



# **Request for Proposal**

**RFP # 2019 – 199 RFP**

## **Insurance Consulting**

**Proposal Submission Deadline:**

**Monday, July 8, 2019  
No later than 12:00 PM PST**

**Whatcom Transportation Authority  
4011 Bakerview Spur Road  
Bellingham, WA 98226  
Phone (360) 788-9332  
Fax (360) 788-9532  
Procurement@ridewta.com**

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## Part 1 – Introduction

Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA) Public Transportation Benefit Area (PTBA), defined by RCW 36.57A, provides fixed route and paratransit service throughout Whatcom County, Washington. Whatcom County is in the northwest corner of Washington State. The transit revenue fleet consists of 61 fixed route buses, 42 paratransit vehicles, and 31 vanpools.

WTA's mission is to enhance our community by:

- Delivering safe, reliable, efficient and friendly service
- Offering environmentally sound transportation choices
- Providing leadership in creating innovative transportation solutions
- Partnering with our community to improve transportation systems

Additional information about WTA can be found at [www.ridewta.com](http://www.ridewta.com).

WTA is currently seeking a firm to consult on employee health benefits.

Proposers are required to adhere to the terms and conditions of this solicitation packet. WTA will not negotiate any aspect of the required service or contract once the Intent to Award is issued. WTA will not make any concessions for Proposers who are not completely familiar with the scope or contract requirements.

All submittals become the property of WTA and are subject to public disclosure after award.

Throughout this RFP the terms vendor, Contractor, and Proposer are used interchangeably. In general, the term Proposer means those who submit a proposal in response to this RFP, while a Contractor is a Proposer who has been selected and enters a contract to provide the services.

Equal Opportunity: Small, minority and women-owned Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE), as defined in 49 CFR Part 26, are encouraged to submit proposals in response to this solicitation. WTA ensures non-discrimination in the award and administration of all contracts, creates a level playing field where DBE's can compete fairly, and remove barriers to the participation of DBE's in our contracts.

## **Part 2 – Scope of Work**

### **2. A Introduction**

WTA employs approximately 270 employees, with the majority being represented by Amalgamated Transit Union #843. In January 2013, WTA moved from a self-insured health benefit plan to one through the Association of Washington Cities (AWC).

### **2. B Background**

WTA's current employee benefit enrollment and budget are as follows:

	<b>Employee Enrollees - Dec 2018</b>	<b>Budget - 2019</b>
<b>Medical</b>	268	\$3,984,104
<b>Dental</b>	266	\$354,384
<b>Vision</b>	266	\$79,105
<b>Life, LTD, ADD</b>	266	\$50,370
<b>EAP</b>	268	\$7,000

WTA has a robust Employee Benefits Committee that meets approximately two (2) times per year. The Committee is comprised of management and employee members, with representation from our labor union. The Committee researches and recommends benefit adjustments and initiatives in order to keep WTA's benefits current and responsive to employee and agency needs, as well as budgetary requirements.

The agency also has an effective Wellness Program, which received the State of Washington "Golden Apple" Award in 2019 for outstanding Wellness Program. The Wellness Program includes:

- On-site employee health care for physical therapy type assistance staffed by a contracted Certified Athletic Trainer (ACT) 40 hours a week.
- Employee financial incentives to support physical activity and emotional health.
- Decreased employee medical premium contributions for those who choose to participate in the agency's Wellness Program.

To help augment WTA's Employee Benefits Committee and Wellness Program, WTA engages a consultant to analyze, advise, and recommend benefits changes.

### **2 .C Technical Requirements**

The ideal firm or individual will possess knowledge and demonstrate familiarity with AWC's employee benefit plans. The Contract will require that the services be provided by skilled communicators, who are able to explain complex messages effectively to diverse groups including WTA's Benefit Committee, management team, union negotiation teams, and Board of Directors. Some key strengths of those provided the services include the ability to:

- Advise without making decisions
- Be approachable and collaborative

- Be responsive and concise
- Assess and advise on potential risk
- Adapt communication messaging and delivery style to WTA's culture
- Mentor key staff in assessing risk and enable them in making decisions

## **2. D Scope of Work**

The selected Contractor will be asked to provide the following, non-exhaustive list of services ("Contract Work"):

- Professional advice and counsel, including periodic telephone consultations
- Insight regarding AWC's employee benefit program, future premium trends, and possible new programs
- Strategic planning in partnership with WTA's management team
  - Approximately one (1) annual on-site meeting
- Notification and advice regarding changes to laws and regulations
- Professional advice to WTA's Benefits and Wellness Committees
  - Approximately two (2) annual on-site meetings
- Assistance during labor negotiations between WTA and the Amalgamated Transit Union Local #843
  - Up to approximately three (3) on-site meetings during each three-year negotiation cycle
- Occasional presentations to general employee groups, the WTA Board of Directors, or other groups
  - One (1) on-site presentation a year, or less

## **2. E Contract Deliverables**

With each invoice, as a condition of payment, the selected Contractor will submit the following:

1. Name of assignment
2. Staff involved
3. Staff fee per hour
4. Hours worked by individual staff

## Part 3 - Submission Guidelines

All submittals become the property of WTA.

