

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

GWTA-5303-24

Marketing & Public Relations Services for Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority

RFP Circulation Date: May 10, 2024

Proposal Submission Deadline: June 3, 2024 3:00pm EST

Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority, known locally as GWTA, is a growing, vibrant, technologically advanced public transit system seeking proposals from qualified marketing/public relations firms to manage and expand the public outreach and marketing strategy for the GWTA public transportation system. Experience in traditional and non-traditional media advertising, word of mouth advertising, social media, research, & public relations are all helpful. We are seeking an ongoing campaign that incorporates a wide range of marketing strategies that will effectively promote, increase awareness and ridership, and implement branding of GWTA services to key audiences including but not limited to:

- Existing core riders
- Existing occasional riders
- General public
- Potential employees

This contract shall begin July 1st, 2024 and end June 30th, 2027 and will contain an option to extend for up to two (2) one-year periods. The selected firm may be requested to develop, maintain and/or create the following items:

- Develop and Provide public outreach and educational materials and promotional items (in English, Spanish and other as needed), media kits, information packages, advertising media (printed, electronic, animated and other approaches) and other associated items for use internally and externally to include both regular service and also special events
- Develop Customer Service Surveys (Urban and Rural) and implement annual processes for implementation of the process as well as a report and infographic of the responses
- Conduct Annual Ridership Counts and assessment of current transit amenities. Provide a report demonstrating a snapshot of the findings
- Update GWTA website to reflect more current designs and uses for similar service
- Develop and Maintain all graphics for signage, bus shelters, transit equipment, bus stop signs, etc.
- Attend GWTA Board of Directors Meeting at least once per year to present annual plans and proposals
- Develop and implement advertising and marketing strategies to grow GWTA ridership including increased public awareness of the accessibility of services for elderly and disabled
- Annually develop and update GWTA System and Route Maps as well as comprehensive schedules and brochures to better inform the public about the GWTA services
- Design and develop Multi-Ride Passes and programs for use by eligible riders
- Produce graphics and materials associated with the marketing program and strategies
- Develop and implement high quality and economical production options

Requested Information and Proposal Format

Please submit three (3) hard copies and one (1) electronic copy of the proposal **by 3:00 pm on June 3, 2024**. Respondents are encouraged to contact the GWTA Director, Don C. Willis, with any questions or concerns. Final proposal submission is to be received ***no later than 3:00 pm EST on June 3, 2024***. Be mindful of timeliness when submitting at the following address:

Goldsboro-Wayne Transportation Authority
Attn: Don C. Willis
PO Box 227
103 N. Carolina St.
Goldsboro, NC 27533

Email: don.willis@waynegov.com
Phone: 919-736-1374

Proposal Evaluation/Selection Process

Firms should submit unique and creative strategies and/or samples regarding the items listed as part of the scope of work above. The requested work will involve regular communication and coordination with GWTA staff and local government staff members, and other parties when needed. Innovation and creativity leading to increased public awareness is critical to the continued success and growth of the GWTA transit system. The audience for this work will include the riders, the public, potential employees, and community decision makers in a small urban and rural transit environment. A project and production schedule should be included within the proposal. Estimated work hours and project budget shall also be submitted for review. Pricing must be included for each of the three years. Responsive firms must demonstrate compliance with all required federal clauses. Proposals will be reviewed and ranked according to the following criteria:

- 40% Cost Effective Proposals
- 30% Experience and Qualifications of the proposer and the staff dedicated to the project
- 30% Appropriateness, quality, innovation and clarity of the detailed Work Plan
- This contract does not prohibit GWTA from seeking services from other firms for specialized projects or needs. GWTA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive any irregularities in proposals, and to negotiate scope and price with one or more proposers. GWTA staff will present the recommendations of the RFP review panel to the MPO, the GWTA Board of Directors, and Goldsboro City Council and staff. The recommendation will be based upon the review criteria resulting in the firm whose proposal is deemed to be the most responsive and advantageous to GWTA, with cost and other factors considered subject to negotiation and availability of sufficient funding.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. **ACCEPTANCE AND REJECTION**: The GWTA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informality in bids, and unless otherwise specified by the bidder, to accept any item in the bid. If either a unit price or extended price is obviously in error or the other is obviously correct, the incorrect price will be disregarded.

2. **TIME FOR CONSIDERATION**: Unless otherwise indicated on the first page of this document, the offer shall be valid for 45 days from the date of bid opening. Preference may be given to bids allowing not less than 45 days for consideration and acceptance.

3. **TAXES**: No taxes shall be included in any bid prices.

a. **FEDERAL**: Generally, states and political subdivisions are exempt from such taxes, as excise and transportation. Exemption is claimed under Registry No. 56-70-0047K as provided by Chapter 32 of the Internal Revenue Code.

b. **OTHER**: Bid prices are not to include any sales, import, or personal property taxes. To the extent applicable, they are to be invoiced as a separate item(s).

4. **PRICE ADJUSTMENTS**: Any price changes, downward or upward, which might be permitted during the contract period must be general, either by reason of market change or on the part of the bidder to other customers.

a. **NOTIFICATION**: Must be given to the GWTA Purchasing Division, in writing, concerning any proposed price adjustments. Such notification shall be accompanied by copy of manufacturers' official notice or other evidence that the change is general in nature.

b. **DECREASES**: The GWTA shall receive full proportionate benefit immediately at any time during the contract period.

c. **INCREASES**: All prices offered herein shall be firm against any increase for 180 days from effective date of the proposed contract. After this period, a request for increase may be submitted with the GWTA reserving the right to accept or reject the increase, or cancel the contract. Such action by the GWTA shall occur not later than 15 days after receipt and review by the GWTA of a properly documented request for price increase. Any increases accepted shall become effective on a date to be determined by the GWTA which:

1) Shall not be later than 30 days after the expiration of the original 15 days reserved by the GWTA to evaluate the request for increase;

d. **INVOICES**: It is understood and agreed that orders will be shipped at the established contract prices in effect on dates orders are placed. Invoicing at variance with this

provision will subject the contract to cancellation. Applicable North Carolina sales tax shall be invoiced as a separate item.

5. **PAYMENT TERMS:** Payment terms are Net, 30 days after receipt of correct invoice or acceptance of goods, whichever is later. The GWTA and City of Goldsboro is responsible for all payments under the contract.

