

OFFICE OF FINANCE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Division of Procurement
45 West Gude Drive, Suite 3100
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Request for Information (RFI) 4916.2

Continued Implementation of an Electric School Bus Fleet

1.0 INTENT

The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to solicit information from qualified, experienced and capable vendors to partner with the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Department of Transportation (DOT) to continue the implementation of a program that initiated two years ago.

To date, DOT has executed a plan by replacing 206 of its existing diesel buses with electric buses, and has developed future plans to replace another 30 diesel buses by the start of next fiscal year, beginning in July 2024. The vision of DOT is to continue with its commitment in replacing its current diesel fleet with electric vehicles beyond July 2024, while also implementing necessary charging infrastructure at its depots to accommodate growth.

The Respondents must be able to implement and manage this program for a system that utilizes five school bus depots in the county.

Responses to this RFI will be utilized for the purposes of information gathering so that MCPS can survey and determine the current best options available to continue the implementation. Any official competitive procurement process would begin with the issuance of a new Request for Proposal (RFP). Information provided as a response to this RFI document may or may not be used by MCPS for development of a future RFP release.

Submission of information pursuant to this RFI does not give any vendor an advantage or disadvantage in any future solicitation, should one result from this RFI.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

In addition to being the 14th largest school system in the United States, MCPS has the 7th largest school bus fleet in the United States, with more than 1,400 buses, served by five facilities at transportation depots strategically located throughout the county. Each depot has a fueling system, maintenance repair shop and houses depot administrative offices. Fleet maintenance is a full-service repair unit that includes authorized warranty repair, body repair, and fuel distribution. Our around-the-clock maintenance ensures safe and dependable transportation for more than 103,000 students at over 200 schools. In addition, the buses that we service provide transportation for summer school, field trips and other community activities year-round.

3.0 SCOPE OF SERVICES

MCPS seeks information to continue the implementation of a turnkey bus electrification program that can be managed at all five bus depot sites. The electrification of the bus would meet the current specifications, minus electric drivetrain and related components as found in section 3.2, Bus Specifications.

3.1 Site Visits

Proposed vendor/s shall develop a site visit schedule with MCPS DOT during the response period. The point of contact for this project is Michael Lewis, 16651 Crabbs Branch, Rockville, MD 20850. Mr. Lewis can be contacted at 240-740-6200 or via email at Michael_K_Lewis@mcpsmd.org.

During this time, the vendor will have access to each bus depot, current buses, maintenance facilities, electric infrastructure information, etc. and the ability to ask further questions about project scope with MCPS DOT project managers. Furthermore, the proposed vendor will be allowed to bring additional staffing, companies, and organizations that would benefit their final proposal.

Depot Locations

Shady Grove (North and South)

16651 Crabbs Branch Way
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Bethesda

0901 Westlake Drive
Rockville 20852

Clarksburg

13100 Shawnee Lane
Clarksburg 20871

Randolph

1800 Randolph Road
Silver Spring 20902

West Farm (Upper and Lower)

11920 Bournefield Way
Silver Spring 20904

3.2 BUS SPECIFICATIONS

A. **64 - Passenger Bus Seating with Air Conditioning**

All units must be constructed to meet or exceed all Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) and Code of Maryland Regulations specifications in effect at time of manufacture regardless of individual specifications listed herein and shall include the following:

Note: All specifications here are associated with a full-size school bus. Proposed vendors are allowed to make alterations/ modifications to these specifications to accommodate electrification but final specifications will be reviewed and approved by MCPS.

B. **39 – Passenger Special Education Bus Seating with Air Conditioning**

All units must be constructed to meet or exceed all Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) and Code of Maryland Regulations specifications in effect at time of manufacture regardless of individual specifications listed herein and shall include the following:

Note: All specifications for the special education buses will be shared with respondents. Proposed vendors are allowed to make alterations/ modifications to these specifications to accommodate electrification but final specifications will be reviewed and approved by MCPS.

C. **26 – Passenger Special Education Bus Seating with Lift with Air Conditioning**

All units must be constructed to meet or exceed all Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) and Code of Maryland Regulations specifications in effect at time of manufacture regardless of individual specifications listed herein and shall include the following:

Note: All specifications for the special education buses will be shared with respondents. Proposed vendors are allowed to make alterations/ modifications to these specifications to accommodate electrification but final specifications will be reviewed and approved by MCPS.

INTERIOR

Air Conditioning:

- Provide front and rear free-blow air conditioning with a minimum 120,000BTU's.
- The front A/C evaporator cooling output shall be through the dash and defroster outlets. The front A/C shall be 30,000BTU minimum.
- The rear A/C evaporator cooling shall be located over the emergency door at the rear bulkhead and protrude less than 4" from the bulkhead. The rear A/C shall be

55,000BTU minimum.

