



Providence Public School District
797 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903

Addendum No. 4

Attached please find Addendum No. 4 to the Transportation Specifications for the Providence Public School District, which has a Bid opening date of January 27, 2021. Your firm was either in attendance at the pre-Bid conference or has previously received specifications. This Addendum is seven (7) pages (including this cover page).

Please acknowledge your receipt of this Addendum by signing this cover memo in the space provided below and submitting this acknowledgement with your Bid document on January 27, 2021.

We look forward to your participation in this contracting opportunity.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

Addendum No. 4 was received:

PRINT DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

PRINT TITLE: _____

PRINT COMPANY: _____

**Providence Public School District
797 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903**

**ADDENDUM TO THE SPECIFICATIONS AND BID FORMS FOR STUDENT TRANSPORTATION
BID DUE January 27, 2021**

ADDENDUM No. 4

January 12, 2021

Pursuant to the terms of the Transportation Specifications issued by the Providence Public School District with a Bid opening date of January 27, 2021, this Addendum will clarify or modify certain identified aspects of the Specifications. This Addendum is made a part of the contract and is enforceable under the same terms and conditions as the original Specifications.

Whenever a page number, section or appendix is referred to in the following modifications/clarifications, the page, section or appendix refers to the Transportation Specifications as issued by the Providence Public School District as described above. In locations where paragraph numbers are identified, they are identified utilizing the paragraph symbol (§) and the paragraph number refers to the full paragraphs on the designated page (not carry-over paragraphs from the previous page).

The following addendum is added to the Bid specifications:

The following Contractors and/or individuals representing organizations were present at the Pre-Bid meeting on Tuesday, December 22, 2020:

Contractor

- a. Dattco
- b. Durham School Services/National Express
- c. First Student
- d. Krapf School Bus
- e. Student Transportation of America

Prospective Bidders and others who wish to participate in the Bid opening on January 27, 2021 at 1:00 pm are to contact Brian Lafountain via email (Blafountain@TransportationConsultants.com) of **TAS** and inform him of their interest. Provide your name, Company name, and email address. Contact is to be made prior to 3:00 pm on Tuesday afternoon, January 26th.

The following questions were provided as part of the pre-Bid meeting on December 22, 2020, or were questions provided via email subsequent to the Pre-Bid meeting:

Ques. 46: Page 3, #22—what is the expectation for conducting criminal backgrounds checks, during the hiring process or other?

Ans. 46: The background checks should be conducted during the hiring process.

Ques. 47: Page 7. Para. 2 of the RFP indicates that Bids must be received at 797 Westminster Street in Providence. Page 15, Number 18 says that the bid must be addressed to the City Hall, Providence, Rhode Island 02903. Can you please confirm the destination for the bid submittal.

Ans. 47: The bid submittal should be addressed to the following:
Providence Public School District
Purchasing Department, Suite 206
797 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903-4045

