



# State Advocacy Services

Presented to: External & Stakeholder  
Relations & Advocacy Committee

November 5, 2024

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# Project Overview

- Three-year contract with two one-year options for renewal
- Provide advice on the biennial budget
- Provide strategic leadership with relationship with Ohio Department Of Transportation (ODOT), the Transportation Review Advisory Council (TRAC), and other funding streams available through the State of Ohio

# Project Overview

## Scope of Services

- Represent GCRTA at the State Capital with elected officials, their staffers, the Ohio Public Transit Association (OPTA), and industry leaders
- Assist GCRTA staff as needed on grant applications
- Engage transit leaders to advance awareness and schedule site visits

# Project Overview

## Scope of Services, continued:

- Monitor State legislative process, influence policy and transportation research, provide legislative developments on transit infrastructure policy and funding.
- Prepare briefings, research and draft/review GCRTA responses to legislation and administrative actions.

# Project Overview

## **Scope of Services, continued:**

- Attend hearings and policy briefings on critical issues that could impact GCRTA
- Schedule meetings with elected officials, staffers, and/or 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 state level advocacy include:**

- Continuity with sustaining \$70M in the State of Ohio budget for public transit
- Securing funding for community-based programs: Baby on Board and Microtransit
- Coordinating site visits for the State of Ohio delegation and TRAC members

# Procurement Overview

- RFP issued July 28, 2024
- Eight (8) interested parties downloaded the package
- Proposals due August 27, 2024
- One (1) vendor proposed

# Procurement Overview

## Evaluation Criteria:

- Firm Experience and Key Project Staff
- Available Resources
- Project Methodology and Approach
- Cost Proposal – Monthly Costs and Expenses



# Procurement Overview

Evaluation Panel Members:

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

# Procurement Overview

## Recommended Team:

- JB Hadden of Murray Murphy Moul + Basil LLP
- Terrence O'Donnell of Dickinson Wright PLLC

Located in Columbus, OH

A 0% DBE goal was assigned to this procurement due to lack of certified DBE firms.

# Procurement Overview

## Experience:

- Relationships – Executive and Legislative
- Knowledge – Current on the issues which keeps them on top of trends in transportation
- Diversity & Inclusion – Firms reflect a diversity of background, viewpoint, political ideology, race and gender. Able to see issues from all sides

# Procurement Overview

Experience, continued:

- Proven Success – Advocated for Railcar Replacement funding through the ODOT Ohio Transit Preservation Partnership Program (“OTP2”) - \$41M
- Collaboration– Collaboration and team-oriented leveraging of the relationships within the executive branch and having the legislative and legal resources of a national law firm

# Procurement Overview

Other clients include:

- American Electric Power
- American Express
- Cleveland Foundation
- Columbus Museum of Art
- Minutemen of Cleveland
- St. Edward High School
- Ohio Association of Career Technical Education
- YWCA Council of Ohio

Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority

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# Procurement Overview

## Recommendation:

Staff requests that the External and Stakeholder Relations & Advocacy Committee recommend to the Board of Trustees the award of a contract to JB Hadden of Murray Murphy Moul + Basil LLP and Terrence O'Donnell of Dickinson Wright PLLC to provide State Advocacy Services in an amount NTE \$255,000.00 for the three-year base contract, and in an amount NTE \$85,000.00 for each of the two option years, for a total contract amount NTE \$425,000.00 for the five-year period.

# Questions?

Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority

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