- Both front and rear A/C shall be equipped with filters that are easily removed for cleaning.
- A/C refrigerant hoses, fittings and hose clamps shall meet SAE-J-2064 Type connect fittings.

Back-up Warning Device:

- An audible warning device indicating vehicle is about to back-up or is backing-up shall be installed. Warning device shall sound upon placing the gear selector in reverse.
- Backing image provided when bus shifted to reverse. Audible alarm mounted near the backing monitor behind rear view mirror.

Body Fluid Clean-Up Kit:

- Contents of body fluid kit must meet published Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) minimum standards.
- Container shall be constructed of metal or plastic suitable for mounting and labeled "BODY FLUID CLEAN-UP KIT" and must be easily removed from mounting bracket when needed.
- The successful vendor shall ensure that manufacturer refills are available.
- The Department of Transportation shall select mounting location at time of pilot model inspection.

Body Interior Access Panel:

- Access panels shall be located at the front center interior ceiling panel to access communication wires and antenna with conduit routed to dash for antenna feed.

Brakes:

- Driver's controls will include a manual control valve to apply and release parking brakes dual air pressure gauge, and an audible warning device and light indicating when air pressure has dropped below 80 lbs. (60 lbs. acceptable if 80 lbs. not available) psi (See section on instruments.)
- Brake (and accelerator) pedal(s) shall be electronically adjustable to accommodate difference in drivers' height with dash mounted control switch.

Doors, Service:

- Protective header pad shall be provided above door opening and be the same color and material as the seats. Interior and exterior mounted manual door releases must be provided. The interior emergency release handle shall be mounted within 48" of the floor.
- Door control mechanism shall be located overhead of door and concealed behind a removable panel.
- Door switch shall be three position types: Position 1: Closed, Position 2: Red, Position 3: Open and Red.

- Service doors shall be outward opening and air operated under control of driver with switch to the right of steering column on dash and designed to prevent unintended opening or closing when ignition switch is either turned off or turned on. Entrance door shall have pressure sensitive edges to automatically reverse to open if something is detected in the entrance during closing.
- Provide interior lock for rear emergency door with ignition interlock preventing vehicle from starting when either door is locked.
- Provide auto reversing entrance door system.

Emergency Exits:

- Emergency door shall be located in center of rear end of bus.
- A red LED light shall be installed above the emergency exit door in interior of bus and be on whenever engine is on.
- Protective header pad shall be provided above door opening and be the same color and material as the seats or black.
- Two roof hatches with interior and exterior release handles shall be provided. Hatch shall be one-piece solid cover design without vent.
- Provide two emergency swing out windows on the right side and two on the left side with vertical hinges.
- Seat backs or barriers shall not be located in such manner to restrict the use of the windows in an emergency.
- All emergency exits shall be equipped with an audible buzzer that will sound when latch is moved toward open position.
- All emergency exits shall conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards 217.

Engine Cruise Control:

- Bus shall be equipped with cruise control and must be operable from 20 mph up.

Fire Extinguisher:

- One 5lb. ABC type fire extinguisher to meet State standards.
- The Department of Transportation shall select mounting location at time of pilot model inspection.

First Aid Kit:

- First aid kit shall be a metal type kit 16 unit supplied to meet Maryland standards.
- First aid kit must be mounted in a manner that allows easy removal from bracket when needed.
- The Department of Transportation shall select mounting location at time of pilot model inspection.

Flooring and Floor Covering:

- Floor covering shall be black slip resistant rubberized material.
- Aisles and steps shall be covered with a ribbed rubberized slip resistant material.
- Floor covering shall be one continuous piece from front to rear. Splicing in floor

covering shall not be acceptable.

- Subfloor shall be 5/8" marine grade plywood.

Fuses:

- Shall provide three roads flare fuses, wire support type, in a container.
- The MCPS DOT shall select mounting location at time of pilot model inspection.

Handrails:

- Handrails are to be installed on both sides of the front entrance going up the steps of the bus.
- Must meet current standards for draw strings.