6. **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION:** The successful bidder will take affirmative action in complying with all Federal and State requirements concerning fair employment and employment of the handicapped, and concerning the treatment of all employees, without discrimination by reason of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or physical handicap.

7. **CONDITION AND PACKAGING:** Unless otherwise indicated in the bid, it is understood and agreed that any item offered or shipped on this bid shall be new and in first class condition, that all containers shall be new and suitable for storage or shipment, and that prices include standard commercial packaging.

8. **PERFORMANCE BOND AND DEFAULT:** The GWTA reserves the right to require performance bonds from successful bidder, as provided by law, without expense to the GWTA. Otherwise, in case of default by the Bidder, the GWTA may procure the articles or services from other sources and hold the Bidder responsible for any excess cost occasioned thereby. Default shall occur if the Bidder fails to perform any obligation under the contract and schedule and such failure remains uncured for more than thirty (30) days after receipt of written notice thereof from the GWTA.

9. **SAMPLES:** Samples of items, when required, must be furnished as stipulated herein, free of expense, and if not destroyed will, upon request, be returned at the bidder's expense. Request for the return of samples must be made within 10 days following opening of bids. Otherwise the samples will become GWTA property. Each individual sample must be labeled with bidder's name and item number. Samples, on which an award is made, will be retained for the contract period. These will be returned, if requested, ten days prior to expiration of the contract.

10. **SPECIFICATIONS:** Any deviation from specifications indicated herein must be clearly pointed out; otherwise, it will be considered that items offered are in strict compliance with these specifications, and successful bidder will be held responsible therefore. Deviations must be explained in detail on an attached sheet(s).

The bidder shall not construe this paragraph as inviting deviation or implying that any deviation will be acceptable.

11. **SAFETY STANDARDS:** All manufactured items and/or fabricated assemblies subject to operation under pressure, operation by connection to an electric source, or operation involving a connection to a manufactured, natural, or LP gas source shall be constructed and approved in a manner acceptable to the appropriate state inspector which customarily requires the label or re-examination listing or identification marking of the appropriate safety standard organization, such as the American Society of Mechanical Electrical Engineers for pressure vessels; the Underwriters' Laboratories and/or National Electrical Manufacturers' Association for electrically

operated assemblies; or the American Gas Association for gas operated assemblies, where such approvals of listings have been established for the type(s) of devices offered and furnished. Further, all items furnished by the successful bidder shall meet all requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), and state and federal requirements relating to clean air and water pollution.

All bidders must comply with *North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Standards for General Industry, 29CFR 1910*. Construction bidders must comply with *North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Standards for the Construction Industry, 29CFR 1926*. In addition, bidders shall comply with all applicable occupational health and safety and environmental rules and regulations. Bidders shall effectively manage their safety and health responsibilities including:

1. **Accident Prevention**

Prevent injuries and illnesses to their employees and others on or near their job site. Bidder managers and supervisors shall ensure employer's personnel safety by strict adherence to established safety rules and procedures.

2. **Environmental Protection**

Protect the environment on, near, and around their work site by compliance with all applicable environmental regulations.

3. **Employee Education and Training**

Provide education and training to all bidder's employees before they are exposed to potential workplace or other hazards as required by specific OSHA Standards.

12. **INFORMATION AND DESCRIPTIVE LITERATURE**: Bidders are to furnish all information requested and in the spaces provided on the bid form. Further, as may be specified elsewhere, each bidder must submit with his proposal: cuts, sketches, descriptive literature and/or complete specifications covering the products offered. Reference to literature submitted with a previous bid does not satisfy this provision. Bids, which do not comply with these requirements, will be subject to rejection.

13. **PROMPT PAYMENT DISCOUNTS**: Bidders are urged to compute all discounts into the price offered. If a prompt payment discount is offered, it will not be considered in the award of the contract except as a factor to aid in resolving cases of identical prices.

14. **AWARD OF CONTRACT**: As directed by statute, qualified bids will be evaluated and acceptance made of the lowest and best bid most advantageous to the GWTA as determined upon consideration of such factors as: prices offered; the quality of the articles offered; the general reputation and performance capabilities of the bidders; the substantial conformity with the specifications and other conditions set forth in the bid; the suitability of the articles for the intended use; the related services needed; the date or dates of delivery and performance; and such other factors deemed by the GWTA to be pertinent or peculiar to the purchase in question. Unless otherwise specified by the City or the bidder, the GWTA reserves the right to accept any items or groups of items on a multi-item bid.

The GWTA reserves the right to make partial, progressive or multiple awards: where it is advantageous to award separately by items; or where more than one supplier is needed to provide the contemplated requirements as to quantity, quality, delivery, service, geographical areas; other factors deemed by the GWTA to be pertinent or peculiar to the purchase in question.

15. **GOVERNMENTAL RESTRICTIONS:** In the event any Governmental restrictions may be imposed which would necessitate alteration of the material, quality, workmanship or performance of the items offered on this proposal prior to their delivery, it shall be the responsibility of the successful bidder to notify the GWTA Purchasing Division at once, indicating in his letter the specific regulation which required such alterations. The GWTA reserves the right to accept any such alterations, including any price adjustments occasioned thereby, or to cancel the contract.

16. **M/WBE:** Pursuant to General Statute 143-48 and Executive Order #77, the GWTA invites and encourages participation in this procurement process by businesses owned by minorities, women, and people with disabilities.

17. **INSURANCE:**

COVERAGE - During the term of the contract, the bidder at its sole cost and expense shall provide commercial insurance of such type and with such terms and limits as may be reasonably associated with the contract. As a minimum, the bidder shall provide and maintain the following coverage and limits:

a. Worker's Compensation - The bidder shall provide and maintain Worker's Compensation Insurance, as required by the laws of North Carolina, as well as employer's liability coverage with minimum limits of \$150,000.00, covering all bidder's employees who are engaged in any work under the contract. If any work is sublet, the bidder shall require the subcontractor to provide the same coverage for any of his employees engaged in any work under the contract.

b. Commercial General Liability - General Liability Coverage, on a Comprehensive Broad Form on an occurrence basis in the minimum amount of \$500,000.00 Combined Single Limit. (Defense cost shall be in excess of the limit of liability.)

c. Automobile - Automobile Liability Insurance, to include liability coverage, covering all owned, hired and non-owned vehicles, used in connection with the contract. The minimum combined single limit shall be \$150,000.00 bodily injury and property damage; \$150,000.00 uninsured/under-insured motorist; and \$1,000.00 medical payment.

