

Service Period:

April 30, 2021 through December 1, 2021. With Board policy and budget approval, Whatcom Transportation Authority (WTA) is planning on issuing a formal solicitation for a separate contract in Quarter 1, 2022.

Background:

WTA is looking to develop a more robust federal legislative advocacy program to develop, advance, and advocate for its federal legislative and regulatory interests. WTA is a member of various transit related trade associations, such as Washington State Transit Association, Community Transportation Association of America, and The Bus Coalition. With the Administration and Congressional make-up changing and traditional legislative rules, frameworks, and priorities shifting (e.g. return of earmarks, significance of climate, social equity, environmental justice, reauthorizations, etc.), WTA has realized it needs a more robust presence in the nation's capital to better position itself going forward. WTA intends for this short-term contract to help WTA begin its positioning to develop a more formal legislative advocacy program in 2022.

Anticipated Services:

The selected Consultant will help WTA develop its federal strategic priorities and provide the foundation for a federal legislative/executive agency government relations program. Additionally, the Consultant will assist WTA by advocating on federal legislative issues and providing insight on funding opportunities, such as infrastructure packages, FAST Act reauthorization, earmarks, relevant appropriations, and various transit related grants. Services shall include, by way of example, the following:

- Help WTA develop federal priorities and a WTA federal legislative/agency strategy;
- Help WTA develop an action plan to implement its strategies, along with measurable, attainable goals;
- Advise WTA on federal grant opportunities, including forwarding grant emails, Federal Register updates, etc. and relaying advice regarding those grant opportunities;
- Monitor applicable and relevant transit related federal legislative and agency regulatory issues that may affect WTA's strategic priorities;
- Advise on key legislative and executive branch/agency staff WTA should develop relationships with and provide advice on topics/issues to discuss to ensure good relationships and open lines of communication regarding WTA federal strategic priorities;
- If WTA is able to visit Washington, DC, advise WTA on who WTA officials should meet with and facilitate those introductions;
- Forward relevant trade organization, Congressional, and Executive branch information, such as advocacy emails, events, reports, etc.; and,
- Other related services as agreed to between WTA and Consultant.

At the conclusion of the agreement, the Consultant will provide a summary of accomplishments related to the action plan, strategies and goals. The Consultant will also assist WTA in its drafting of a more formal federal legislative/executive program for 2022.

Response:

Submissions must be received by April 15, 2021 no later than 12:00 PM PST. Electronically submit a firm resume, statement of qualifications, and price estimate to procurement@ridewta.com. Hard copy responses will not be accepted.

Selection:

WTA will review the resumes and statement of qualifications for legislative and regulatory advocacy experience, transit related experience, and familiarity with Washington state transportation and transit needs, particularly as to bus transit needs. The ideal candidate/firm will have:

- Substantial (minimum of 8 years) federal legislative advocacy experience working with legislators, staff, and executive agency personnel;
- Demonstrate understanding of the federal budget and reauthorization legislative processes;
- A strong comprehension of transit needs, including policy and budgetary needs, focused on bus transit; and,
- Knowledge and experience working with the Washington State congressional delegation.

Once the most qualified firm, in WTA's opinion and sole discretion, has been identified based on responses, WTA will interview the selected firms telephonically or virtually and select the best and most qualified firm. Upon selection, WTA will enter into price negotiations.

Questions:

Please direct questions to procurement@ridewta.com.

Terms and Conditions:

The terms & conditions that govern this contract can be found at WTA's website: <http://www.ridewta.com/business/doing-business/procurement> or by requesting a copy from the Procurement office at procurement@ridewta.com