Heaters/Defrosters:

- Three heaters to be provided, two front and one rear.
- Heaters to have the following minimum BTU ratings to be specifically engineered to provide optimum HVAC performance by the manufacturer.
 - Left front heater: 90,000 BTU
 - Right front: 50,000 BTU
 - Rear heater: 84,000 BTU*
- Driver's heater to provide selection option for fresh air, recirculation air, or combination.
- Defrosters shall be of sufficient capacity to keep windshield clear of fog, ice, and snow.
- Defroster channel shall run full length of windshield for even distribution of heated air.
- Defrosters shall work in conjunction with both front heaters and air conditioning and have separate blowers and adjustable snorkels on left- and right-hand sides.
- Defroster channel openings shall be protected with wire mesh of no greater size than 1/4" x 1/4" to prevent objects from falling into fans and motors.
- All heaters to be plumbed to provide the interior with constant even heat using Gates Blue Stripe hose.
- All hot water lines inside the passenger compartment shall be made of rubber in one continuous piece with constant torque clamps on all fittings.
- All plumbing for heaters will be enclosed in aluminized steel protective housings.
- All rubber plumbing in driver's compartment to be protected with flexible rust resistant tubing.
- All heaters shall be equipped with air filters, to provide easy access for cleaning.
- Provide two 6" minimum diameter heavy-duty defroster fans mounted above each windshield (one each) with appropriate protective covers.
- Provide dash mounted water shut-off device convenient for driver to turn off water inside bus.

Horn:

- Dual electric horns shall be provided. One horn shall have "F" note at 110 decibels (DBA) and one horn shall have "A" note at 112 DBA.

Ignition/Keys:

- All ignition switches shall be keyed alike.
- Manufacturer shall furnish their standard key code.
- Manufacturer shall provide two sets of ignition keys per bus.
- Two keys for access panels to electrical equipment/windshield wipers or other areas shall be provided per bus.
- There shall be an appropriate storage hook or other device for securing access panel keys in the driver's compartment or overhead storage box.

Interior of Bus:

- Interior of bus shall be free of all unnecessary projections likely to cause injury.
- All interior panels to have hemmed edges.
- Interior side panels shall be aluminized steel extending from lower edge of window to floor.

Interior Height:

- Minimum interior body height from floor to center of roof shall be 77".

Interior Lights:

- Step Well: One minimum, operating whenever service door is opened LED.
- Dome: Six minimum, three rows of two for passenger area LED. Dome lights to activate with driver-controlled switch and when an emergency exit is opened.
- Dome: One individually switched for driver LED.

Mirrors:

- All mirrors shall conform to all State of Maryland and FMVSS Standard III requirements and be mounted with stainless steel brackets and hardware.

Interior Mirror:

- Shall have safety plate 6" x 30" minimum designed to minimize glare and to afford good view to the rear.
- Mirror shall be metal backed with rounded corners and protected edges.
- Provide interior mirror with back up camera access and lever lock. Back-up camera shall operate at all times when ignition on integrated with video recording system.

Miscellaneous:

- Provide drivers OEM integrated or molded cup holder.
- Provide trash receptacle in driver's area as approved by MCPS.

Noise Reduction Package:

- Provide sound package throughout the entire passenger compartment that will meet or exceed the 83 DBA sound limits.
- Package shall include, but not be limited to, complete acoustic headliner with fiberglass insulation, firewall insulation, rubber steps and floor cover.
- Must include firewall, transmission cover, and black rubber mat with 50 oz. felt backing in driver's area and toe-board insulation.

Paint Interior:

- Standard Color.
- All paint must be lead free.

Radio:

- AM/FM/ PA and weather band radio, with minimum of six 30 watt or greater interior speakers.
- Radio shall be of sufficient wattage to drive the speakers.
- Service manual with schematic shall be provided.
- Provide external PA radio speaker mounted under hood.
- Radio shall operate when the key is in the ON and ACCESSORY positions.

Rear Window Wide Angle Prism:

- Provide rear window wide angle lens made by 3M Company or equal. (To allow driver a good view area directly behind the bus.).

Safety Devices:

- Provide post-trip inspection device which sounds alarm in driver's area upon shut-down of vehicle with the ignition switch in the off position. Device can only be deactivated by depressing button located at rearmost interior panel above rear window. (Device ensures drivers perform post-trip inspection of passenger compartment.) When alarm sounds, a light shall be illuminated and located next to a warning label in the driver's compartment that reads, "PERFORM POST-TRIP INSPECTION, DISABLE ALARM AT REAR OF BUS." System shall not require red warning light activation to sound alarm. System shall not sound horn or flash headlamps.
- Provide Mobileye Collision Avoidance system (lane following and forward speed monitoring).

Seats/Seating Arrangement:

- Passenger Seats: minimum of 64 seated passenger capacity (the seating capacity for the special education and special education bus with lift are specified above in section 3.2 B and C).
- On both sides there shall be three rows of 39" integrated child seats, seven rows of standard 39" seats and the last row on each side shall be 30" seats. All passenger seats shall be mounted with fasteners that allows removal from inside the bus.
- All seats shall be equipped with three-point, lap and shoulder seat belts.