### 3. A Procurement Schedule

Activity	Date – 2019
Procurement Request Released	June 4
Clarification Deadline	June 21
Submissions Due	July 8 no later than 12:00 PM PST
Finalist In Person Interviews*	Week of August 5
Final Selection (Best & Final Offer)*	August 19
Notice of Intent to Award**	September 5
Estimated Award Date	September 19
Contract Start Date	October 1

\* WTA reserves the right to award a contract(s) without demonstrations or a Best and Final Offer.

\*\*Issuance of a Notice of Intent to Award is not a substitute for a contract and can be revoked.

WTA reserves the right to modify the Procurement Schedule through written addenda.

WTA may invite the top one (1) to three (3) firms (competitive range) for a semifinal interview/presentation. Any interviews will be scheduled no later than close of business on July 26, 2019 with requirements of the interview provided at that time.

### 3. B Proposal Guidelines

Proposers should fully inform themselves of the conditions, requirements, and specifications before submitting a proposal. The submission of a proposal constitutes Proposers acceptance of the terms and conditions of this solicitation request, including the underlying contract terms and conditions which are set out herein.

The Proposer is responsible for all costs related to the preparation of the proposal, demonstrations or interviews. Any costs associated with the project not specifically set forth in this Request for Proposal will be the responsibility of the Proposer, and will be deemed included in the fees and charges proposed.

WTA reserves the right to:

- Award to one or more vendors
- Accept or reject any or all proposals and their Proposers
- Reject any or all proposals until a contract is signed with the Proposer
- Reject this solicitation and issue a new one for any reason
- Waive deviations from the requirements
- Waive any informality or minor irregularity in proposals received
- Issue changes to the solicitation in the form of written addenda
- Request additional information to fully evaluate a proposal

A proposal will be rejected when:

- It is late
- Not in the required format
- The Proposer fails to meet the minimum qualifications listed in Part 3. C
- The Proposer is determined to be not responsible as described in Part 4. C
- Any required form is not signed
- Vendor information, references, or any other form is incomplete or incorrect
- Any other reason determined to be in the best interest of the WTA
- It does not meet required terms and conditions
- The details of the proposal have been altered
- A Proposer fails to timely respond to a request for additional information
- It fails to contain any of the requested information
- A conflict of interest is not properly disclosed
- Proposer fails to acknowledge in writing an addenda

Proposals may not be modified after opening unless requested by WTA. Prior to opening, proposals may be withdrawn at any time.

WTA may request that information be displayed differently than presented (for example, request a bundled pricing structure be itemized).

Proposal pricing shall be valid for a period of 120 days from proposal or Best and Final Offer (BAFO) deadline, if a (BAFO) occurs. Refer to Part 4.D for more information.

WTA may request clarification or additional information, including, but not limited to, financial statements.

### **3. C Minimum Proposer Qualifications**

At the time of proposal, Proposers must meet the following minimum qualifications:

- Have a current State of Washington Unified Business Identifier (UBI), or provide proof one has been applied for, and all required local government business license(s) and endorsements<sup>1</sup>.
- Be registered with SAM.gov and not be suspended or debarred.
- Not be disqualified from bidding under RCW 39.06.010 or 39.12.065 (3).
- Demonstrate there are no outstanding and/or repetitive violations with Labor and Industries, Department of Revenue, or Employment Security.
- Whether, within the three-year period immediately preceding the date of the solicitation, the Proposer has been determined by a final and binding citation and notice of assessment<sup>2</sup> issued by the department of labor and industries or through a civil judgment entered by a court of limited or general jurisdiction to have willfully

<sup>1</sup> The awarded vendor will be required to obtain A City of Bellingham endorsement as a condition of contract award.

<sup>2</sup> RCW 39.26.16(2)(f)

violated, as defined in RCW 49.48.082, any provision of chapter 49.46, 49.48, or 49.52 RCW;

- Possess all permits, registrations, and licenses as required by city, state, and Federal ordinances, rules, laws, and regulations. When requested by WTA, Proposer shall provide documents confirming that he/she/it has obtained any local business registrations or permits that may be required.
- Offer a fixed cost for project services
- Have experience with government agencies

### **3. D Proposal Submission**

Proposals via email or a dedicated CD/USB Flash Drive is the preferred method of submission.