REQUIREMENTS: Providing and maintaining adequate insurance coverage is a material obligation of the bidder and is of the essence of this contract. All such insurance shall meet all laws of the State of North Carolina. Such insurance coverage shall be obtained from companies that are authorized to provide such coverage and that are authorized by the Commissioner of Insurance to do business in North Carolina. The bidder shall at all times comply with the terms

of such insurance policies, and all requirements of the insurer under any of such insurance policies, except as they may conflict with existing North Carolina laws or this contract. The limits of coverage under each insurance policy maintained by the bidder shall not be interpreted as limiting the bidder's Liability and obligations under the contract. It is agreed that the coverage as stated shall not be canceled or changed until thirty (30) days after written notice of such termination or alteration has been sent by registered mail to the GWTA Purchasing Division.

18. PATENTS AND COPYRIGHTS: The Bidder shall hold and save the GWTA, its officers, agents, and employees, harmless from liability of any kind, including costs and expenses on account of any patented or unpatented invention, articles, device or appliance manufactured or used in the performance of this contract, including use by the government.

Any and all copy, art, designs, negatives, photographs, or other tangible items created pursuant to bidder's performance of this project shall be the property of GWTA and shall be delivered to GWTA upon completion of the project. Such property shall be transferred to GWTA in excellent, reusable condition.

In addition, the copyright in and to any copyrightable work, including, but not limited to, copy, art, negatives, photographs, designs, text, software, or documentation created as part of the bidder's performance of this project shall vest in the GWTA, and the bidder agrees to assign all rights therein to the GWTA. Bidder further agrees to provide the GWTA with any and all reasonable assistance, which the GWTA may require to obtain copyright registrations or to perfect its title in any such work, including the execution of any documents submitted by the GWTA.

19. PATENT AND COPYRIGHT INDEMNITY: BIDDER will defend or settle, at its own expense, any action brought against Customer to the extent that it is based on a claim that the product(s) provided pursuant to this agreement infringe any U.S. copyright or patent; and will pay those costs, damages and attorney's fees finally awarded against Customers in any such action attributable to any such claim, but such defense, settlements and payments are conditioned on the following (1) that BIDDER shall be notified promptly in writing by Customer of any such claim; (2) that BIDDER shall have sole control of the defense of any action on such claim and of all negotiations for its settlement or compromise; (3) that Customer shall cooperate with BIDDER in a reasonable way to facilitate the settlement of defense of such claim; (4) that such claim does not arise from Customer modifications not authorized by the BIDDER or from the use of combination of products provided by the BIDDER with products provided by the Customer or by others; and (5) should such product(s) become, or in the BIDDER's opinion likely to become, the subject of such claim of infringement, then Customer shall permit BIDDER, at BIDDER's option and expense, either to procure for Customer the right to continue using the product(s), or replace or modify the same so that it becomes non-infringing and performs in a substantially similar manner to the original product; or (c) upon failure of (a) or (b) despite the reasonable efforts of the BIDDER for a sold product or licensed software, return the price paid for the licensed software and any product dependent thereon.

20. **ADVERTISING**: Bidder agrees not to use the existence of this contract or the name of the GWTA as a part of any commercial advertising without prior approval of the GWTA Purchasing Division.

21. **EXCEPTIONS**: All proposals are subject to the terms and conditions outlined herein. All responses will be controlled by such terms and conditions and the submission of other terms and conditions, price catalogs, and other documents as part of a Bidder's response will be waived and have no effect on this Request for Proposal or any other contract that may be awarded resulting from this solicitation. The submission of any other terms and conditions by a Bidder may be grounds for rejection of the Bidder's proposal. The Bidder specifically agrees to the conditions set forth in the above paragraph by affixing his name on the signatory page contained herein.

22. **CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**: As provided by statute and rule, the GWTA will consider keeping trade secrets which the bidder does not wish DISCLOSED confidential. Each page shall be identified in boldface at the top and bottom as "CONFIDENTIAL" by the bidder. Cost information shall not be deemed confidential. In spite of what is labeled as a trade secret, the determination whether it is or not will be determined by North Carolina law.

23. **ASSIGNMENT**: No assignment of the bidder's obligations nor the bidder's right to receive payment hereunder shall be permitted. However, upon written request approved by the GWTA Purchasing Division, solely as a convenience to the bidder, the GWTA may:

- a. Forward the bidder's payment check directly to any person or entity designated by the bidder, and
- b. Include any person/entity designated by bidder as joint payee on bidder's payment check.

In no event shall such approval and action obligate the GWTA to anyone other than the bidder and the bidder shall remain responsible for fulfillment of all contract obligations.

24. **ACCESS TO PERSONS AND RECORDS**: The GWTA and the City of Goldsboro Auditor shall have access to persons and records as a result of all contracts or grants entered into by the GWTA and the City of Goldsboro in accordance with General Statute 147-64.7.

25. **INSPECTION AT BIDDER'S SITE**: The GWTA reserves the right to inspect, at a reasonable time, the equipment/item, plant or other facilities of a prospective bidder prior to contract award, and during the contract term as necessary for the GWTA's determination that such equipment/item, plant or other facilities conform with the specifications/requirements and are adequate and suitable for the proper and effective performance of the contract.

26. **AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS**: Any and all payments of compensation of this specific transaction, its continuing or any renewal or extension are dependent upon and subject to the allocation of appropriation of funds to the GWTA for the purpose set forth in this agreement.

27. **GOVERNING LAWS**: All contracts, transactions, agreements, etc., are made under and shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina.

Every effort has been made to ensure the general provisions are in conformity with FTA requirements; however, those requirements change from time to time and may not be accurately reflected herein in all instances. Where that is the case, FTA requirements shall prevail regardless of the language in this document.

28. **ADMINISTRATIVE CODE:** Bids, proposals, and awards are subject to applicable provisions of the North Carolina Administrative Code.

29. **EXECUTION:** Failure to sign under EXECUTION section will render bid invalid.

30. **ORDER OF PRECEDENCE:** In cases of conflict between specific provisions in this bid, the order of precedence shall be (1) special terms and conditions specific to this bid, (2) specifications, (3) GWTA General Contract Terms and Conditions, and (4) GWTA Bid Terms and Conditions.