- Integrated child seats shall not have exposed/visible shoulder or lap belts when not unfolded or in closed position.
- Federal high back seats with 28" back.
- Each seat shall be equipped with the maximum number of child safety seat latch system eyelets allowed for each seat size and total allowed by bus size constraints.
- Upholstery shall be heavy-duty fire block including under side of passenger seats.
- Lower front barrier on both sides of the aisle to include kick panel.
- Left side barrier immediately behind driver's seat shall tilt rearward to allow maximum driver movement of driver's seat.
- A storage pouch attached to the left front seat barrier approximately 16" x 16" capable of storing approximately 4 ½" of papers or notebook type materials shall be affixed to barrier immediately behind driver's seat.
- Left side seating arrangement shall allow maximum range of adjustment for driver seat and maximum allowable space at flip seat for easy exit through side door.
- Bidder shall submit floor plan at time of bid for approval.
- Color to be standard gray.

Seat/Seatbelt, Drivers Seat:

- Driver's seat must be compatible with the design of the bus.
- Adjustable six ways air suspension seat with 275 pounds minimum weight capacity. Only National Heated seat will be considered at this time.
- Seat to be high back seat with two moveable arm rests.
- Provide lumbar support adjustment.
- All seat materials to be heavy duty and meet current standards for fire block.
- Color to be standard gray or black.
- A combination shoulder strap and seat belt with adjustable pillar-loop retractors and boot or sheath shall be provided for the driver.
- Belts shall comply with current specifications and recommended practices of Society of Automotive Engineers except that the belt shall be fastened to bus floor immediately behind driver seat when seat is adjusted to its rearmost position.
- Shoulder strap and seat belt shall have retractors and boot or protective cover.
- All driver shoulder and seatbelt webbing shall be bright orange in color.
- Shoulder strap shall be adjustable from the side wall mount 16" of minimum adjustment.

Signs and Numbers Interior:

- NO SMOKING signs shall be in front center of bus in 2" red letters.
- FIRE EXTINGUISHER LOCATED ON FLOOR shall be placed on front center of bus in 1" letters.
- NO STANDING IN FRONT OF WHITE LINE sign shall be in front center of bus.
- Numbers shall be placed inside above front windshield and above rear windows.
- All emergency exits shall be marked according to Federal and State Requirements with appropriate operating instructions and identification labels inside and out (white panel red letters acceptable).

- Decals shall be placed on the upper portion of the window with clear backing.
- Note: See safety devices on Post-trip Inspection Device sign.

Steering Wheel:

- The steering wheel shall be an 18-20" diameter.
- Shall be mounted on tilt and telescoping column.
- Shall be covered with a padded-touch material other than hard plastic.

Steps:

- Step Well: Three-step entrance covered with black slip resistant dimpled rubber with aluminum nosing.
- Step Wells shall be constructed of rust resistant material.
- Rhino liner or approved treatment of interior and exterior of entrance steps. Bidder provide details with bid for approval.

Storage Compartment:

- A storage compartment shall be provided above the driver seat on the left side of the interior that complies with all Federal and Maryland regulations with door latch, not lockable.

Sun Visor:

- Adjustable type plastic sun visor, 6" x 30", shall be provided over driver's side of windshield.
- Adjustable type plastic sun visor, 6" x 30", shall be provided over left side driver's window.

Two-way radio:

- Shall be equipped with Motorola 5550e mobile radio which includes GPS module, PRONet integrated voice and data licenses and a two wire GPS antenna. Procom Corporation will coordinate and do the installation of the two-way radios.
- The two-way radio shall operate when the ignition system is in the on and accessory position only.
- Radio shall be wired as the existing fleet with the radio on off switch disabled so the radio cannot be turned off when the ignition switch is in the on or accessory position.

Ventilation:

- One static type non-closing exhaust ventilator shall be included as integral part of roof and be mounted in the center of the roof above the driver area and service door.
- Heaters in driver's area will provide optional fresh air/recirculating positions.

Warning Light Control:

- The flasher control unit shall be solid state type.
- The control switches will be mounted just below the center of the windshields and

- operate according to State and Federal requirements.
- Amber warning light switch to be outlined in yellow.

Windows:

- All full-size passenger windows shall be aluminum or polycarbonate framed split sash minimum 28" in height. *Note: Windows are 30.5*
- The window directly to the left of the driver shall be split and shall slide forward and backward in weather-stripped grooves.
- All passenger window glass to be tinted to 28% light transmission.
- Driver and service door windows are to be clear.

