



1. Date: 4/22/16 2. Requesting Department: ARA 3. Solicitation Number: _____

4. Solicitation Name: Centralized APP Dispatch 5. Estimated Dollar Amount: \$ 0.00

6. Description of Solicitation (attach specifications/supporting documents):

RFQ for the provision of prequalifying apps to dispatch taxis and limos

PLEASE INDICATE WHETHER A PREVIOUS CONTRACT EXISTED FOR THIS SOLICITATION.

- A. Previous contract (if any): Yes No B. Previous contract number: _____
- C. Goal on last contract _____ D. Was goal met? Yes No
- E. If goal was not met, what percentage did the vendor achieve? _____ %
- F. Why wasn't goal achieved?

SELECT ONE TYPE OF GOAL MODIFICATION REQUEST FROM THE FOUR OPTIONS BELOW.

1. WAIVER

- A. I am requesting a waiver of the MWSBE Goal: Yes No
- B. Reason for waiver: (Check one)
- A public or administrative emergency exists which requires the goods or services to be provided with unusual immediacy
 - If goods and services are specialized, technical, or unique nature as to require the City department to select its contractor without application of MWSBE provisions (such as contracts for expert witnesses, certain financial advisors or technical consultants)
 - MWSBE provisions impose an unwarranted economic burden or risk on the City or unduly delay acquisition of the goods or services, or is not in the best interest of the City; or
 - Level of MWSBE availability would produce minimal MWSBE participation.
 - Other: No city funds being expended.
- C. Detailed explanation for Waiver Reason:

please see attached memo

2. COOPERATIVE OR INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT

- A. Is this a Cooperative/Inter-Local agreement? Yes No
- B. If yes, please specify the name of the agreement: _____
- C. Did the Department explore opportunities for using certified firms? Yes No
- D. Please explain how the department explored opportunities for using certified firms:
- E. Please explain why the Department did not explore opportunities for using certified firms:



Goal Modification Request Form

3. REDUCED GOAL (to be completed by the department prior to advertisement)

A. I am requesting a MWSBE contract-specific goal below the following city wide goals:
Construction (34%) Professional Services (24%) Purchasing (11%)

Yes No If yes, please complete a Contract-Specific Goal Request Form and submit with this form.

4. GOAL REVISION AFTER ADVERTISEMENT

A. I am requesting a revision of the MWSBE Goal that has already been advertised: Yes No

B. Original goal: _____ C. Proposed new goal: _____ D. Advertisement date: _____

E. Will the project be re-advertised? Yes No F. Estimated dollar amount: \$ _____

G. Detailed reason for request: _____

Concurrence:


Requesting Department Initiator 4/22/16
Date


Department Director or Designee 4/22/16
Date

FOR OBO OFFICE USE ONLY:

FOR OBO OFFICE USE ONLY:			
APPROVED:			
OBO Assistant Director or Designee	Date	OBO Reason	Tracking #
DENIED:			
OBO Assistant Director or Designee	Date	OBO Reason	Tracking #

Centralized App-Based Dispatch Waiver Request

In February 2017 the City of Houston will be hosting Super Bowl LI, which will bring thousands of visitors from around the country to our city. As we have seen from experience, events of this magnitude significantly strain the City's transportation network. In order to ensure that Houston's vehicle-for-hire fleet can adequately accommodate the dramatic increase in demand, ARA has been identifying ways to help the vehicle-for-hire industry function more efficiently and provide a higher level of customer service.

Currently only two taxicab companies provide their drivers access to dispatch services. Without access to dispatch services, drivers are forced to wait several hours for a trip at the airports. These drivers struggle to make a living because the supply of vehicles at the airports far outstrips current demand. Customers, on the other hand, have a difficult time requesting a vehicle-for-hire quickly because the taxicab and limousine industries are incredibly fragmented. A centralized electronic dispatch service that unites all permitted taxicabs and limousines will benefit the industry by providing an alternate source of trips as well as improving the customer experience.

In order to ensure that visitors to Houston for Super Bowl LI have a centralized point of contact for vehicle-for-hire service, ARA is issuing an RFQ for a vendor to provide service to all permitted taxicabs and limousines in the City. The City will require that all taxicabs and limousines affiliate with a selected app, but the City will not directly control or operate the centralized electronic dispatch app platform. Additionally the selected vendor will be responsible for recovering all costs from the passengers, the drivers or the vehicle-for-hire companies. The vendor will not receive any funds from the City.

ARA is requesting an MWBE waiver for this procurement for two reasons. As stated above, no City funds are being expended for this procurement. Because no City funds are being expended, it is impossible to generate a percentage-based MWBE goal for this procurement. Additionally there are no opportunities for divisible work in this RFQ. The City is only requesting that a vendor provide an app-based dispatch platform. Technology companies typically have an existing national infrastructure that runs this type of platform. Vendors that provide service in Houston would simply be utilizing this existing infrastructure which, due to technological reasons, is likely unalterable.

Because the City is not expending any funds as a part of this procurement and because there are no opportunities for divisible work, ARA is requesting that OBO waive the MWBE requirement for this procurement. If you have any further questions, please contact Alex Heim at 832-393-0277.