Unbound hard copies will also be accepted instead of an electronic copy. Proposals will not be bound with staples, combs, three ring binders, etc. All hard copy submissions should be in a plainly marked envelope "Sealed Proposal RFP #2019 - 199." Proposal should be submitted to:

Magan Waltari, CPPB, CPSM  
Procurement & Grants Coordinator/DBELO  
Whatcom Transportation Authority  
4011 Bakerview Spur Rd.  
Bellingham, WA 98226  
(360) 788-9332  
procurement@ridewta.com

Proposals submitted by mail or express carriers (i.e. UPS, FedEx, DHL) must arrive by the due date and time.

### **3. E Submission Packages**

Proposals should conform to the following: pages of the proposal should be numbered; sections clearly identified; single spaced; no columns; minimum 12 point font, and no more than 10 double sided pages, excluding forms requested in the Exhibits.

Please submit qualifications to provide consulting on employee benefits. Based on the Scope of Work in 2.D:

1. Firm Information:
  - A. Complete the company information request on Exhibit C.
  - B. Provide a brief history and description of your firm. Include general information regarding organizational structure, size, capabilities, and the firm's qualifications and experience providing benefits consulting with public agencies and unionized companies.
  - C. A description of your experience with agencies using AWC for their employee benefit program



2. Qualifications of Staff Assigned to this Project:

- A. Qualifications and experience of staff assigned to the work as it relates to WTA scope of work.
- B. Include resumes for key personnel providing services.
- C. Identify the roles and tasks these personnel will perform.
- D. When principals are unavailable, describe how your firm will respond to WTA needs. For example, if primary staff is unavailable and an immediate answer is required, who would WTA contact?
- E. Will you require the use of a subcontractor to execute any portion of the work scope?
- F. Describe your resource availability and coverage to provide uninterrupted support and progress.

3. Understanding of WTA Requirements

- A. Demonstrate your understanding of WTA's needs and scope of service.
- B. Describe how you would approach delivery of the scope of services.
- C. Outline your familiarity with AWC employee benefit and wellness programs.

4. Cost Proposal

Using Exhibit C, Proposers will outline their rate(s) for this engagement. WTA prefers a flat fee paid per month with a not to exceed per year amount. The agency is also open to a time and materials with a not to exceed per year amount as well. Both contract types will require the information outlined in 2.E above to be detailed with each invoice.

5. Client References

Three (3) references, including:

- At least one (1) Washington State municipality (e.g. transit, city, county, utility district)
- Clients with no less than three (3) years of service
- Similar in size to WTA (see Section 2.B)

**3. F Conflict of Interest**

WTA officers, employees, agents, or Board members will not solicit or accept gifts, favors, or anything of monetary value from Proposers. Any WTA officer, agent, employee, or Board member with a perceived or actual financial or other interest in the award of proposed contract will recuse himself/herself from any evaluation or decision on any proposal.

Proposers and their staff must declare any perceived or actual conflict of interest. For example, a conflict of interest would arise if a Proposer or staff did the following:

- Assists in the creation of the scope of work. This includes, but is not limited to reviewing and commenting on the preliminary scope in whole or part, assisting staff in specification writing, or recommending the use of a particular brand or supplier/distributor in the specification or evaluation of proposals.

- Provided access to nonpublic information or has been provided with information other contractors have not during the procurement.
- Assists in the creation of a project budget.
- Has a personal or professional relationship or affiliation (past or present) with a member of the evaluation or project team.
- Has a financial gain from the recommendation and/or purchase of a particular good or service relating to a contract or potential contract. (e.g. distributor/manufacturer relationship)

WTA will review all conflict of interest statements and notify the Proposer of its decision to allow or reject a proposal as it pertains to the conflict.

In the event that a conflict of interest is discovered post-award, this will be considered a breach of contract and the contract will be terminated under the terms and conditions provided. The Proposer must pay any additional costs incurred by WTA to engage another contractor to finish the work.

### **3. G Addenda**

Addenda will be issued to all Proposers should questions or clarifications be deemed significant enough to affect received proposals. Proposers must ensure they receive all issued addenda prior to the submission deadline, and acknowledge each addenda on Exhibit A.

### **3. H Contact with WTA**

Unauthorized contact regarding this RFP with WTA employees or agents may result in disqualification. Any oral communications will be considered unofficial and non-binding on WTA. Proposers should rely only on written statements issued by the Procurement & Grants Coordinator listed in 3.D above.