Wipers:

- Intermittent wiper control is required.
- Headlights automatically come on when wipers are in the on or intermittent position.

Wiring:

- No body accessory can be operated when ignition switch is off except post trip warning device.
- The following accessories shall work with the ignition switch in the Accessory Position and ON position: AM/FM radio/PA; Two-way radio and interior lights.
- All wiring must be color coded and numbered.

EXTERIOR**Back-up Camera/Warning Devices:**

- Back-up camera mounted above rear emergency door with monitor in rear view mirror.
- Back-up sensors shall be mounted in or above rear bumper.

Batteries:

- Dual 12-volt maintenance-free High Temperature AGM type with a minimum of 925 cold cranking amps per battery.
- Battery capacity shall be sufficient to meet the electrical loads generated in normal overload factors.
- Batteries shall be mounted on a left side slide out heavy duty tray in a skirt mounted battery box with stainless steel roller or ball bearings to allow easy slide in and out.
- Battery quick disconnect switch shall be provided in easy access location in the battery box.

Body Size/Design:

- Conventional-style bus design, with front-mounted engine and tilt hood.
- Overall length must not exceed 37'.
- Units built to be fully equipped with a 3/3 seating plan.
- The exterior side skirt of the bus shall extend at least to the centerline of the axles.

Bumpers:

- Front bumpers to be heavy-duty type if available from the chassis manufacturer.
- Bumpers must be of sufficient strength to permit pushing of a vehicle of equal weight without temporary or permanent distortion to the bumper.
- Rear bumper shall be pressed steel channel at least 3/16" thick and 9 3/4" wide (high).
- Rear bumper shall be fully wrapped around back corners of bus, and extend forward at least 12", measured from rearmost point of body at floor line.
- Rear bumper shall be attached to chassis frame in such a manner that it may be removed easily, and braced as to develop full strength of bumper section from rear or side impact and attached to prevent hitching of rides.

Construction:

- Construction shall be of rust-resistant, zinc-coated, prime commercial quality steel.
- All such construction materials shall be fire-resistant.
- Outside body panels below window line shall be no less than 16-gauge steel.

Exterior Color: All paint must be lead-free.

- National School Bus Chrome Yellow high solids polyurethane (no exceptions.)
- Roof - painted white.
- Bumpers and Rub Rails—painted gloss black (*Note exception under Hood below*).

Doors, Service:

- Door shall seal against a stationary rubber gasket on all vertical and horizontal edges.
- All door hinges shall be grease able type or have nylon bushings.
- Provide outside service door handle.
- Provide exterior door lock for entrance door. All buses keyed alike.

Fenders:

- When tire size specified extends beyond the body, the wheel areas shall be covered with a metal or rubber fender extension around complete wheel housing.
- Mud flaps shall be provided behind each wheel and extend down to approximately 9" from the ground.

Hood:

- Hood must be fiberglass tilt type. No other type shall be considered.
- Shall be equipped with easy tilt and drop proof mechanisms to assist in opening and closing.
- Top of hood to be painted with glare resistant finish and clear coat.

License Plates:

- Shall have front and rear brackets or mounting area and shall include license plate.
- Mounting hardware or nylon inserts.

Lights and Signals:

- All exterior lights shall be LED except Strobe on roof
- All body mounted light and reflector rims shall be made of dura-mold plastic or stainless steel.

Front and Rear Warning Lights:

- School bus alternately flashing eight light warning systems shall be provided to meet latest State and FMVSS requirements. Alternately flashing red/amber lights shall be equipped with synchronized flashing LED strobe lights.

Front:

- Headlights: LED with daytime running light design. Daytime running lights shall only be illuminated when the ignition switch is in the “On” position and the transmission in gear, and not in the “Accessory” position.
- Cluster: Three amber pin LED.
- Marker: Two front pin LED.
- Directional: Rectangular LED amber to be mounted on fenders.

Rear:

- Stop Tail: One right rear, one left rear 7” LED.
- Stop Tail: One right rear, one left rear 4” LED.
- Directional: One right, one left 7” amber lens LED.
- Back-up: Two 7” with clear lens LED.
- Cluster: Three Red pin style LED
- Marker: One right and left red corner with pin style LED

Sides:

- Directional: One amber located right side behind service door and one located left side similar position with protective shields. One red located left and right behind rear wheel wells, or mid ship, all lights to have protective shields LED.

Service Door:

- One with clear lens located on right side at service door entrance, LED.

Reflectors:

- Three on each side of bus, (front, center, and rear). Two on rear of bus.

