



Request for Proposals (RFP)

Solar-Powered E-Paper Passenger Information Displays

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| Solicitation | 6/17/2026 |
| Submissions Due | 7/10/2026 |

1. INTRODUCTION

The Crawford Area Transportation Authority (CATA) is seeking proposals from qualified vendors for the furnishing, installation, configuration, integration, testing, training, warranty support, and ongoing maintenance of solar-powered e-paper passenger information displays at designated bus stop locations.

CATA intends to deploy at least four (4) passenger information displays at selected high-ridership stops within its service area, with the intent to expand to more locations if successful. The displays shall provide real-time bus arrival information and service alerts and shall be accessible to all riders, including individuals with visual impairments.

The selected vendor shall provide a complete turnkey solution.

2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this project are:

- Improve customer access to real-time transit information.
- Enhance rider experience and confidence in transit service.
- Improve accessibility for riders with disabilities.
- Deploy low-maintenance, energy-efficient passenger information technology.
- Utilize solar-powered technology to minimize utility and infrastructure requirements.

- Establish a scalable platform capable of future expansion.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

The selected vendor shall provide all labor, materials, equipment, software, services, permits, and documentation necessary to complete the project.

Services shall include:

- Equipment procurement.
- Site assessment.
- Installation.
- System integration.
- Testing and commissioning.
- Staff training.
- Warranty support.
- Technical support and maintenance.

4. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Display Technology

The proposed solution shall:

- Utilize e-paper or electronic ink display technology or approved equivalent solution that meets project objectives
- Be designed specifically for outdoor transit passenger information applications.
- Be readable in direct sunlight without degradation of visibility.
- Operate continuously under typical Pennsylvania weather conditions.
- Automatically refresh displayed information as transit data changes.
- Display information during nighttime hours through integrated illumination or equivalent means.

4.2 Display Content

The display shall support:

- Real-time bus arrival predictions.
- Scheduled arrival information.
- Route identification.
- Service alerts.
- Emergency messages.
- Agency announcements.

CATA reserves the right to modify displayed content after deployment.

4.3 Solar Power System

The proposed solution shall:

- Operate using integrated solar power.
- Include battery backup sufficient for periods of low sunlight.
- Minimize dependence on utility power.
- Include monitoring of battery and power system health.

Vendor shall specify:

- Solar panel specifications.
- Battery specifications.
- Expected operating duration without sunlight.
- Expected equipment lifespan.

4.4 Accessibility Requirements

The solution shall comply with all applicable requirements of:

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
- Applicable accessibility standards

The display shall include:

- A tactile push-button or equivalent accessible activation device.
- Audible announcement capability.
- Audio playback of real-time arrival information.
- Audio playback of service alerts when applicable.
- Clearly identifiable accessibility controls.

Vendor shall describe how the proposed solution supports riders with visual impairments.

4.5 Environmental Requirements

Equipment shall be capable of operating in:

- Rain
- Snow
- Ice
- High humidity
- Direct sunlight
- Wind
- Temperatures commonly experienced in Pennsylvania

Equipment shall be resistant to:

- Vandalism
- UV degradation
- Corrosion

Vendor shall provide applicable environmental ratings.

5. SYSTEM INTEGRATION REQUIREMENTS

The proposed system shall integrate with CATA's existing transit technology environment.

CATA currently utilizes:

- Avail Technologies CAD/AVL System

Vendor shall describe:

- Existing integrations with Avail systems.
- Required interfaces.
- Data exchange methods.
- GTFS support.
- GTFS-Realtime support.
- API requirements.
- Cloud-hosted or locally hosted components.

Preference may be given to solutions with demonstrated transit agency deployments utilizing Avail Technologies systems.

6. INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS

Vendor shall provide:

- Site evaluation.
- Installation plans.
- Pole-mounted and/or shelter-mounted installation options.
- All mounting hardware.
- Equipment commissioning.
- Functional testing.

Vendor shall identify:

- Structural requirements.
- Solar exposure requirements.
- Clearance requirements.
- Any agency responsibilities necessary for installation.

7. TRAINING

Vendor shall provide training for Agency personnel covering:

- System administration.
- Content management.
- Troubleshooting.
- Reporting functions.
- Routine maintenance.

Training materials shall become the property of CATA.

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Vendor shall provide:

- Minimum one-year warranty.
- Description of available extended warranties.
- Technical support procedures.
- Remote monitoring capabilities.
- Response times for service requests.

Vendor shall identify:

- Typical repair timelines.
- Availability of replacement parts.
- Software update procedures.

9. VENDOR QUALIFICATIONS

Proposers shall provide:

- Company background.
- Years in business.
- Relevant transit industry experience.
- Similar completed installations.
- References for at least three comparable projects.

