ **Fax Number** _____

E-Mail Address _____