31. **CLARIFICATIONS/INTERPRETATIONS:** Any and all questions regarding this document must be addressed to the contact named on the cover sheet of this document. Do not contact the user directly. Any and all revisions to this document shall be made only by written addendum from the GWTA Purchasing Division. The bidder is cautioned that the requirements of this bid can be altered only by written addendum and that verbal communications from whatever source is of no effect.

32. **SITUS:** The place of all contracts, transactions, agreements, their situs and forum, shall be North Carolina, where all matters, whether sounding in contract or tort, relating to the validity, construction, interpretation, and enforcement shall be determined.

33. **E-VERIFY REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO PUBLIC CONTRACTS:** On September 4, 2013, the North Carolina legislature passed a new law that focuses on E-Verify requirements on contractors who enter into contracts with state agencies and local governments. Under North Carolina law, the E-Verify requirement applies to private employers doing business in this state that has 25 or more employees working in this state. If contractors are individuals who are self-employed (i.e., one employee), or with a business with less than 25 employees, that individual/business is not subject to the E-Verify requirements.

The new state E-Verify requirements will require the GWTA to change procedures that relate to the bid process and contract documents. To ensure that we are meeting these requirements, all bid documents for informal and formal bids will be changed. We have prepared the attached affidavit which will be included in the bid documents. Since it is the GWTA's responsibility to comply with E-Verify, the successful bidder will be required to submit the completed E-Verify affidavit after bid award.

The link below clarifies the new and updated state E-Verify requirements. We hope it will be helpful as we transition to meet the requirements.

<https://www.labor.nc.gov/workplace-rights/e-verify/e-verify-information>

FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS AND SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. General

The work performed under this contract will be financed, in part, by grants provided under programs of the Federal Transit Act, as amended. References include, but are not limited to, the Master Agreement FTA MA, dated February 7, 2022; FTA Circular 4220.1F, dated December 16, 2022; "Best Practices Procurement Manual", updated March 13, 1999 with revisions through February 27, 2020; 49 CFR Part 18 (State and Local Governments) and 49 CFR Part 19 (Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations) and any subsequent amendments or revisions thereto. Anything to the contrary herein notwithstanding, all FTA-mandated terms shall be deemed to control in the event of a conflict with other provisions contained in this Agreement. The CONTRACTOR shall not perform any act, fail to perform any act, or refuse to comply with any request, which would cause GWTA to be in violation of the FTA terms and conditions.

NOTE: "BIDDER" AND "CONTRACTOR" ARE USED SYNONYMOUSLY

2. Federal Changes

The Contractor understands that Federal laws, regulations, policies, and related administrative practices applicable to this contract may be modified, amended or promulgated from time to time during the term of this contract. The Contractor agrees and shall comply with the most recent of such Federal requirements that will govern this contract at any particular time, unless the Federal Government determines otherwise. Likewise, new Federal laws, regulations, policies, and administrative practices may be established after the contract is executed and may apply to this contract. The Contractor's failure to so comply shall constitute a material breach of this contract. The following identifies, but is not limited to, the federal requirements that shall apply to this contract.

3. Conflict of Interest

No employee, officer, board member, or agent of the grantee (the State or sub recipient) shall participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds if a conflict of interest, real or apparent, would be involved. Such a conflict would arise when the employee, officer, board member, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization that employs, or is about to employ any of the above, has a financial or other interest in the firm selected for award.

4. Contracting with Disadvantaged Business Enterprises

- a. This contract is subject to the requirements of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 26, Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Department of Transportation Financial Assistance Programs.

- b. The contractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this contract. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 in the award and administration of this DOT-assisted contract. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract or such other remedy as the Procuring Agency deems appropriate. Each subcontract the contractor signs with a subcontractor must include the assurance in this paragraph (see 49 CFR 26.13(b)).

The successful bidder/offeror will be required to report its DBE participation obtained through race-neutral means throughout the period of performance.

- c. The contractor is required to pay its subcontractors performing work related to this contract for satisfactory performance of that work no later than 30 days after the contractor's receipt of payment for that work from the Procuring Agency. In addition, these may apply:
- the contractor may not hold retainage from its subcontractors; or
 - is required to return any retainage payments to those subcontractors within 30 days after the subcontractor's work related to this contract is satisfactorily completed; or
 - is required to return any retainage payments to those subcontractors within 30 days after incremental acceptance of the subcontractor's work by the Procuring Agency and contractor's receipt of the partial retainage payment related to the subcontractor's work
- d. The contractor must promptly notify the Procuring Agency whenever a DBE subcontractor performing work related to this contract is terminated or fails to complete its work, and must make good faith efforts to engage another DBE subcontractor to perform at least the same amount of work. The contractor may not terminate any DBE subcontractor and perform that work through its own forces or those of an affiliate without prior written consent of the Procuring Agency.

5. Civil Rights

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, section 303 of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq., section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12101, and Federal transit law at 49 U.S.C. § 5332, the Contractor agrees that it will not discriminate against any business, employee or applicant from participation, program benefits, business opportunities or employment because of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, or disability. In addition, the Contractor agrees to comply with applicable Federal implementing regulations and other implementing requirements FTA may issue.

(a) The third party contractor and all lower tiers shall comply with all provisions of FTA Circular 4702.1B, "Title VI Requirements and Guidelines for Federal Transit Administration recipients", October 1, 2012.

6. Equal Employment Opportunity

The following equal employment opportunity requirements apply to the underlying contract:

- (a) Race, Color, Creed, National Origin, Sex -In accordance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e, and Federal transit laws at 49 U.S.C. § 5332, the Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable equal employment opportunity requirements of U.S. Department of Labor (U.S. DOL) regulations, "Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Equal Employment Opportunity, Department of Labor," 41 C.F.R. Parts 60 et seq., (which implement Executive Order No. 11246, "Equal Employment Opportunity," as amended by Executive Order No. 11375, "Amending Executive Order 11246 Relating to Equal Employment Opportunity," 42 U.S.C. § 2000e note), and with any applicable Federal statutes, executive orders, regulations, and Federal policies that may in the future affect construction activities undertaken in the course of the Project. The Contractor agrees to take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age. Such action shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising, layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. In addition, the Contractor agrees to comply with any implementing requirements FTA may issue, including FTA Circular 4704.1A "Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Requirements and Guidelines for Federal Transit Administration Recipients", April 20, 2017.
- (b) Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Age -The Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable requirements of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§6101 et seq., and with implementing U.S. Health and Human Services regulations, "Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Age in Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance, 45 C.F.R. Part 90, which prohibit discrimination against individuals on the basis of age.
- The Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) 29 U.S.C. §§621 through 634 and with implementing U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (U.S.EEOC) regulations, "Age Discrimination in Employment Act." 29 C.F.R. Part 1625, which prohibits discrimination against individuals on the basis of age.
- (c) Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex-The Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable requirements of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 et seq., and with implementing U.S. DOT regulations, "Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance." 49 C.F.R. Part 25, that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex.

