

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

## ASSESSMENT OF STATE SUPPORT FOR SHORT LINE RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE

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**WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE  
JOINT TRANSPORTATION  
COMMITTEE**

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### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**JUNE 2, 2021**



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### JTC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### SENATORS

Steve Hobbs  
Co-Chair

Curtis King  
Ranking Member

#### REPRESENTATIVES

Jake Fey  
1<sup>st</sup> Co-Chair

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Ranking Member

### I. BACKGROUND

The Washington State Legislature has commissioned a study to update the [Washington State Short Line Rail Inventory and Needs Assessment](#), assess the effectiveness of state support for short-line rail infrastructure and make recommendations to improve and enhance that support.

Class I main line railroads provide the primary arteries for the movement of goods by rail throughout Washington. Short line railroads provide connectivity between rural agricultural and timber/wood products production areas and the main line rail networks. This allows Washington state farmers, manufacturers, and other sectors access to national and global markets. The state's short lines also serve advanced manufacturing sectors in the movement of both raw materials and finished goods. Several of the state's deep-water and inland ports rely on short line railroads to transport both state and national exported goods.

Short lines carry a small share of total rail traffic in Washington, but they comprise about 40 percent of all railroad mileage in the state with over 1,300 route miles of track. The state of Washington owns three rail lines that comprise the Palouse River and Coulee City (PCC) rail system in eastern Washington. It is the longest short line freight rail system in Washington, at 297 miles in length.

In 2015, as directed by the legislature, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) published the "Washington State Short Line Rail Inventory and Needs Assessment." This assessment was the first data-based evaluation of the condition and capital needs of the state's entire short-line system. It found that "Much of the existing short line rail system in Washington State does not meet the state's current or future capacity and velocity needs for efficient operations. Productivity and safety of the system suffers from long-deferred maintenance." The study authors were able to obtain data on rail conditions for 19 short lines in the state. Based on that information they estimated the overall infrastructure investment need for more than 700 miles to be approximately \$610,000,000.

Washington state law (RCW 47.76) directs WSDOT to provide grants and loans to improve the short line rail system. The two primary programs are the Freight Rail Investment Bank (FRIB), a loan program used to fund small capital rail projects with at least 20 percent match; and the Freight Rail Assistance Program (FRAP), a grant program that uses legislatively approved criteria to award rail assistance to public or private short lines. The 2021-23 transportation budget allocates a total of \$5,089,000 for FRIB and \$7,040,000 for FRAP.

## II. SCOPE OF WORK

**Purpose:** The purpose of this study is to update the Washington State Short Line Rail Inventory and Needs Assessment, assess the effectiveness of state support for short-line rail infrastructure, and to make recommendations to improve and enhance that support. Recommendations will be informed by data and information gathered through stakeholder engagement, and through the targeted update to the 2015 inventory and needs assessment.

This assessment must include consideration of current state grant and loan programs, including state investment in nonstate owned short lines, the state's role and investments in the Palouse River and Coulee City (PCC) rail system, and any other ongoing state activities related to short line rail infrastructure.

### **Staff Workgroup**

A Staff Workgroup will provide guidance and assistance during the study. The Workgroup will include staff from the

- JTC,
- House and Senate Transportation Committees,
- Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
- Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC)
- Representative(s) of short-line rail owners, operators and/or customers
- Others as deemed appropriate by the JTC

The Consultant will work with the Staff Workgroup throughout the study, soliciting input, presenting draft materials before they are shared publicly, and reviewing findings, recommendations, and draft reports.

A final report is due to the House and Senate Transportation Committees by January 1, 2022.

## III. TASKS TO BE COMPLETED IN STUDY

The tasks described below are based on the [study proviso](#) included in the 2021-23 transportation budget (SSB 5165). The description of the tasks is not intended to fully encompass the study tasks, but instead provides the Consultant with a potential framework for the study.

**Consultants are encouraged to recommend additions and/or alternatives to better accomplish the study's stated objectives.**

### **TASK 1: CONDUCT STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH**

For Task 1 the Consultant will consult with agencies and stakeholder groups through meetings, interviews, focus groups, surveys, or other methods. The purpose of these consultations is to hear directly from these stakeholders on how state support for short line rail infrastructure could be improved and enhanced. The consultant should describe in their proposal methods to be used to accomplish this task. Due to the uncertainty around ongoing COVID-19 restrictions it is likely that at least some of the stakeholder outreach will need to be conducted in a virtual or hybrid format.