Roof:

- One roof mounted white LED strobe light four inches high by five” in diameter shall be provided (As Specialty #515400).
- Strobe light shall be center mounted, one foot toward the rear of the bus behind the rear roof hatch exit. Guards shall be provided to protect strobe light on top of bus.
- Strobe light shall have a manual switch with pilot light to indicate light is on and shall

be located in driver compartment.

Rear Tire:

- LED flood light positioned behind the driver and passenger rear tires mounted on the side body skirt activated when transmission is in reverse.

MIRRORS

Exterior Mirrors:

- All exterior mirrors shall have stainless steel brackets, be electrically heated, remote electric control with labeled switch. Heat switch shall include timer to deactivate after approximately 15 minutes.
- Eurostyle, Double Nickel, or similar style mirror, (European “Overhung” style will not be accepted) with configuration one flat mirror mounted above one convex mirror on each side.
- Mirrors will not extend beyond the body of the bus more than 110” measured from outside edge to outside edge of the left and right-side mirrors.
- Provide Elliptical type crossover mirror on each front corner of bus fender.

Safety Devices:

- All exterior safety devices are to be mounted with stainless steel fasteners and meet Maryland State and FMVSS requirements.
- Provide one front and one rear air operated left-side mounted octagon shaped, stop arm in accordance with Maryland State requirements which shall include two flashing LED strobe lights on each arm which will be activated with the red warning lights.
- Provide air operated bumper mounted or integrally designed air operated yellow polycarbonate-type crossing arm that will be activated with the opening of the service door. There shall be no light on the arm. The arm shall stow recessed above bumper or shall include a magnetic retention device to secure the arm against the bumper when not activated.
- Provide post-trip inspection device which sounds alarm in driver’s area upon shut-down of vehicle with the ignition switch in the off position. Device can only be deactivated by depressing button located at rearmost interior panel above rear window. (Device ensures drivers perform post-trip inspection of passenger compartment.) When alarm sounds, a light shall be illuminated and located next to a warning label in the driver’s compartment that reads, “PERFORM POST-TRIP INSPECTION, DISABLE ALARM AT REAR OF BUS.” System shall not require red warning light activation to sound alarm. System shall not sound horn or flash headlamps.

Signs:

- All lettering shall be in black letters except where noted below.
- The words MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS shall be placed immediately below window line on both sides of bus in 6” lettering, 1” stroke (Driver side lettering to be provided to MCPS for installation at a later date).

- SCHOOL BUS shall be placed on the front and rear as required with a reflective background.
 - STOP ON SIGNAL shall be placed on the bottom of the rear emergency door as required by MVA.
 - **Vehicle Number:**
 - i. **Right Side:** Top corner, top rear corner, below window line next to service door, rear corner below window line.
 - ii. **Left Side:** Top front corner, top rear corner, side below driver's window, rear corner below window line.
 - iii. **Front:** Left side front bumper (yellow numbers).
 - iv. **Rear:** Centered on rear emergency door next to handle.
 - v. **Roof:** Shall be located on the forward most roof panel behind the static roof vent and shall be numbered left to right in 18" high x 10" wide x 2 3/4" stroke with the letters MCPS directly below the numbers in the same size. The rear corners, top and bottom of the back of the bus shall be outlined in yellow reflective tape.
 - "Battery Disconnect Switch" decal, located on outside of battery compartment

Snow Rail:

- Snow rail shall be installed full length of body skirt and painted black.

Steps:

- Stirrup Steps: There shall be one stirrup step and a suitably located handle on each side of the front of body for ease in cleaning windshield and warning lamps.

Tires and Wheels:

- All tires to be Michelin 16- ply low profile steel radial 11R x 22.5.
- Front tires: All season or highway tread.
- Rear tires: Mud and snow (No exceptions).
- All wheels shall be 10-hole disc type Budd wheels hub piloted.

Towing:

- Tow eyes or hooks provided at front and rear of body located below the bumpers.

Windshield Wipers and Washers:

- There shall be two heavy-duty positive action, 2-speed electric operated bottom mounted wipers and washers.
- Washer spray to be attached to each wiper arm.

Wiring:

- Wiring diagrams shall be affixed to electrical compartments accurately indicating the position of all relays, breakers, buzzers, fuses, etc.

UNDER CARRIAGE**Axles:**

- Front axle 10,000 lbs. minimum and equipped with (Wet Hub) lubricated with 80/90 synthetic gear oil.
- Rear axle 23,000 lbs. minimum.
- Rear axle traction control device shall be included with anti-skid control devices with dash mounted control switch.