### **3. I Protest Procedures**

**Filing a Protest** Any party with an interest in the award of the solicitation may file a protest that WTA staff did not follow its own policies and procedures regarding a Procurement Action.<sup>3</sup> Any protest must be submitted in writing to WTA's Procurement & Grants Coordinator, and include the following information:

- a) Name, address, email address, and telephone number of the protester
- b) Signature of the protester or their representative
- c) Identification of the solicitation
- d) Detailed statement of the legal and factual grounds of the protest

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<sup>3</sup> "Procurement Action" includes: specific procurement steps, such as setting the calendar of events; producing the proposal/bid document; advertising the proposal or bid in legal paper of record; maintaining a list of proposal/bid holders; conducting a pre-proposal meeting; responding to all approved equals/clarifications received by the appropriate time and date; addenda issued straightforwardly to all proposal/bid holders; enforcing closing time and date; providing proctoring services to the project manager and evaluation committee; setting criteria weights; conducting interview process with top-scoring Proposers and evaluation committee; creating notes to file regarding the proposal/bid process; issuing award/non-award letters; and maintaining a written record of the procurement.

- e) Copies of all relevant documents
- f) The form of relief requested

Issues and facts not stated in the Notice of Protest will not be considered.

**Time for Filing a Protest.** A protest based on alleged improprieties or ambiguities in a **solicitation** must be filed at least seven (7) days before the due date of the bid or proposal. A protest based upon alleged improprieties in an **award** of a contract or a **proposed award** of a contract must be filed within three (3) days after the Notice of Intent to Award has been issued.

**Notice of Protest.** Procurement shall immediately give notice of a protest to the selected Proposer if a contract has been awarded. If no award has been made, notice will be provided to all Proposers.

**Stay of Award.** If a protest is filed, the award will be postponed unless the Finance Director determines in writing that:

- a) Reasonable probability exists that the protest will be denied; or
- b) Stay of the award would be contrary to the best interests of WTA.

### Review of Protests

**Review:** The Finance Director shall review and investigate properly filed protests and issue a written decision to the protestor:

- a. A meeting(s) will be called within five (5) working days from receipt of the protest that will include representatives from the WTA and the protester to discuss the issue(s) related to the protest. The meeting may be conducted by telephone conference if convenient for both parties.
- b. A decision of the protest will be made by the Finance Director within three (3) working days of the final meeting and at the time the protester shall be notified of the decision in writing by the Director by email or regular mail.
- c. The Finance Director may, at his/her sole discretion, extend the limits of time outlined above.
- d. The decision of the Finance Director shall be final, unless appealed as provided herein.
- e. A request for reconsideration may be allowed if data becomes available that was not previously known, or there has been an error of law or regulation.

**Appeal:** A Protestor may appeal the Finance Director's formal decision to WTA's General Manager. The written appeal must be received by WTA within two (2) business days after receipt of the written decision by the Protestor, or the appeal will not be considered. Properly filed appeals of the decisions of the Finance Director shall be reviewed and investigated by the General Manager who shall issue WTA's final decision no later than twenty one (21) days after receipt.

### 3. J Inter-local Purchasing

This award shall be subject to RCW Chapter 39.34 Inter-local Cooperation Act where other government agencies may purchase on the WTA request in accordance to the terms and

prices stated, over the subsequent time period for which the vendor is willing to honor the solicitation price.

### **3. K Request for Clarification, Deviation, or Substitutions**

Any Proposer(s) believing a contract term or scope requirement is unnecessarily restrictive or wishing to propose an alternate must notify the Procurement and Grants Coordinator by the deadline provided in the Procurement Schedule. Requests submitted after this date, or as a proposal condition will not be reviewed or considered. WTA will not agree to terms or conditions to the contract after proposals are submitted and conditioned proposals may be rejected as non-responsive. Any changes or requests pertaining to the contract must be made evident prior to the close of the procurement.

#### **ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTRACT BASED UPON NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD**

The RFP and the PROPOSAL SUBMITTED constitute an “offer” and “acceptance” of all of the terms and conditions for an enforceable contract, subject to WTA’s formal award of a bid, which remains in its exclusive discretion. Once a proposal is accepted and awarded by WTA, the parties will have an enforceable “contract” whose terms and conditions will comprise those set out in the RFP and the proposal. WTA reserves the right to seek to have such contract enforced, and to seek specific performance from the successful Proposer based upon the terms set out in the RFP and the proposal. Throughout this RFP, the term “Contract” shall mean the terms and conditions contained in this RFP and an awarded proposal, and a formal written contract entered pursuant to Part 4.

Submission of a proposal grants WTA the right to enforce the parties’ agreement without the need for a signed Contract, based upon the existence of an enforceable agreement between the parties, whose terms and conditions shall comprise the RFP and proposal.

Any unapproved deviations, exceptions, substitutions, alternates, or conditions contained in a proposal are cause for the proposal’s rejection as non-responsive.