7. Access Requirements of Individuals with Disabilities

Contractors shall agree to comply with all applicable requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. Subsection 12101 et seq.; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; 29 U.S.C. Section 794; 49 U.S.C. Section 5301(d); and the following Federal regulations including any amendments thereto:

- (1) U.S. DOT regulations "Transportation Services for Individuals with Disabilities (ADA)" 49 C.F.R. Part 37;
- (2) U.S. DOT regulations "Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap in Programs and Activities Receiving or Benefiting from Federal Financial Assistance," 49 C.F.R. Part 27;
- (3) Joint U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board/ U.S. DOT regulations, "Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Accessibility Specifications for Transportation Vehicles," 36 C.F.R. Part 1192 and 49 C.F. R. Part 38;
- (4) U.S. DOJ regulations "Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in State and Local Government Services," 28 C.F.R. Part 35;
- (5) U.S. DOJ regulations "Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability by Public Accommodations and in Commercial Facilities," 28 C.F.R. Part 36;
- (6) U.S. GSA regulations "Accommodations for the Physically Handicapped," 41 C.F.R. Subpart 101-19;
- (7) U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. "Regulations to Implement the Equal Employment Provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act," 29 C.F.R. Part 1630;
- (8) U.S. Federal Communications Commission regulations "Telecommunications Relay Services and Related Customer Premises Equipment for the Hearing and Speech Disabled," 49 C.F.R. Part 64, Subpart F;
- (9) FTA regulations, "Transportation of Elderly and Handicapped Persons." 49 C.F.R. part 609;
- (10) Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board regulations, "Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards." 36 C.F.R. Part 1194; and
- (11) Any implementing requirement FTA may issue.

8. Access Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency

The Contractor agrees to comply with guidance set forth in Executive Order No. 13166, "Improving Access to Services for persons with Limited English Proficiency," August 11, 2000, 42 U.S.C. 2000d-1 note, and with the requirements and provisions of U.S. DOT notice, "DOT Policy Guidance Concerning Recipients Responsibilities to Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Persons," 70 Fed. Reg. 74087 et seq., December 14, 2005, except to the extent that the Federal Government determines otherwise in writing. The Contractor also agrees to include these requirements in each subcontract financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance provided by FTA, modified only if necessary to identify the affected parties.

9. Environmental Protection

The Contractor agrees to comply with all applicable requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended 42 U.S.C. subsection 4321 et seq. in accordance with Executive Order No. 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," 59 Fed. Reg. 7629, Feb. 16, 1994, FTA statutory requirements on environmental matters at 49 U.S.C. section 5324(b); Council on Environmental Quality regulations on compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, 40 C.F.R. Part 1500 et seq. and joint FHWA FTA regulations, "environmental Impact and Related procedures," 23 C.F.R. Part 771 and 49 C.F.R. Part 622; and when promulgated, FHWA/FTA joint regulations, "NEPA and Related Procedures for Transportation Decision-making, Protection of Public Parks, Wildlife and Waterfowl Refuges, and Historic Sites," 23 C.F.R. Part 1420 and 49 C.F.R. Part 623.

10. Energy Conservation

The Contractor agrees to comply with mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency that are contained in the state energy conservation plans issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act. 42 U.S.C. Sect. 6321 et seq.

11. Reporting, Record Retention, and Access

The following access to records requirements apply to this Contract:

1. In accordance with 49 C. F. R. 18.36(i)(10), the Contractor agrees to provide the Purchaser, the N.C. Department of Transportation, the FTA Administrator, the Comptroller General of the United States or any of their authorized representatives access to any books, documents, papers and records of the Contractor which are directly pertinent to this contract for the purposes of making audits, examinations, excerpts and transcriptions. Contractor also agrees, pursuant to 49 C. F. R. 633.17 to provide the FTA Administrator or his authorized representatives including any PMO Contractor access to Contractor's records and construction sites pertaining to a major capital project, defined at 49 U.S.C.

5302(a)1, which is receiving federal financial assistance through the programs described at 49 U.S.C. 5307, 5309 or 5311.

2. Where the Purchaser enters into a negotiated contract for other than a small purchase or under the simplified acquisition threshold and is an institution of higher education, an hospital or other non-profit organization and is the FTA Recipient or a sub grantee of the FTA Recipient in accordance with 49 C.F.R.19.48(d), the Contractor agrees to provide the Purchaser, the N.C. Department of Transportation, the FTA Administrator, the Comptroller General of the United States or any of their duly authorized representatives with access to any books, documents, papers and record of the Contractor which are directly pertinent to this contract for the purposes of making audits, examinations, excerpts and transcriptions.

3. Where any Purchaser which is the FTA Recipient or a sub grantee of the FTA Recipient in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 5325(a) enters into a contract for a capital project or improvement (defined at 49 U.S.C. 5302(a)1) through other than competitive bidding, the Contractor shall make available records related to the contract to the Purchaser, the Secretary of Transportation and the Comptroller General or any authorized officer or employee of any of them for the purposes of conducting an audit and inspection.

4. The Contractor agrees to permit any of the foregoing parties to reproduce by any means whatsoever or to copy excerpts and transcriptions as reasonably needed.

5. The Contractor agrees to maintain all books, records, accounts and reports required under this contract for a period of not less than three years after the date of termination or expiration of this contract, except in the event of litigation or settlement of claims arising from the performance of this contract, in which case Contractor agrees to maintain same until the Purchaser, the FTA Administrator, the Comptroller General, or any of their duly authorized representatives, have disposed of all such litigation, appeals, claims or exceptions related thereto. Reference 49 CFR 18.36(i)(11).