- Ques. 48: Who should the bid bond be made payable to? Question: To whom should the letter of surety be made out?
- Ans. 48: The bid bond should be made payable to the Providence Public School District, and the letter of surety should be addressed to Cheryl McCreight, Director of Operations.
- Ques. 49: Page 7 notes we must include "loss run data (if requested by District)" Is the District requiring we submit loss run data with our bid or if requested? If so, for what time period? Should such reports be limited to the state of Rhode Island?
- Ans. 49: The District is not requiring the submission of loss run data with the bid. Rather, the District may request loss run data subsequent to the bid submission.
- Ques. 50: Pgs. 12 & 13 : "Although the Bidder is required to submit their pricing information utilizing the excel input form provided by the District on a designated flash drive, the printed copy of the pricing pages signed and submitted by the Bidder will be the official price submission. Typically, TAS would provide flash drivers at the pre-bid. Are bidders to provide and use their own flash drive? Or are bidders going to be sent a designated flash drive?
- Ans. 50: Since the Pre-Bid was virtual, and TAS was not able to distribute flash drives, the Bidders should provide and use their own flash drive to provide the Pricing Pages, as well as the overall electronic copy of the comprehensive bid.
- Ques. 51: Page 12 indicates that the District reserves the right to modify the length of the school year, including increasing or decreasing the number of days of service. If a decrease the number of days of service were to occur, will the District compensate the vendor to still meet its 180-operational-days-Commitment (per year) as explained on page 19, d) Would the district consider a daily cost for any day not operating under the 180 day threshold.
- Ans. 51: The District will not compensate the contractor for services that were not delivered. The 180 days referred to on Page 18, Item d) is a number utilized for bid purposes only, and is not a commitment for the number of days to be paid during the year. The District will not consider a daily cost for any days that buses were not operating on behalf of the District.
- Ques. 52: Page 13 notes bidders must submit "evidence demonstrating an ability to provide school transportation, including, if applicable, a list of any and all school districts which they have served during the past three years both inside and outside the State of Rhode Island, and a summary of their experience over the last three years of successfully operating a complex school transportation program equal or greater in size than the Providence Public Schools program". First Student contracts with over 1,100 school districts across the United States and Canada; to provide a comprehensive list of all customers we have provided transportation services to in the past three (3) years would be difficult to compile and produce hundreds upon hundreds of pages. With this in mind, will the District accept a sampling of customers we provide student transportation services to?
- Ans. 52: The District will accept a sampling of First Student school district customers equal or greater in size than the Providence Public Schools program.
- Ques. 53: Page 13. Number 8. There would be significant financial impact to the successful bidder if RIDE took over in- district transportation and decided to use a different vendor. Would the district consider amending this clause and provide additional protections to the vendor in lieu of its investment?
- Ans. 53: No, the District is not willing to amend the clause.
- Ques. 54: Page 16. E) Will the contractor be required to train the monitors employed by the district?
a. Currently the district performs the routing services. Do you wish to include routing experience and routing information provided by the vendor?

- Ans. 54: No, the contractor will not be required to train the monitors employed by the District.
- No, the contractor is not required to provide their routing experience or other information at this time. However, the contractor can provide such information if they believe it enhances their bid submission.
- Ques. 55: Page 16. F) & Page 33. Number 2. There is an apparent discrepancy between the maximum average age of the buses. Page 16 says that 6 years is the maximum age while Page 33 sets the maximum average age at 5.5 years. Please clarify.
- Ans. 55: For clarification purposes, and as stated in the specifications on page 33 Item #2, there shall be no buses used in the performance of this contract over ten (10) years old, and the average age of the buses in use must not exceed 5.5 years (including route and spare buses). Item 20(f) on page 16 should read the average age of the fleet must not exceed 5.5 years of age.
- Ques. 56: Page 19. Program Profile. Vehicle Types listed do not include any type "A", "B" or "Minivans". Will the district need any small vehicles to transport students with special needs, students that live on dead-end streets, or building complexes where a full-size bus cannot get through?
- Ans. 56: At the current time, the District does not utilize smaller vehicles of that nature, nor do they foresee the requirement at the start of the new contract. However, should the District's needs change, the District reserves the right to add vehicle types as they become necessary.
- Ques. 57: Page 21 #30) Would the district agree to provide the successful vendor exclusive rights to all work performed under this contract? If the vendor is unable to provide the necessary service, then the district may seek other alternatives.
- Ans. 57: No, the District is not willing to provide exclusivity of services.
- Ques. 58: Pg. 23 #37 e) The successful Bidder warrants and guarantees "That it will comply with all elements of the City's Minority and Women's Business Enterprise Program requirements. Said Program's details are attached to these specifications and made a part hereof. All forms must be completed and submitted with the Bid." Where are the program's details located? Please clarify what forms are being referenced that must be completed and submitted with the Bid.
- Ans. 58: At this time the District does not require forms related to the Minority and Women's Business Enterprise (MWBE) status, or MWBE participation as part of the solicitation process. Therefore, the requirements related to the MWBE program are not applicable to this Bid solicitation.
- Ques. 59: Page 25. Scope. 'Vendors are invited to review routing schedules for the 2019-2020 school year for information about conditions relative to the fulfillment of the contract'. However, the Base Program Bid on page 40 indicates that contracted services will be based on the 2020-2021 school year. Transportation plans differ significantly between those two school years. Can you clarify? Does the district intent to go back to a 2-tier transportation plan during the duration of this contract?
- Ans. 59: Should circumstances allow, the District's intention is to transition back to the two-tier transportation program that was in place during the 2019-2020 school year.
- Ques. 60: Page 29. 3. Terminal Manager. This section makes the Terminal Manager responsible for contacting parents regarding transportation problems. Page 42, Number 3 also points to a transportation program that minimizes the District's involvement in the day-to-day operation of the program. Can you further elaborate on the specific responsibilities the successful vendor's terminal manager and the Routing team will have as it pertains to communicating with parents, principals and other school officials? How does this differ from the current practice?