THE ONLY WAY THAT THE SUCCESSFUL PROPOSER MAY MODIFY, AMEND OR AVOID ANY TERM AND CONDITION SET OUT IN THE RFP IS TO REQUEST A DEVIATION OR SUBSTITUTION BY THE DEADLINE PROVIDED IN 3.A. UNLESS A REQUEST IS PRESENTED BEFORE THE DEADLINE, AND ACCEPTED BY WTA IN WRITING AS AN ADDENDA, ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE RFP SHALL BE BINDING AND ENFORCEABLE AGAINST THE SUCCESSFUL PROPOSER.

## Part 4 – Proposal Evaluation

### 4. A Evaluation Procedures

1. The Procurement & Grants Coordinator will initially review proposals against the following criteria. Proposals that do not receive 3 “Pass” ratings will not be reviewed further.

Factor	Score
Conformity with Minimum Proposer Qualifications (3.C)	Pass/Fail
Complete Package Submission (3.E)	Pass/Fail
All Exhibits Completed (Part 8)	Pass/Fail
Cost	0-5

Pricing score, using the following normalizing formula.

$(\text{Lowest Overall Proposed Price} \div \text{Price Being Evaluated}) \times \text{Total Points Possible} = \text{Score}$ .

2. Evaluation Committee will then review Proposals receiving 3 “Pass” against the following Evaluation Criteria, which are listed in the order of how important they are.

Initial Evaluation Factor	Score
Demonstrated ability to meet requirements in 2.D	0-5
Communication & clarity of proposal	0-5
Approach & understanding of scope	0-5
<b>Initial Evaluation Total Possible</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>+ Cost points above</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total Cumulative Initial Evaluation Score Possible</b>	<b>20</b>

Committee members will assign a rank of 1 – 5 for each factor and it will calculate the score for each factor as follows:

- 1 – Proposal did not meet factor requirements = 0%
- 2 – Proposal met less than ½ of factor requirements = 25%
- 3 – Proposal met at least ¾ of factor requirements = 50%
- 4 – Proposal met all of the factor requirements = 75%
- 5 – Proposal exceeded factor requirements = 100%

Rankings are in whole numbers only or rounded down. (e.g. 4.5 will round to 4). Scores will then be averaged based on how many members of the Evaluate Committee are participating.

3. The top 2 – 4 proposals may be invited for interviews. Once any interviews are complete, the Evaluation Committee will re-score submissions against the Initial Evaluation Factors based on information provided by interviewees. This score will be added to the initial score to determine the Competitive Range Proposals.

4. A member of the Evaluation Committee and/or the Procurement & Grants Coordinator will check references of the proposals in the Competitive Range and share them with the evaluation committee. Proposals will be evaluated and scored against the below criteria. Scores will then be added to the initial cumulative score to determine the highest scoring proposal.

<b>Competitive Range Factor</b>	<b>Score</b>
Relationship with prior clients/References	0-5
<b>Competitive Range Total</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>+ Initial Evaluation Points Above</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>+ Cost Points Above</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total Possible Cumulative Competitive Range Evaluation Score</b>	<b>25</b>

5. Proposers may be asked for a Best and Final Offer post-interview as detailed in 4.D below. WTA reserves the right to award a contract without a Best and Final Offer Request.
6. The highest scoring Proposer will be selected. Nothing in this request obligates the WTA to award a contract to the lowest cost Proposer, or any Proposer.

In the event that the top two (2) proposals are within 3 points of each other, they are considered comparative equals. WTA will require best and final offers (BAFO) be submitted for evaluation. The Evaluation Committee will review them against all of the evaluation factors above and render a final score.

#### **4. B Evaluation Criteria**

##### **4. B.1 Demonstrated ability in meeting work requirements**

Proposals will be reviewed to evaluate each Proposer's ability to meet the technical requirements and provide the scope of services required in Part 2. The Evaluation Team will gauge how well each proposal communicates an understanding of the agency's need, and the Proposer's approach to delivering the required scope.

##### **4. B.2 Communication and clarity of proposal**

The Evaluation Team will gauge how well each proposal communicates an understanding of the agency's need, and the Proposer's approach to delivering the required scope. Proposals should clearly demonstrate the ability to collaborate with diverse teams as well as understand audience diversity and adapt messages/presentations accordingly.

##### **4. B.3 Approach and understanding to scope of work**

Proposals will demonstrate an understanding of and approach to the work scope. Evaluation will also be based on the proposers' ability to show they have the key strengths WTA is requiring.

#### **4. B.4 References**

WTA staff will review provided references and verify that the Proposer has performed satisfactorily on other contracts. Similarly, WTA will ask about staff skills, ability to perform the work, and that contract requirements were met. References where work of like nature, magnitude and comparable difficulty, and at comparable rates of progress are preferred.