Agency reserves the right to contact references.

10. PROPOSAL CONTENTS

Proposals shall include:

A. Executive Summary

B. Technical Proposal

C. Project Schedule

D. Vendor Qualifications

E. Warranty and Support Information

F. Cost Proposal

Cost proposal shall separately identify:

- Equipment costs.
- Installation costs.
- Integration costs.
- Training costs.
- Software licensing costs.
- Annual maintenance costs.
- Optional services.

The proposer shall clearly identify any system functionality that depends upon an ongoing subscription or hosted service. Any loss of functionality resulting from non-renewal of subscription services shall be specifically identified.

11. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals may be evaluated using the following criteria:

| Evaluation Category | Weight |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Technical Compliance | 25% |
| Vendor Experience | 20% |
| Integration Capabilities | 25% |
| Warranty and Support | 10% |
| Project Schedule | 5% |
| Cost | 15% |

CATA reserves the right to modify evaluation criteria as permitted by applicable procurement regulations.

12. PROCUREMENT TERMS

12.1 Rights of the Authority

CATA reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all proposals.
- Waive informalities and irregularities.
- Request additional information.
- Conduct interviews or demonstrations.
- Negotiate with one or more proposers.
- Award in whole or in part.

Issuance of this RFP does not obligate CATA to award a contract.

12.2 Option Holders

CATA will make this contract available to select Pennsylvania Public Transportation Agencies listed in this document as “Option holders”. Any and all option holders may elect to negotiate with the awarded vendor at their own discretion. CATA makes no guarantee that any option holder will proceed with negotiating a contract for products and services awarded within this proposal process.

CATA identifies the following PA Public Transportation providers as “option holders” for the sake of this contracting opportunity. Should an identified option holder seek to execute a contract with the selected vendor, the option holder will do so at their own discretion. CATA makes no provision to support option holders within this contracting opportunity and vendor understands that no option holder is required to proceed with contract negotiations with the vendor unless the option holder identifies that the awarded vendor solution will meet their individual needs.

Option holders:

- Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority (EMTA)
- Area Transportation Authority (ATA)
- Butler Transit Authority (BTA)
- New Castle Area Transit Authority (NCATA)
- Westmorland Transit Authority
- Endless Mountains Transportation Authority (BeST Transit)
- Transit Authority of Warren County

13. SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Proposals shall be submitted no later than 4:00 PM EDT on Friday, July 10, 2026, via email in PDF or equivalent format to chart@catabus.org. There will be no period for submitting questions or issuing addenda.

APPENDIX A

REQUIRED CERTIFICATIONS AND PROPOSER FORMS

The following certifications and forms shall be submitted with the proposal. Failure to provide required certifications may result in the proposal being deemed non-responsive.

A.1 Buy America Certification

If this project utilizes Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding or funding subject to Buy America requirements, proposers shall submit a completed Buy America Certification in accordance with 49 CFR Part 661.

The proposer shall certify either:

- Compliance with Buy America requirements

OR

- Non-Compliance with Buy America requirements

CATA reserves the right to request supporting documentation.

A.2 Non-Collusion Affidavit

Proposer shall certify that:

- The proposal was developed independently.
- No agreement exists with any competitor to restrict competition.
- No attempt has been made to influence another proposer's pricing or proposal.

A.3 Debarment and Suspension Certification

Proposer shall certify that neither the proposer nor any principal is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in federally funded transactions.

A.4 Lobbying Certification

If federal funds are involved, proposer shall certify compliance with federal lobbying restrictions and disclosure requirements.

A.5 Contractor Responsibility Certification

Proposer shall certify:

- It is authorized to conduct business within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- It possesses all licenses required to perform the work.
- It has not been convicted of offenses that would disqualify it from public contracts.
- It has the financial capability to complete the project.

A.6 Insurance Certification

Proposer shall provide evidence of its ability to obtain and maintain insurance coverage meeting the requirements of Appendix B.

A.7 References

Proposer shall provide at least three references for projects of similar scope completed within the past five years.

Reference information shall include:

- Agency name
- Contact person
- Telephone number
- Email address
- Project description
- Installation date

A.8 Litigation Disclosure

Proposer shall disclose any litigation, arbitration, contract disputes, defaults, or terminations involving public contracts during the previous five years.

APPENDIX B

FEDERAL AND STATE CONTRACT CLAUSES

B.1 NO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OBLIGATION TO THIRD PARTIES

The Agency and Contractor acknowledge and agree that, notwithstanding any concurrence by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) or the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) in or approval of the solicitation or award of the underlying contract, absent the express written consent of the Federal Government, the Federal Government is not a party to this contract and shall not be subject to any obligations or liabilities to the Agency, Contractor, or any other party.