Ans. 60: The District expects that the Terminal Manager will have complete authority over the operation of the contractor's buses, and will be responsible for all driver issues and other day to day bus operational issues as they arise. The District's routing team will continue to handle any parent concerns regarding routing and/or bus stop changes. Any route changes or bust stop changes should be requested through the District's routing team.

Ques. 61: Page 31. Number 17. Has the district identified an adequate location to bring students (8 years old and under or special ed) when parents/caregivers are not at their designated stop?

Ans. 61: Historically, these students were transported to the contractor's bus yard, but this location may change in the future, and will be finalized at the start of the contract.

Ques. 62: Page 32. Number 24 indicates that in most cases elementary Providence school buses will have a monitor assigned for all runs. Is the district committed to have 2 bus monitors on wheelchair buses? Will monitors continue to be employed by the Providence Public School Dept for the duration of this contract?

Ans. 62: The District does not provide a commitment to have 2 bus monitors on wheelchair buses.

At this time, the District intends to have the monitors continue to be District employees.

Ques. 63: Page 32 # 25 Will the contractor be responsible for training district employees on First Aid and Epi Pen training?

Ans. 63: Any District provided monitors are provided training by the district.

Ques. 64: Page 33. Vehicles. There is a stipulation that all buses must be car seat and harness ready. Is the intent to equip every seat on every bus with seat belts to secure car seats? If not, can you provide an approximate number of seats per bus that would need to be car seat ready? With regards to providing "harness ready" seats, Is the intent to have all seats on all buses equipped with harness straps (hook-ups)? Will the district accept Integrated car seats on the first 2 rows of each side for a total of 8 per Type C full size bus or throughout for a Type B or smaller

Ans. 64: The requirement is for a minimum of 60 car seats and 400 safety EZ Harness sets. Please see the Question and Answer #14 in Addendum #2 for additional clarity. It is not the intent to have all seats on all buses equipped.

Yes, the District will accept integrated car seats on the first 2 rows of each side for a total of 8 per bus. The overall requirement is for a minimum of 60 integrated car seats as mentioned above.

Ques. 65: Page 33. Vehicles. Requires that "all 71 passenger buses must have a turning radius equivalent to, or shorter than the Thomas TC2000 bus". Thomas has not produced such model. The TC/2000 was manufactured by Blue Bird. This is a Type D (flat nose) bus. Is the district requiring that all full-size buses be Type Ds?

Ans. 65: No, it is not the intent of the District to require that all full-size buses be flat nosed/Type D buses.

Ques. 66: Page 34. Number 6. Can the district provide a specific number of seats per bus that must be retrofit with harnesses/car seat? Would the type of built-in harnesses some of the current vendor's seats have meet this requirement? The mounting/installation of typical car seats will pose a burden on the operations particularly when we consider that car seats left on the buses at the time of State's vehicle inspections would result in the bus failing the inspection.