#### **4. C Additional Investigation and Review**

WTA will review all material submitted with a proposal to establish Proposer responsibility and performance history. WTA may also obtain additional information and conduct independent investigation, including, but not limited to, obtaining copies of business licenses and/or professional licenses and certificates, obtaining financial reports, verifying DBE/MWBE status, reviewing records with the Better Business Bureau, reviewing references, and checking debarment lists. WTA reserves the right to interview references, perform internet searches, review Dunn & Bradstreet reports, and use any other investigative means it chooses. A Proposer must timely provide all requested information.

#### **4. D Best and Final Offers (BAFO)**

In WTA's discretion, Proposers may be afforded the opportunity to amend his/her/its proposal and make a BAFO. The requests for BAFO's shall include:

- Notice of an opportunity to submit a BAFO based on discussions during interviews or clarifying correspondence.
- A common due date and time for submission of written BAFO's or modifications to any BAFO, allowing a reasonable opportunity for preparation of the written BAFO's.
- Direction for BAFO format and contents.
- Notice that if a Proposer does not submit a BAFO or a notice of withdrawal and another BAFO, his/her/it's immediate previous offer will be construed as the BAFO.

Any modifications to the initial proposals made by a Proposer in the BAFO shall be clearly identified. WTA will evaluate BAFO's according to the same requirements and criteria as the initial proposal. The WTA will make appropriate adjustments to the initial scores for any criteria which have been affected by any modifications made by the BAFO's. These final scores and rankings will again be weighed against the Evaluation Criteria in 4.B.

#### **4. E Notice of Intent to Award**

Upon selection of the successful Proposer, a Notice of Intent to Award will be provided to all Proposers. The Notice of Intent in no way constitutes a promise to award or an acceptance of the offer contained in the proposal; rather it is the WTA's first step in recommending a contract to its Board of Directors. WTA may reconsider and withdraw, change or amend a Notice of Intent at any time before the Board of Directors formally select a proposal.





Proposers are permitted to request a debriefing about its/his/her own proposal from the Procurement and Grants Coordinator after the Notice of Intent is issued. Information relating to or how the Evaluation Team scored other proposals will not be discussed during the debriefing. Documents and information relating to the procurement including the successful proposal will become available once the Board of Directors confirms the award recommendation and may be requested by submitting a Public Disclosure Request to [pdr@ridewta.com](mailto:pdr@ridewta.com). Refer to Part 6 of this RFP for the process of releasing documents marked as “Confidential” or “Proprietary”.

A City of Bellingham endorsement will be required as a condition of contract award to the highest scoring Proposer<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> Bellingham Municipal Code 6.05.025



## Part 5 – Special Terms and Conditions

A successful Proposer will execute a formal contract with WTA, which Contract shall include expressly or by reference the terms of this Request for Proposal, the general terms and conditions set out in Appendix A, and the following particular terms and conditions. Each and all of these applicable terms and conditions should be factored into any proposal:

### 5. A Contract Term, Compensation, and Invoice Payments

1. Contract Term: The initial length of the Contract will be three (3) years, and WTA may, in its discretion, extend the Contract for one (1) additional two (2) year increment.
2. Compensation: WTA will only issue payments against an approved Purchase Order and shall pay Contractor a sum equal to the amount agreed upon by the parties.
3. Invoices: Payment will be based on at Net thirty (30) day terms. WTA is open to negotiating different payment terms (i.e. 3% Net 15, etc.). Late payment assessments are limited to 12% per annum<sup>5</sup>. Invoices will include the information required in Part 2. E above.

WTA reserves the right to refuse payment on invoices for work that completed sixty (60) days prior to the invoice receipt.

Invoices must be addressed or emailed to Human Resources at WTA. WTA will not be responsible for late payments due to incorrect routing on the part of the vendor.

### 5. B Contract Modifications & Change Request

No alterations or variation of any of the terms, conditions, prices, quantities, or specifications of the Request for Proposal or any contract shall be effective without prior written endorsement of the WTA's General Manager and execution by both parties of a written amendment.

Either party may initiate a Change Request to the other in writing. Any request by Contractor shall include a detailed statement of work, level of effort by job description (hours), and job descriptions.

After receipt of any Change Request from WTA, Contractor shall submit a detailed price schedule proposal for the additional work to be performed, if required, and notification of modifications of other provisions of the Contract which may be required as a result of the change. Failure to agree to any adjustment shall be a dispute concerning a question of fact within the meaning of the clause as provided in Appendix A, however, nothing in this clause shall excuse the Contractor from proceeding with the Contract Work as changed.

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<sup>5</sup> RCW 19.52.020

WTA reserves the right to add or delete items to the Contract Work, as determined to be in its best interest. Such additions or deletions will be by mutual agreement, will be at prices consistent with the original proposal, and will be evidenced by issuance of a written and executed contract Amendment issued by WTA. Changes for a significant increase or decrease in size or scope of the Contract will not be allowed.