Battery Box:

- One-piece battery cables of sufficient length to reach from the outside battery compartment to engine compartment shall be provided.
- All cables are to be sufficiently protected from chaffing and shorting with appropriate protective devices.

Body to Frame Mounting:

- Hold-down clamps shall be of a positive type, not spring type.

Brakes:

- Brake system shall be full compressed air system with four-wheel Bendix ADB22X-V disc brakes, adequate at all times to control the bus when fully loaded and balanced for optimal braking efficiency and safety.
- All current requirements for anti-skid devices shall be provided.
- System will include Bendix AD-IP Air Drier with heater and spin-on filter.
- There shall be one wet tank, one dry tank and one accessory tank. A check valve shall be provided between the compressor and the first reservoir and the first reservoir and second reservoir. Wet tank, or #1 tank, shall have an automatic drain valve and sludge remover such as Bendix DV-2 Automatic Drain Valve with heater. High pressure relief valve shall be provided to protect against excessive air pressure build up with remotely located drain valve at skirt of bus.

Shock Absorbers:

- Heavy-duty type front and rear.

Spring/Suspension:

- Front Axle: Leaf Springs.
- Rear Axle: Air ride suspension capacity 23,000 lbs. minimum. Combined rating to equal 27,500 lbs. GVWR as in Axle ratings.

Undercoating:

- Entire underbody to be completely factory undercoated with Textile wax base undercoating material or equal, and excluding front fenders and fiberglass hood.

This RFI is for information gathering purposes only and will not result in the award of an agreement and/or contract.

4.0 REFERENCES

Respondents should include a list of a minimum of five references who use the respondent’s services and who can attest to their quality of work. If possible, the list should include school districts of comparable size to MCPS that have utilized the respondent’s services. Include names of client, contact person, email address and phone number of all references. Also, as an attachment, respondents should include a list of all current school district clients.

References may or may not be reviewed or contacted at the discretion of MCPS. Typically, only references of the top ranked respondents are contacted. MCPS reserves the right to contact references other than, and/or in addition to, those furnished by a respondent.

<u>Company Name & Address</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
1. _____ Email _____		
2. _____ Email _____		
3. _____ Email _____		
4. _____ Email _____		
5. _____ Email _____		

5.0 SUBMISSIONS

All of these written submission components described above should be submitted in with one (1) original, one (1) redacted copy and one electronic format, flash drive.

Submission are to be received by 2:00 p.m. January 17, 2024. Submit responses of the entire RFI proposal to:

Montgomery County Public Schools
Division of Procurement
45 West Gude Drive, Suite 3100
Rockville, MD 20850

Submissions will become the property of MCPS.

The proposal should be complete and comply with all aspects of these specifications. Marketing or promotional verbiage likely will overshadow the respondent's qualifications and expertise. MCPS urges the respondent to be specific and brief in their responses. MCPS shall not be responsible or liable for any costs incurred by the respondents in the preparation and submission of their proposals and pricing.

Complete Response must include:

A written program description as outlined below must provide:

1. Overview of the program/services proposed to partner with MCPS; including equipment (aligned to federal and state requirements), charging infrastructure for five bus depots and proposed electric school buses, maintenance of proposed electric school buses, vehicle specifications, vendor/ staff credentials, supports for MCPS fleet maintenance and administration, and applicable references.
2. Options for a continued implementation plan to include the program/services (with cost estimates, timelines and deliverables) and with a perspective of achieving most success in the context of MCPS, including engagement with MCPS staff, associated vendors, county agencies and community stakeholders.
3. Detailed plan that outlines how their offer will align with a program under implementation to include proposed program costs and contract terms. Plan shall comply with state and local requirements for student transportation, as well as applicable Board policies and MCPS regulations (for example, proposed electric bus specifications and construction shall meet Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) for school bus construction).

4. Legal status of the respondent(s) (e.g., charter, public/private partnership, vendor, etc.).

In addition, responses should include:

5. References. See 4.0 References
6. List of all current school district clients.
7. Respondent's annual fiscal report in order to demonstrate the vendor's financial stability. If desired, the vendor also may include any other financial documents that Vendor wishes to include regarding Vendor's financial condition, but such documentation is not mandatory.

6.0 TREATMENT OF TECHNICAL DATA IN PROPOSAL

The proposal submitted in response to this request may contain technical data which the respondent does not want used or disclosed for any purpose other than evaluation of the proposal. The use and disclosure of any such technical data, subject to the provisions of the Maryland Public Information Act, may be so restricted:

Provided, that respondent marks the cover sheet of the proposal with the following legend, specifying the pages of the proposal which are to be restricted in accordance with the conditions of the legend: "Technical data contained in pages ___ of this proposal shall not be used or disclosed, except for evaluation purposes."