12. No Federal Government Obligations to Third Parties

The Purchaser and Contractor acknowledge and agree that, notwithstanding any concurrence by the Federal Government in or approval of the solicitation or award of the underlying contract, absent the express written consent by 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 Purchaser, Contractor, or any other party (whether or not a party to that contract) pertaining to any matter resulting from the underlying contract.

The Contractor agrees to include the above clause in each subcontract financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance provided by FTA. It is further agreed that the clause shall not be modified, except to identify the subcontractor who will be subject to its provisions.

13. False or Fraudulent Statements or Claims

(1) The Contractor acknowledges that the provisions of the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986, as amended, 31 U.S.C. §3801 *et seq.* and U.S. DOT regulations, "Program Fraud Civil Remedies," 49 C.F.R. Part 31, apply to its actions pertaining to this Project. Upon execution of the underlying contract, the Contractor certifies or affirms the truthfulness and accuracy of any statement it has made, it makes, it may make, or causes to be made, pertaining to the underlying contract or the FTA assisted project for which this contract work is being performed. In addition to other penalties that may be applicable, the Contractor further acknowledges that if it makes, or causes to be made, a false, fictitious, or fraudulent claim, statement, submission, or certification, the Federal Government reserves the right to impose the penalties of the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986 on the Contractor to the extent the Federal Government deems appropriate.

(2) The Contractor also acknowledges that if it makes, or causes to be made, a false, fictitious, or fraudulent claim, statement, submission, or certification to the Federal Government under a contract connected with a project that is financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance originally awarded by FTA under the authority of 49 U.S.C. Section 5307, the Government reserves the right to impose the penalties of 18 U.S.C. Section 1001 and 49 U.S.C. Section 5307(n)(1) on the Contractor, to the extent the Federal Government deems appropriate.

(3) The Contractor agrees to include the above two clauses in each subcontract financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance provided by FTA. It is further agreed that the clauses shall not be modified, except to identify the subcontractor who will be subject to the provisions.

14. Debarment and Suspensions

This contract is a covered transaction for purposes of 2 CFR Part 1200, which adopts and supplements the provisions of U.S. Office of Management and Budget (U.S. OMB) "Guidelines to Agencies on Government wide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement)," 2 CFR Part 180 *et seq.* As such, the contractor is required to verify that none of the contractor, its principals, as defined at 2 CFR 180.995, or affiliates, as defined at 2 CFR 180.905, are excluded or disqualified as defined at 2 CFR 180.940, 180.935 and 180.945.

The contractor is required to comply with 2 CFR 180, Subpart C and must include the requirement to comply with 2 CFR 180, Subpart C in any lower tier covered transaction it enters into.

By signing and submitting its bid or proposal, the bidder or proposer certifies as follows:

The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact relied upon by the Procuring Agency. If it is later determined that the bidder or proposer knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to remedies available to Procuring

Agency, the Federal Government may pursue available remedies, including but not limited to suspension and/or debarment. The bidder or proposer agrees to comply with the requirements of 2 CFR 180, Subpart C while this offer is valid and throughout the period of any contract that may arise from this offer. The bidder or proposer further agrees to include a provision requiring such compliance in its lower tier covered transactions.

The Procuring Agency agrees and assures that its third party contractors and lessees will review the "Excluded Parties Listing System" at <http://epls.gov/> before entering into any sub agreement, lease or third party contract.

The Procuring Agency will be reviewing all third party contractors under the Excluded Parties Listing System at <http://epls.gov/> before entering into any contracts.

The requisite Debarment and Suspension Certification is included as ATTACHMENT B (attach additional statement if necessary) and must be executed for contracts of \$25,000 or more and prior to the award of the contract.

15. Termination or Cancellation of Contract

Termination or cancellation of the contract, in whole or in part, may be determined by the project if it is in the best interest of the project. A notice of termination shall be delivered to the Contractor, specifying the extent to which performance of work under the contract is terminated, and the date upon which such termination becomes effective. The Contractor shall be paid for work that has been performed and completed up to the time of termination. The Contractor shall promptly submit its termination claim to be paid. A 30-day notice of termination shall be required.

16. Breach of Contract

If the Contractor fails to make delivery of the equipment, supplies, or services within the specified terms of the contract, or fails to perform within the provisions of the contract, the contract may be terminated by reason of default or breach. A written notice of default or breach of contract shall be presented to the Contractor within three (3) working days of such failure. The Contractor will only be paid the contract price for equipment delivered and accepted in accordance with the requirements set forth in the contract.

If it is determined that the Contractor had an excusable reason for not performing, such as a strike, fire, or flood, events which are not the fault of or are beyond the control of the Contractor, the project, after setting up a new delivery of performance schedule, may allow the Contractor to continue work, or treat the termination as a termination for convenience.

The project in its sole discretion may, in the case of breach of contract, allow the Contractor a specified period of time in which to correct the defect. In such case, the notice of

termination will state the time period in which the correction is permitted and other appropriate conditions.

If Contractor fails to remedy to the project's satisfaction the breach or default or any of the terms, covenants, or conditions of this contract within twenty (20) days after written notice from the project setting forth the nature of said breach or default, the project shall have the right to terminate the Contract without any further obligation to Contractor. Any such termination for default shall not in any way operate to preclude the project from also pursuing all available remedies against Contractor and its sureties for said breach or default.

17. Protest Procedures

All protests shall be filed, handled, and resolved in a manner consistent with the requirements of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Circular 4220.1E Third Party Contracting Guidelines dated June 19, 2003 and the GWTA's Protest Procedures below.

Current FTA policy states that: "Reviews of protests by FTA will be limited to a grantee's failure to have or follow its protest procedures, or its failure to review a complaint or protest. An appeal to FTA must be received by the cognizant FTA regional or Headquarters Office within five (5) working days of the date the protester knew or should have known of the violation. Violations of federal law or regulations will be handled by the complaint process stated within that law or regulation. Violations of State or local law or regulations will be under the jurisdiction of State or local officials." (FTA Circular 4220.1E, Section 7, paragraph 1., Written Protest Procedures)

Protests based upon alleged improprieties in a solicitation which are apparent prior to bid opening or time set for receipt of proposals shall be filed 15 days prior to bid opening or the time set for receipt of proposals. If the contract has been awarded, protests must be filed within 10 days after contract award or 5 days after the date the protester was given the opportunity to be debriefed, whichever date is later. To be filed on a given day, protests must be received by 4:30 p.m. current local time. Any protests received after that time will be considered to be filed on the next day. Incomplete submissions will not be considered filed until all information is complete. Unless the time limit for receiving the protest is extended for good cause, a protest that is received after the time limit will not be considered.