## 5. C Insurance Requirements

Contractor and subcontractors will not begin Contract Work until proof of insurance has been received and approved by the WTA. Insurers must be licensed to conduct business in the State of Washington (or issued as a surplus line by a Washington Surplus lines broker) and approved by the State Insurance Commissioner<sup>6</sup>. Insurers must have a minimum rating of A- and a financial rating of Class VII or higher in the most recently published edition of the A.M. Best's Key Rating Guide. Subcontractors must furnish the same insurance requirements listed below prior to starting Contract Work.

Approval of the insurance by WTA will not relieve or decrease the liability of the Contractor for any damages arising from Contractor's or its subcontractors' performance of the work. Contractor's failure to fully comply with insurance requirements shall be considered a material breach and cause for immediate contract. Contractor shall bear all damage costs sustained for failure to maintain any of the required insurance or to provide notification that it cannot.

Coverage will include claims for damages arising from Contractor's performance for:

- Bodily injury/death
- Personal injury
- Property Damage, including Premise and Operations, Fire damage and medical expense
- Independent Contractors coverage
- Protective Liability
- Completed Operations and Products.

The Contractor and subcontractors must procure the following minimum insurance:

1. Commercial General Liability in the amount of \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 per project aggregate.
2. Umbrella or Excess Liability in the amount of \$1,000,000 per occurrence.
3. Professional Liability in the amount of \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

Coverage must be maintained through the life of the Contract plus one (1) year.

Contractor and subcontractors must furnish the following endorsements separate of the Certificate of Liability:

- Additional Insured Endorsement naming "WTA Agents & Employee's" for Ongoing Operations. Endorsement should be on Accord© form CG20100704 or equivalent.

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<sup>6</sup> RCW 48

- Additional Insured Endorsement naming “WTA Agents & Employee’s” for Completed Operations. Endorsement should be on Accord© form CG20370704 or equivalent.
- Waiver of Subrogation naming “WTA Agents & Employee’s”. Endorsement should be on Accord© form CG24041093 or equivalent.
- Cancellation Endorsement providing thirty (30) days advance written notice to be received by WTA.

Contractor and subcontractors must maintain during the life of the Contract Workers Compensation Insurance. If the Contractor is not eligible for Workers Compensation Insurance it will indemnify and hold WTA harmless for any claims resulting from Contractor's actions.

These insurance requirements do not limit the Contractor’s liability for damages resulting from performance.

#### **5. D Subcontractors**

Contractor shall perform at least 90% of the work with its own organization.

All subcontractors must be pre-approved by WTA before they begin work. WTA reserves the right to investigate subcontractor responsibility prior to confirming award, if subcontractors are known. WTA will not approve change orders to the proposal or final contract price for replacing rejected subcontractors.

Prime contractors are required to provide a copy of the sub-contract or purchase order to WTA. Any subcontract will contain the same language as required in Appendix A.

Before the subcontractor starts, shall submit the following documents:

- Insurance requirements listed in Part 5. C or furnish proof of inclusion of the Prime Contractors insurance
- Provide proof that the firm/individuals are properly licensed, certified, and/or bonded to perform the contracted scope where applicable

Contractor will be jointly and severally, and vicariously liable to WTA for any work performed by its subcontractors, and responsible for the work of, including, but not limited to the adequacy, timeliness, efficiency, and sufficiency, its subcontractors. All subcontractors will have sufficient knowledge, skill, and experience to perform the work contracted to them.

WTA will not be held responsible for the contractual relationship between subcontractors and Contractor. Contractor will maintain and monitor all subcontractor performance, payment, project delivery requirements, and relationships as they pertain to the Prime’s ability to successfully complete a project.

#### **5. E Economic Price Adjustments**

Beginning on the contract anniversary date in 2020, WTA may consider a rate adjustment to the per year rate of the proposed fee, if requested by the Contractor in writing. Rates are adjusted using the following index calculated over-the-year:

- The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W); Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA, not seasonally adjusted, 1982-1984=100 reference base, Services.

Rounding of the monthly charge would be permitted. Rates will not be adjusted more than 10% above or below the original contracted amount.

WTA, in its sole discretion, will decide whether to approve or deny any adjustment request within thirty (30) days of receipt. If approved, a rate increase shall take effect the first of the month after increase approval.

To illustrate:

The cost per year proposed is \$24,000. Using the above CPI for August 2017 and August 2018\*.

CPI for Current Period	239.630
Less CPI for Previous Period	222.578
Equals index point change	17.052
Divided by Previous Period CPI	222.578
Equals	0.077
Result multiplied by 100	0.077 x 100
Equals percent change	7.7

\*CPI numbers used are for illustrative purposes and should not be construed as binding on either the Proposer or WTA

The adjustment will be based on the 7.7% change.