Ans. 66: Please see the Question and Answers for #64 above for the requirements of harnesses/car seats.

Ques. 67: Page 34. Number 9. There is a requirement to provide digital video and sound recording

equipment that shall include features to allow for 'quick searching by date, time, or event; and the ability to record vehicle information such as speed, turn signals, stop arm signals, braking, etc.' What type of media can be used to provide the information about the speed, turn signal, stop arm, and braking? Would an electronic log/printed report suffice?

Ans. 67: The District would like access to the electronic log / printed report(s) upon request for items such as speed, turn signals, stop arm signals, etc.

Ques. 68: Pg. 35.10 - states, "If vehicles are to be purchased to fulfill this contract, a letter from the sales agent or vehicle distributor as to vehicles(s) descriptions and timely availability must be enclosed with the bid. Documentation as to financial approvals or Company financial resources available to purchase the required vehicles must be enclosed with the bid." Please clarify, besides a manufacturer's letter, what is required as to financial approvals?

Ans. 68: The District requires some type of documented confirmation that potential contractors have secured the financial approvals and/or commitments to purchase the required vehicles. The documentation may be in the form of a financial approval of financing by a bank or financing company, a manufacturer's letter is acceptable if it confirms the purchase and financing etc. The documentation must confirm that contractor has secured the financial resources to purchase the required vehicles.

Ques. 69: Page 35. Number 12. In relation to the 'cleaning or eradication of any infestations or contamination', Does this include vehicle disinfections as a result of pandemics? Would the district consider quarterly exterior bus washing vs monthly to reduce the overall cost.

Ans. 69: Yes, these requirements include disinfections as a result of pandemics.

Yes, the change in the requirement to wash the exterior of the buses on a quarterly basis, rather than a monthly basis, is acceptable to the District.

Ques. 70: Page 35. C. The RFP indicates that adequate parking for District monitors must be provided. Can the District indicate how many monitors and other district employees will be reporting to the vendor's location?

Ans. 70: Currently, the requirement is for approximately 110 District employees parking.

Ques. 71: Page 36. d). Can you provide additional information about the shuttle services describes on paragraph 2 of this clause?

e) Who is the Systems Manager referred to in this section

Ans. 71: The only shuttle services provided are for sports co-op schools transporting athletes to alternative locations.

The Systems Manager referred to is Timothy O'Brien, the Providence Public Schools Transportation Manager.

Ques. 72: Page 37, D) Will the district consider a guarantee of 180 days paid to the contractor regardless if buses operate.

Ans. 72: No, the District will not provide a guarantee for a number of days paid to the contractor.

Ques. 73: Page 39, f) Who is BPS, typo?

Ans. 73: BPS is a typo, and should read PPS – Providence Public Schools.

Ques. 74: Page 43. Number 6. There are significant challenges with the provisions on this clause.

a. Our labor agreements require at least a 48-hour notice to our workforce about trip assignments.

- b. Local trips outside the regular home-to-school transportation hours may not present too much of a challenge, but a short notice for trips out of state or during times most drivers are performing their regular assignments would be challenging. During sports seasons it is not rare that high schools and middle schools request up to 30 sports buses on a single day during critical times (far more than what a 10%-spare ratio would provide)
- c. The RFP doesn't include any exclusivity provisions for charter work. To the contrary, page 39, Number 30 allows the District to seek transportation services from any other contractors. Would the District consider amending this clause and or discuss optional terms?

Ans. 74: The District is agreeable to amend this clause to provide 48 hours' notice for extracurricular trips. Page 43. Number 6 should read that the District will inform the contractor of any trip at least 48 hours ahead of said trip.

The District is not willing to provide exclusivity for charter work.

Ques. 75: Page 49 Appendix D "Board Policies" Currently listed is Allendale PA's board policies. Will Providence's policies be added.

Ans. 75: The link to Providence Public Schools Board Policies follows:
<https://pesb.ppsd.org/>