



Federal Advocacy Services

Presented to: External & Stakeholder
Relations & Advocacy Committee
November 5, 2024

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Project Overview

Scope of Services

- Three-year contract with two one-year options for renewal.
- Will represent GCRTA at the federal level with Congressional members, staffers, and industry leaders to advance the GCRTA Legislative Agenda.
- Will provide expert council and strategic leadership to prioritize the GCRTA Legislative Agenda and our approach to federal funding opportunities.
- Will engage members of Congress, and federal administrators, to increase awareness and support for GCRTA federal legislative agenda.

Project Overview

Scope of Services, continued

- Monitor federal legislative process, influence policy and transportation research, provide legislative developments and advise of federal funding opportunities to support the GCRTA legislative priorities.
- Draft proposed legislation, prepare briefings, research and draft/review GCRTA responses to legislation and administrative actions.
- Will assist GCRTA staff as needed on federal grant applications.

Project Overview

Scope of Services, continued

- Attend hearings and policy briefings on critical issues that could impact GCRTA's legislative agenda.
- Schedule congressional meetings with key administrative and agency staffers and industry partners.
- Coordinate opportunities for legislators and relevant staff to visit GCRTA facilities to experience our facilities and better educate them on major issues affecting GCRTA.

Project Overview

Examples of the importance of federal level advocacy include:

- Advocacy and education on the importance of Railcar Replacement for legacy systems. This resulted in GCRTA securing \$130M.
- Coordinated and scheduled opportunities to testify before the Senate Banking and Finance Committee, March 2023.
- Secured \$24M for the All Stations Accessibility Program (ASAP Grants) to make our stations ADA accessible.

Procurement Overview

- RFP issued on July 14, 2024
- Accessed on the GCRTA website by eight (8) interested parties
- Proposals due August 14, 2024
- Four (4) firms proposed

Procurement Overview

Evaluation Panel Members:

- Operations
- Engineering & Construction
- Administration & External Affairs
- Office of Business Development
- Procurement

Procurement Overview

Evaluation Criteria:

- Firm Experience & Key Project Staff
- Available Resources
- Project Methodology & Approach
- Cost

Procurement Overview

Recommended Firm: Van Scoyoc Assoc., Inc.

- Located in Washington, D.C.
- Federal Advocacy Consultant since 2019
- Other clients include: Dallas Area Rapid Transit, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, Pinellas Sun Coast Transit Authority, Ohio University, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, California

DBE Goal: 0% due to lack of certified DBE firms

Procurement Overview

Recommended Firm: Van Scoyoc Assoc., Inc.

- Access: ability to reach senior DOT, FTA and White House officials
- Knowledge: understand & advocate on the federal budget, appropriations, tax bills and financial mechanisms
- Transit Experience: understand the importance of preserving State of Good Repair and aggressively seek funding for GCRTA
- Relationships: work closely with Ohio congressional delegation and congressional transportation leaders
- Resources: large firm that will enhance GCRTA presence and secure funding and policy objectives

Procurement Overview

Recommendation:

Staff requests that the External & Stakeholder Relations & Advocacy Committee recommend to the Board of Trustees the award of federal advocacy consulting services to Van Scoyoc Associates, Inc. in an amount NTE \$324,000 for the base three years, and in an amount NTE \$108,000 for options years one and two, for a total contract amount NTE \$540,000.

Questions?

Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority

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