All protests should be filed in writing with the Executive Director, GWTA, P.O. Box 227, Goldsboro NC 27533. No other location shall be acceptable. To be complete, protests must contain the following information:

1. The protester's name, address, telephone number, and fax number;
2. The solicitation/bid number;
3. A detailed statement of all factual and legal grounds for protests and an explanation of how the protester was prejudiced;
4. Copies of relevant documents supporting protester's statement;
5. A request for ruling by the GWTA;
6. Statement as to form of relief requested;

7. All information establishing that the protester is an interested party for the purpose of filing a protest; and
8. All information establishing the timeliness of the protest.

All protests must be signed by an authorized representative of the protester.

When a protest is filed before an award, an award shall not be made until the matter is resolved unless based on written finding that 1) the supplies or services are urgently required, or 2) delivery or performance would be unduly delayed by failure to make the award promptly, or 3) a prompt award would be in the best interest of the GWTA. Should the GWTA postpone the date of bid submission owing to a protest or appeal of the solicitation specifications, addenda, dates, or any other issue relating to the procurement, the GWTA shall notify, via addendum, all parties who are on record as having obtained a copy of the solicitation documents that an appeal/protest has been filed, and the due date for the bid submission shall be postponed until the GWTA has issued its final decision.

When a protest is filed within ten (10) days after an award or five (5) days after a debriefing date was offered to the protester under a timely debriefing request, whichever is later, performance shall be immediately suspended pending resolution of the protest. However, contract performance may continue, notwithstanding the protest, based on written finding that 1) contract performance would be in the best interest of the GWTA, or 2) urgent and compelling circumstances that significantly affect the interests of the GWTA will not permit waiting for a decision.

The Executive Director shall make a decision on the protest within ten (10) working days from the receipt of the protest. The written decision will respond to the issues raised by the protester and will address any other issues, which even if not raised by the protester, that may have been identified as being relevant to the fairness of the procurement process. The decision will be delivered to the protester by "Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested." In extreme cases, it may take longer than ten (10) working days to issue a decision. In these cases, the protester and all other interested parties will be notified of the delay. Any decision rendered by the Executive Director may be appealed to the Board of Directors. The protester has the right within five (5) working days of receipt of determination to file an appeal restating the basis of the protest and the grounds of the appeal. In the appeal, the protester shall only be permitted to raise factual information previously provided in the protest or discovered subsequent to the Executive Director's decision and directly related to the grounds of the protest. The Board of Director's decision shall constitute the final administrative remedy of the GWTA.

If the Executive Director or Board of Directors find for the protester, one or more of the following remedies may be granted:

1. Terminate the contract.
2. Re-compete the requirement.
3. Issue a new solicitation.
4. Refrain from exercising options under the contract.

5. Award a contract consistent with statutes and regulations.
6. Amend the solicitation provisions that gave rise to the protest and continue with the procurement.
7. Such other remedies as the decision-maker may determine are necessary to correct a defect.

The bidder may withdraw its protest or appeal at any time before the GWTA issues a final decision.

A protester must exhaust all administrative remedies with the GWTA before pursuing a protest with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). However, if the protester believes that the GWTA failed to review the complaint or protest or failed to follow its own protest procedures, the protester may file an appeal to the FTA office below:

Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration, Region IV
230 Peachtree Street, NW
Suite 1400
Atlanta, GA 30303

The protester must file with the FTA no later than five (5) days after the Board of Director's final decision is rendered, with a concurrent copy of the appeal to the GWTA. The submission to the FTA should include the name and address of the protester, a statement of the grounds for protest and any supporting documentation, a copy of the local protest filed with the GWTA, and a copy of the GWTA's decision.

The GWTA will submit to the FTA any required information requested in order for the FTA to make a determination, including a copy of these protest procedures, a description of the process followed concerning the protest in question, and any supporting documentation. The GWTA will provide to the protester any material submitted to the FTA.

18. Privacy

To the extent that the Contractor, or its subcontractors, if any, or any to their respective employees administer any system of records on behalf of the Federal Government, Contractor agrees to comply with, and assure the compliance of its subcontractors, if any, with the information restrictions and other applicable requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, 5 U.S.C. Sect. 552, (the Privacy Act).

The Contractor shall obtain the express consent of the Department and the Federal Government before the Contractor, and any subcontractors, or any of their respective employees operate a system of records on behalf of the Federal Government. Failure to do so may result in termination of the Contract and civil and criminal penalties for violation of the Privacy Act.

19. Hold Harmless

Except as prohibited or otherwise limited by State law, the Contractor agrees to indemnify, save, and hold harmless the Solicitor/Purchaser of this Purchase Contract and its officers, agents, and employees acting within the scope of their official duties against any liability, including costs and expenses, resulting from any negligent or willful acts or omissions by the Contractor, or the officers, agents, employees, or subcontractors of the Contractor, or the failure to perform or comply with any of the provisions of the Purchase Contract.

20. Seat Belt Usage and Distracted Driving

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 13043, April 16, 1997, 23 U. S. C. § 402, the Contractor is encouraged to adopt on the job seat belt use policies and programs for its employees when operating company owned, rented, or personally-operated vehicles and include this provision in any third party subcontracts entered into under this project.

Contractor shall adopt and enforce workplace safety policies to decrease crashes caused by distracted drivers, including policies to ban text messaging while using an electronic device supplied by an employer, and driving a vehicle the driver owns or rents, a vehicle Contractor owns, leases, or rents, or a privately-owned vehicle when on official business in connection with the work performed under this Contract.

Contractor shall insert the substance of this clause, including this paragraph, in all subcontracts that exceed the micro-purchase threshold, as defined in Federal Acquisition Regulation 2.101 on the date of subcontract award.

21. Incorporation of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Terms

The preceding provisions include, in part, certain Standard Terms and Conditions required by DOT, whether or not expressly set forth in the preceding contract provisions. All contractual provisions required by DOT, as set forth in FTA Circular 4220.1F, as amended, is 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 with other provisions contained in this Agreement. The Contractor shall not perform any act, fail to perform any act, or refuse to comply with any of the grantee or sub grantee requests which would cause grantee or sub grantee to be in violation of the FTA terms and conditions.

