



**RFP #2025-01**

**Solano-Napa North Bay Passenger Rail Study**

**Questions & Answers**

**February 19, 2025**

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Summary of Responses to Questions Submitted by February 12, 2025

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1. Thank you for providing this RFP for review and consideration. After reviewing the scope, we have concerns regarding the budget to complete the scope items as written. Our experience with similar work is that there has been a much larger budget allocated. We recently conducted very similar work for another transit agency, and the budget was approximately \$1,000,000. Can you confirm what the budget is for this project or if it may be possible to revisit scope and budget?

- Answer: The estimated budget for this feasibility study is \$200,000. At this time, the STA and its project partners do not have additional resources to increase the budget. However, we are open to receiving proposals that outline what could be accomplished within the proposed budget while maintaining the desired goals and objectives.

It is expected that the consultant will use data from prior rail studies to supplement the consultant's resources. Several rail studies conducted in recent years will inform this study, including the 2003 Napa/Solano Passenger/Freight Rail Study, the 2019 SMART Passenger Rail Service (Novato to Suisun City), the 2024 Vallejo Passenger Rail Study, among others. A complete list of these studies is provided in the RFP. We expect that the scope of work will align with the proposed budget, as the consultant will rely on existing data and findings from these previous studies.

2. The DBE goal of 8% participation is evaluated as 5pts in the selection criteria. Is this inclusive of the 3% DVBE goal, or would that be in addition?

- Answer: The 3% DVBE goal is in addition to the 8% DBE participation goal. Please note that while the DBE goal is required, the DVBE goal is encouraged, though not mandatory.

3. Question: Please describe the level of detail expected for the Task 3 assessment of current rail infrastructure and the detail of track conditions and required upgrades that will be required for this assignment.

- Answer: For Task 3, we are requesting a desktop review of the relevant corridors in Napa. This should include a thorough evaluation of key elements such as railroad rights-of-way and infrastructure, rail serviced facilities, utility crossings, highway operations, transit services

and land use in the cities of Napa and American Canyon adjacent to the potential rail lines. These components are important for assessing the operational capacity and compatibility associated with integrating passenger rail services into the existing rail network in that area.

4. Please describe the level of detail required for Task 4.1 Market Demand Analysis. Will this entail Ridership estimates by year, month, day, trip, station?

- Answer: Consistent with the approach in the 2024 Vallejo Passenger Rail Study, we are envisioning the use of a big data platform (such as Replica or Streetlight) to estimate daily person trips. This will help identify a realistic market demand and then assign a reasonable market share based on travel time and convenience. The consultant will also evaluate recreational travel demand along potential rail lines. The selected consultant will be provided with access to the data used for the 2024 Vallejo Passenger Rail Study, provided by the STA, to support this analysis.

5. Please describe the level of detail required for Task 4.3 Service Plans. Will this entail preliminary schedules or a definition of service levels?

- Answer: For Task 4.3, we are seeking preliminary schedules as the desired level of detail. This will involve an understanding of the proposed service in the State Rail Plan and incorporating this into the schedules that are developed for this task.

6. Please describe the level of detail required for Task 4.4 Infrastructure. Will this entail an identification of individual infrastructure elements, or a more general accounting of the type and number of improvements required?

- Answer: For Task 4.4, we are seeking a high-level accounting of the type and number of improvements needed, along with preliminary planning-level cost estimates for the identified improvements.

7. Are you generally open to receiving proposals with a different technology? Or have you determined “rail” as the go-to solution?

- Answer: This study focuses on evaluating the feasibility of passenger rail between Napa and Vallejo as well as connecting Napa and Vallejo to the State Rail Network through the Solano Rail Hub station in Suisun City. Currently, the focus is exclusively on rail as the potential mode of transportation, and alternative technologies are not being considered.