The adjustment of 7.7% would then be calculated:  $\$24,000 \times 7.7\% = \$1,848$ . The cost per year would then be increased to \$25,848, rounded to \$25,850.

Should the referenced CPI-W index be discontinued, the index for All Items will be used.

## **5. F Limitations of Liability**

WTA is unable to agree to any limitation of liability in the event of a claim or issued judgment through the performance of a contract. This is considered a gift of public funds, and is unenforceable by the Washington State Constitution<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>7</sup> Article VIII, Section 7, "Credit not to be Loaned"

## Part 6 – Public Disclosure Law

WTA complies with RCW Chapter 42.56. All proposals and Contract documents will be disclosed if a Public Disclosure Request (PDR) is submitted, unless a proper exception applies. It is Proposers responsibility to be familiar with RCW Chapter 42.56 and what WTA's confidentiality limitations are.

WTA will not execute non-disclosure agreements.

### **Proposals Marked Confidential:**

If WTA receives any public disclosure request that includes a request for all or a portion of any proposal, WTA is required to comply with this request under RCW Chapter 42.56, subject to any exception that may apply to WTA. Nonetheless, any information provided by Proposer labeled "Confidential" or "Proprietary" but does not, in WTA's opinion, fall into an exception from public disclosure, will be initially withheld and WTA will notify Proposer of the request. WTA will continue to withhold the confidential or proprietary labeled materials for a total of fourteen (14) days after providing notice. Thereafter, WTA shall release the confidential or proprietary materials pursuant to the public records request, subject to any court order or injunction that Proposer may obtain.

The Proposer assumes all costs of any legal actions, and shall reimburse WTA for administrative, expert and costs and attorneys' fees it incurs arising from dealing with bidder's labeling of any portion of the bid as "Confidential" or "Proprietary," including those arising from any legal action commenced by bidder. Submission of a bid is agreement with this section.

### **Public Records Application to Documents of Vendor**

As a public contract, all records prepared, generated or used by a successful vendor or its agents, employees and subcontractors relating to the Contract and associated work will be subject to being a "Public Record" under RCW Chapter 42.56. Proposer, if selected, shall maintain and retain all such records in a manner that is accessible and WTA shall have the right to review and inspect such records upon request, for a term of three (3) years following completion of the Contract work. All records subject to a public disclosure request will be provided to a requester. WTA may only refrain from disclosing any record based upon an exemption that is applicable to WTA, and will not refrain from disclosing any record under an exemption that may be personal to the Proposer. Proposer will need to seek judicial approval to prevent such disclosure, at its expense. Proposer, if selected, shall insert this provision in all contracts with subcontractors or agents providing services relating to the contract.

## Part 7 – Exhibits and Appendix

### Proposer's Checklist

By submitting a Proposal, Proposers agree to be bound by and adhere to all legal requirements and contract terms and conditions contained in this solicitation document.


WTA WILL NOT NEGOTIATE ANY ASPECT OF THE REQUIRED SERVICE OR ANY CONTRACT TERM OR CONDITION ONCE THE INTENT TO AWARD IS ISSUED. WTA WILL NOT MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS FOR PROPOSERS WHO ARE NOT COMPLETELY FAMILIAR WITH THE SCOPE OR CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS.









The following information, forms and documents contained in this solicitation shall be completed and submitted as the first section of the original bid document. Proposals not adhering to the provided directions may be disqualified as non-responsive.

- ☐ Proposal Form (Exhibit A)
- ☐ References (Exhibit B)
- ☐ Fee Schedule (Exhibit C)
- ☐ Notarized Conflict of Interest Certification (Exhibit D)
- ☐ Debarment, Compliance, Conflict of Interest (Exhibit E)
- ☐ Compliance with Wage Statutes (Exhibit F)
- ☐ A Submission Package (Part 3E)

Proposers are advised that the following will be incorporated into the final contract:

- Request for Proposal including Appendices
- Issued Addenda (if applicable)
- Contractor Pricing & Submissions including completed Exhibits
- Executed Contract
- Purchase Orders

The below exhibits and appendices are embedded into the RFP as indicated with this symbol: . Proposers are responsible for ensuring they can access them.

<b>Exhibit A</b> Proposal Confirmation & Cover Sheet		<b>Exhibit G</b> Request for Exceptions, Deviations, Substitutions	
<b>Exhibit B</b> Vendor Info & References			
<b>Exhibit C</b> Fee Schedule			
<b>Exhibit D</b> Conflict of Interest Certification		<b>Appendix A</b> Contract Terms & Conditions	
<b>Exhibit E</b> Debarment and Compliance Statement		<b>Appendix B</b> Sample Contract	
<b>Exhibit F</b> Compliance with Wage Statutes	