22. Texting While Driving and Distracted Driving

Consistent with Executive Order No. 13513, "Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging While Driving," October 1, 2009, 23 U.S.C. Section 402 note, and DOT Order 3902.10, "Text Messaging While Driving," December 30, 2009, FTA encourages each third party contractor to promote policies and initiatives for its employees and other personnel that adopt and promote safety policies that to decrease crashes by distracted drivers, including

policies to ban text messaging while driving, and to include this provision in each third party subcontract involving the project.

23. Sensitive Security Information

Each third party contractor must protect, and take measures to ensure that its subcontractors at each tier protect, "sensitive security information" made available during the administration of a third party contract or subcontract to ensure compliance with 49 U.S.C. Section 40119(b) and implementing DOT regulations, "Protection of Sensitive Security Information," 49 CFR Part 15, and with 49 U.S.C. Section 114(r) and implementing Department of Homeland Security regulations, "Protection of Sensitive Security Information," 49 CFR Part 1520.

24. Geographic Preference

Procurements shall be conducted in a manner that prohibits the use of statutorily or administratively imposed in- State or local geographical preferences in evaluation of award of Proposals or proposals, except where applicable Federal statutes expressly mandate or encourage geographic preference. This does not preempt State licensing laws.

25. Exclusionary or Discriminatory Specifications

The Contractor agrees that it will comply with the requirements of the Federal Public Transportation Act of 2012 and 49 U.S.C. Sect. 5325(h) by refraining from using any funds derived from FTA in performance of this Contract to support procurements using exclusionary or discriminatory specifications.

26. Fly America

The Contractor agrees to comply with 49 U.S.C. 40118 (the "Fly America" Act) in accordance with the General Services Administration's regulations at 41 CFR Part 301-10, which provide that recipients and 39 sub-recipients of Federal funds and their contractors are required to use U.S. Flag air carriers for U.S Government-financed international air travel and transportation of their personal effects or property, to the extent such service is available, unless travel by foreign air carrier is a matter of necessity, as defined by the Fly America Act. The Contractor shall submit, if a foreign air carrier was used, an appropriate certification or memorandum adequately explaining why service by a U.S. Flag air carrier was not available or why it was necessary to use a foreign air carrier and shall, in any event, provide a certificate of compliance with the Fly America requirements. The Contractor agrees to include the requirements of this section in all subcontracts that may involve international air transportation.

27. Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications Equipment

Contractor is prohibited from obligating or expending loan or grant funds to: procure or obtain, extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain, or enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure or obtain equipment, services, or systems that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any

system, or as critical technology as part of any system. Contractor shall not provide covered telecommunications equipment or services in the performance of the Contract. As described in Public Law 115-232, section 889, covered telecommunications equipment is: (A) telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities); (B) video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities) for the purpose of public safety, security of government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes; (C) Telecommunications or video surveillance services provided by such entities or using such equipment; and (D) telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of the National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the government of a covered foreign country.

ATTACHMENT A

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING
(To be submitted with each bid or offer exceeding \$100,000)

The undersigned _____ certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that: (Contractor)

1. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any persons for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding to any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying", in accordance with its instructions [as amended] by 49 CFR Part 20, "New Restrictions on Lobbying." Note: language in paragraph (2) herein has been modified in accordance with Section 10 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-65, to be codified at 2 U.S.C. 1601, *et seq.*)
3. The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.
This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance is placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by 31, U.S.C. 1352 (as amended by the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995). Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

[Note: Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352(c)(1)-(2)(A), any person who makes a prohibited expenditure or fails to file or amend a required certification or disclosure form shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such expenditure or failure.]

The Contractor, _____, certifies or affirms the truthfulness and accuracy of each statement of its certification and disclosure, if any. In addition, the Contractor understands and agrees that the provisions of 31 U.S.C. Section A 3801 *et seq.*, apply to this certification and disclosure, if any.

Date

Signature of Contractor's Authorized Official

Name and Title of Contractors Authorized Official

Subscribed and sworn to before me this ___ day of _____, 20___, in the State of :
and the County of _____.

Notary Public _____
My Appointment Expires _____

****SUCESSFUL BIDDER TO SUBMIT AFTER BID AWARD****

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

AFFIDAVIT

WAYNE COUNTY

I, _____ (the individual attesting below), being duly authorized by and on behalf of _____ (the entity bidding on project hereinafter "Employer") after first being duly sworn hereby swears or affirms as follows:

1. Employer understands that E-Verify is the federal E-Verify program operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security and other federal agencies, or any successor or equivalent program used to verify the work authorization of newly hired employees pursuant to federal law in accordance with NCGS §64-25(5).
2. Employer understands that Employers Must Use E-Verify. Each employer, after hiring an employee to work in the United States, shall verify the work authorization of the employee through E-Verify in accordance with NCGS§64-26(a).
3. Employer is a person, business entity, or other organization that transacts business in this State and that employs 25 or more employees in this State. (mark Yes or No)
 - a. YES _____, or
 - b. NO _____
4. Employer's subcontractors comply with E-Verify, and if Employer is the winning bidder on this project Employer will ensure compliance with E-Verify by any subcontractors subsequently hired by Employer.

This ____ day of _____, 2024.

Signature of Affiant

Print or Type Name: _____

State of _____ County of _____

Signed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me, this the _____

day of _____, 2024.

My Commission Expires:

Notary Public

(Affix Official/Notarial Seal)

ATTACHMENT B

**CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION,
INELIGIBILITY and VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION
LOWER TIER COVERED TRANSACTION**

(To be submitted with all bids or offers exceeding \$25,000.)

- (1) The prospective lower tier participant (Bidder/Contractor) certifies, by submission of this bid or proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.
- (2) The prospective Bidder/Contractor also certifies by submission of this bid or proposal that all subcontractors and suppliers (this requirement flows down to all subcontracts at all levels) are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.
- (3) Where the prospective lower tier participant (Bidder/Contractor) is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this bid or proposal.

The lower tier participant (Bidder/Contractor), _____, certifies or affirms the truthfulness and accuracy of this statement of its certification and disclosure, if any.

SIGNATURE _____

TITLE _____

COMPANY _____

DATE _____

State of _____

County of _____

Subscribed and sworn to before me this ___ day of _____, 20__.

Notary Public _____

My Appointment Expires _____