B.2 PROGRAM FRAUD AND FALSE OR FRAUDULENT STATEMENTS

Contractor acknowledges that the provisions of the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986, as amended, 31 U.S.C. §§ 3801–3812, and U.S. DOT regulations, 49 CFR Part 31, apply to actions pertaining to this project.

Contractor certifies that all statements and representations made in connection with this contract are true and accurate.

B.3 ACCESS TO RECORDS AND REPORTS

The Contractor shall maintain all books, records, accounts, and reports related to this contract and shall make them available for inspection and audit by the Agency, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Federal Transit Administration, Comptroller General of the United States, and their authorized representatives.

Records shall be retained for a minimum of three (3) years after final payment or project closeout, whichever is later.

B.4 TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE

The Agency may terminate this contract, in whole or in part, at any time when it is in the Agency's best interest.

The Contractor shall be compensated for work satisfactorily completed through the effective date of termination.

B.5 TERMINATION FOR DEFAULT

If the Contractor fails to perform in accordance with the terms of this contract, the Agency may terminate the contract for default.

The Agency reserves all rights and remedies available under law and contract.

B.6 CIVIL RIGHTS

The Contractor shall comply with all applicable civil rights laws and regulations including:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
- Age Discrimination Act of 1975

Contractor shall not discriminate against any employee, applicant, or beneficiary.

B.7 DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE)

The Contractor shall comply with 49 CFR Part 26 and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this contract.

If a DBE goal is established for this procurement, Contractor shall make good faith efforts to achieve such goal.

B.8 DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION

The Contractor certifies that it and its principals are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in federally assisted transactions.

Contractor shall comply with 2 CFR Part 180 and 2 CFR Part 1200.

B.9 BUY AMERICA

To the extent required by federal funding conditions, the Contractor shall comply with Buy America requirements contained in 49 U.S.C. § 5323(j) and 49 CFR Part 661.

The Contractor shall provide all required certifications and supporting documentation demonstrating compliance.

B.10 LOBBYING RESTRICTIONS

Contractor shall comply with 31 U.S.C. § 1352 and applicable regulations regarding lobbying restrictions and disclosure requirements.

Where required, Contractor shall submit all certifications and disclosure forms.

B.11 ENERGY CONSERVATION

Contractor shall comply with mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency contained in the applicable State Energy Conservation Plan.

B.12 CLEAN AIR AND CLEAN WATER

Contractor shall comply with all applicable standards, orders, and regulations issued pursuant to:

- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act

This clause shall apply where required by federal regulations and funding conditions.

B.13 ADA ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All equipment, software, interfaces, audio systems, controls, and passenger information systems furnished under this contract shall comply with applicable ADA accessibility requirements.

The Contractor shall provide an accessible means for visually impaired riders to obtain real-time arrival information through audible announcements or equivalent technology.

B.14 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Contractor shall comply with Executive Order 11246 and all applicable equal employment opportunity requirements.

Contractor shall not discriminate in employment practices on the basis of any protected status.

B.15 INCORPORATION OF FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION TERMS

All contractual provisions required by the U.S. Department of Transportation and Federal Transit Administration, as set forth in the current FTA Master Agreement and applicable federal regulations, are hereby incorporated by reference.

Anything to the contrary herein notwithstanding, all FTA-mandated terms shall be deemed to control in the event of a conflict.

B.16 PENNSYLVANIA PREVAILING WAGE ACT

If applicable to the installation work performed under this contract, Contractor shall comply with the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act, 43 P.S. §§ 165-1 through 165-17.

Contractor shall maintain certified payroll records and furnish such records upon request.

B.17 COMPLIANCE WITH PENNSYLVANIA RIGHT-TO-KNOW LAW

Contractor acknowledges that records relating to this contract may be subject to disclosure pursuant to Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know Law.

Contractor shall clearly identify any information it believes qualifies for exemption from disclosure.

B.18 INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Prior to commencing work, Contractor shall maintain insurance coverage including:

Commercial General Liability:

- \$1,000,000 per occurrence
- \$2,000,000 aggregate

Automobile Liability:

- \$1,000,000 combined single limit

Workers' Compensation:

- Statutory limits

Employer's Liability:

- \$500,000 minimum

Proof of insurance shall be provided prior to contract execution.

B.19 INDEMNIFICATION

Contractor shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Agency, its officers, employees, and representatives from claims, damages, losses, and expenses arising from Contractor's performance of the work.

B.20 GOVERNING LAW

This contract shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Venue for any dispute shall lie in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.