



Release Date: September 10, 2021

## **Public Notice**

### **Request for Proposals (RFP) for**

### **YARTS Transit Service Operator, Bus Maintenance, and Bus Fuel Provider**

Notice is hereby given that the Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) has released project number 20210910YARTS – YARTS Transit Service Operator, Bus Maintenance, and Bus Fuel Provider.

YARTS is seeking proposals from a qualified contractor to provide supervision, technical, personnel and operating services, transit vehicles, vehicle maintenance, and fuel, necessary for the daily operation of YARTS. The primary goal of YARTS acquiring such services is to provide the region with the advantages of quality transit services that offer an alternative to driving in the Yosemite region.

The RFP can be obtained by visiting <https://yarts.com/yarts-business-opportunities/> or at <https://www.mcagov.org/bids.aspx>.

YARTS is not liable for any costs incurred by Proposers in responding to this RFP. Proposers are hereby notified that Proposals become public record. Proposers are to clearly identify any information that is confidential and/or proprietary and submit a redacted copy of their proposal with the confidential and/or proprietary information. In the event of a Public Records Act or Freedom of Information Act request, YARTS will use the redacted copy submitted by the Proposer in response and the failure to provide a redacted copy may result in the disclosure of a Proposer's entire response. YARTS is not responsible or liable for the disclosure of any information that is not clearly labeled as confidential and/or proprietary and provided in redacted form.

On September 28, 2021, Proposers will be allowed access to visit Yosemite National Park to observe in-park bus stops. Interested attendees/potential proposers must RSVP via email to [alicia.choa-jones@mcagov.org](mailto:alicia.choa-jones@mcagov.org) by 12:00 p.m. September 23, 2021. See Section 1.5 of the RFP.

A virtual pre-proposal meeting will be held on September 29, 2021, starting at 1:30 p.m. PDT. Interested attendees are to RSVP via email to [alicia.choa-jones@mcagov.org](mailto:alicia.choa-jones@mcagov.org) by 12:00 p.m. September 23, 2021, to receive the virtual link. See Section 1.5 of the RFP.

The deadline to ask questions via email to [alicia.choa-jones@mcagov.org](mailto:alicia.choa-jones@mcagov.org) is October 22, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. The proposal submission deadline is December 10, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. and shall be delivered to: Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System C/O Merced County Association of Governments Attn: Alicia Ochoa-Jones, Procurement Manager, 369 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced, CA 95340.

Inquiries and communications from Proposers shall be submitted in writing to Alicia Ochoa-Jones, Procurement Manager, via email at [alicia.ochoa-jones@mcagov.org](mailto:alicia.ochoa-jones@mcagov.org). Except as set forth herein, there shall be no other communication with any other YARTS or MCAG employees or consultants with respect to the proposal documents or project.

The following Special Program(s) are applicable to this RFP.

**Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program:** This solicitation and resultant Agreement is financed in whole or in part with federal funds and therefore subject to Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 26 (49 CFR 26) entitled "Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Department of Transportation Financial Assistance Programs." In compliance with 49 CFR 26, Caltrans set an overall annual DBE goal comprising both race neutral and race conscious elements. To ensure equal participation for DBE groups specified in 49 CFR 26.5, Caltrans specifies a contract goal for DBE participation. The required goal for DBE participation in this solicitation is two percent (2%).

To ensure applicable participation of the specified DBEs as defined in 49 CFR 26.5, this solicitation's goal applies to all certified DBEs. Only certified DBE participation will count toward the Agreement goal for this solicitation. DBE participation will count towards Caltrans' federally mandated overall annual DBE goal. In order to ascertain whether its overall annual DBE goal is being achieved, Caltrans tracks DBE participation on all federal-aid contracts.

It is the Bidder's/Proposer's responsibility to verify that the DBE firm is certified as a DBE by the specified bid submittal due date and time. For a list of DBEs certified by the California United Certification Program (CUCP), go to: [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/find\\_certified.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/find_certified.htm)

Proposer shall complete and submit Bidder/Proposer *Disadvantaged Business Enterprise DBE Information ADM-0227F* and/or Bidder/Proposer *Disadvantaged Business Enterprise DBE Good Faith Efforts Documentation ADM-0312* for detailed information and the required forms. Required forms will be made a part of the Agreement. Failure to meet the DBE goal or Good Faith Effort requirements and provide required DBE participation may result a bid/proposal being rejected as non-responsive.

The requirement to advertise for the purpose of identifying potential DBEs is waived.