Provided, that if a contract is awarded to this respondent as a result of or in connection with the submission of this proposal, MCPS shall have the right to use or disclose these technical data to the extent provided in the contract.

This restriction does not limit the right of MCPS to use or disclose technical data obtained from another source without restriction. MCPS assumes no liability for disclosure or use of unmarked technical data or products and may use or disclose the data for any purpose and may consider that the proposal was not submitted in confidence and therefore is releasable. Price and cost data concerning salaries, overhead, and general and administrative expenses are considered proprietary information and will not be disclosed, if marked in accordance with the instructions in 9.0.

7.0 PROPRIETARY AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Respondents are notified that MCPS has unlimited data rights regarding proposals submitted in response to this solicitation. Unlimited data rights mean that MCPS has the right to use, disclose, reproduce, prepare derivative works, distribute copies to the public,

or perform publicly and display publicly any information submitted by the respondent in response to this or any solicitation issued by MCPS. However, MCPS will exempt information that is confidential commercial or financial information of a respondent, as defined by the Maryland Public Information Act, State Government Article, Section 10-617, from disclosure. It is the responsibility of the respondent to clearly identify each part of its proposal that is confidential commercial or financial information by stamping the **bottom right-hand corner** of each pertinent page with one-inch bold face letters stating the words “**confidential**” or “**proprietary**.” The respondent agrees that any portion of the proposal that is not stamped as proprietary or confidential is not proprietary or confidential. As a condition for MCPS keeping the information confidential, the respondent must agree to defend and hold MCPS harmless if any information is inadvertently released. Each respondent must submit a proprietary and confidential redacted copy of its proposal to be used in responding to MPIA requests.

8.0 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The anticipated schedule of activities related to this RFI is as follows:

RFI issued:	December 14, 2023
Questions Due:	December 21, 2023 at 4:00pm
Proposals Due:	January 17, 2024 at 2:00pm

All dates are subject to change at the discretion of MCPS.

MCPS reserves the right to ask clarifying questions about submitted proposals. Respondents also may ask questions that they may have related to this RFI prior to submitting their responses.

9.0 PRE-SUBMISSION CONFERENCE

Not applicable to this RFI

10.0 ADDENDA/ERRATA

Changes and addenda to a solicitation may occur prior to the solicitation opening date and time. It is the respondent’s responsibility to check the MCPS website under “Event Calendar” <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/calendar/mcpsbids.aspx> or contact the Division of Procurement at 240-740-7600 to verify whether addenda/errata have been issued.

In the event that MCPS issues addenda/errata, all terms and conditions will remain in effect unless they are specifically and explicitly changed by the addenda/errata. Respondents must acknowledge receipt of such addenda/errata by returning one signed copy of each of the

addenda/errata with its proposal. Failure to provide the signed acknowledgement of the addenda/errata may result in an offer being considered nonresponsive.

11.0 INQUIRIES

Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be submitted in writing to Mrs. Angela McIntosh Davis, MCPS Division of Procurement Unit, Director, 45 W. Gude Drive, Suite 3100, Rockville, MD 20850, or via e-mail to angela_s_mcintosh-davis@mcpsmd.org.

12.0 UNNECESSARILY ELABORATE BROCHURES

Unnecessarily elaborate brochures or other presentations beyond those sufficient to present a complete and effective proposal are not desired and may be construed as an indication of the respondent's lack of cost consciousness. Elaborate art work and expensive visual and other presentation aids are neither necessary nor wanted.

13.0 NOTICE TO BIDDERS

This is a Request for Information (RFI), not an order. No cost can be charged to MCPS for any reason. This document shall not be construed as a request or authorization to perform work at MCPS' expense. Any work performed by a vendor will be at the vendor's own discretion and expense. This RFI does not represent a commitment to purchase or lease. Submission of a response constitutes acknowledgement that the vendor has read and agrees to be bound by such terms

PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE

The appropriate items below must be completed as part of the RFI. Type or print legibly in ink.

I. BIDDER INFORMATION: As appropriate, check and/or complete one of the items below.

- 1. Legal name (as shown on your income tax return) _____
- 2. Business Name (if different from above) _____
- 3. Tax Identification Number _____

A copy of your W-9 must be submitted with this bid response.

II. BIDDER'S CONTACT INFORMATION: This will be filed as your permanent contact information.

- 1. Company Name _____
- 2. Address _____
- 3. RFI Representative's Name _____
- 4. Phone Number/Extension _____
- 5. Email Address _____
- 6. Website _____