The consultant will solicit input from all regions of the state from representatives of: short line rail infrastructure owners, short line rail operators, short line rail customers from representative industries, ports

served by short line rail infrastructure, WSDOT, the UTC and others as deemed appropriate through consultation with the Staff Workgroup.

Deliverable: The Consultant will work with the JTC project manager to determine how best to report findings from these consultations. At a minimum a summary of findings will be included in the final report.

## **TASK 2: ASSESS AND UPDATE 2015 INVENTORY AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

For Task 2 the Consultant will review and assess the 2015 "[Washington State Short Line Rail Inventory and Needs Assessment](#)" to determine data and information that should be updated or added in order better inform the recommendations developed in Task 3. The consultant will then carry out the necessary data collection and analysis to update the 2015 Inventory and Needs Assessment. Data collected for the 2015 report will be made available to the consultant.

The consultant should consider how data and information collection could be incorporated into the stakeholder outreach required in Task 1.

Deliverable: Proposal for data collection and analysis. Draft report chapter(s).

## **TASK 3: DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE AND ENHANCE STATE SUPPORT FOR SHORT LINE RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE**

Using the information gathered in Tasks 1 and 2 the consultant will develop a series of recommendations aimed at improving and enhancing state support for short-line rail infrastructure. Recommendations should describe specific steps, strategies, and/or statute changes needed for implementation. Recommendations should include methods or frameworks for prioritizing investments in short line rail infrastructure to maximize the public benefit for each dollar invested and identify other objectives that the recommendations would address.

In developing the recommendations the consultant must consider current state grant and loan programs, including state investment in nonstate owned short lines, the state's role and investments in the Palouse River and Coulee City (PCC) rail system, and any other ongoing state activities related to short line rail infrastructure.

Deliverable: Draft report chapter

## **TASK 4: COORDINATE WITH STAFF WORKGROUP**

In addition to the consultations described in Task 1 the Consultant will work with a Staff Workgroup throughout the study, soliciting input, presenting draft materials before they are shared publicly, and reviewing findings, recommendations, and draft reports.

The Staff Workgroup membership is identified above under the scope of work section. JTC staff will provide contact information for Workgroup members. The consultant will be responsible for convening the workgroup after initial JTC contact. The Consultant should generally expect to provide copies of all materials needed for meetings with the Staff Workgroup. Due to the uncertainty around ongoing COVID-19 restrictions it is likely that at least some of Workgroup meetings will be held in a virtual or hybrid format.

Though the Consultant should strive to incorporate input from the Staff Workgroup the final recommendations will be those of the Consultant.

## **TASK 5: PRESENT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Consultant will attend and provide study updates at the following meetings:

- September 23, 2021 JTC meeting in Olympia to provide a study overview and progress report to the full JTC
- December 17, 2021 JTC meeting in Olympia to present the findings and recommendations from the Draft Final Report
- One presentation each to the House and Senate Transportation Committees during the 2022 legislative session, at the Committees' discretion. These two presentations would likely occur on the same day in January or February 2022. The consultant would provide an overview of the study findings and recommendations.

## **TASK 6: DRAFT AND FINAL REPORTS**

The Consultant will prepare a draft report for the study that includes an Executive Summary highlighting study findings and recommendations as well as the deliverables described above in Tasks 1-3.

The Consultant must deliver the draft report to the JTC Project Manager and Staff Workgroup by November 18, 2020. Staff Workgroup comments and suggestions must be considered for incorporation into the draft final report and delivered to the JTC by December 15, 2020. The draft final report is not final until the four JTC Executive Committee Members have voted to accept it. The final report is due to the House and Senate Transportation Committees by January 1, 2022.

The Consultant shall work with the JTC Project Manager on review of the draft reports and incorporate any needed changes.

Deliverable: Draft and final reports

## **IV. CONTRACT DELIVERABLES**

The successful Consultant will provide the following services and deliverables:

1. The Consultant shall work with JTC staff to develop a draft workplan to meet the requirements of section III of this RFP. The Consultant will present the draft workplan at the first staff workgroup meeting. Based on input from that meeting the Consultant will finalize the workplan with any changes necessary based on additional information. The work plan shall include:
  - Specific steps detailing how this study will be carried out;
  - The specific tasks to be performed and by whom;
  - The expected duration and level of effort in hours by person;
  - The specific data that will be needed, along with data sources; and,
  - A schedule for performing the tasks.

The JTC will review, comment on, and approve this work plan. Any subsequent changes to the work plan shall also require approval by the JTC.

2. In conducting the study, the Consultant shall coordinate and facilitate the Staff Workgroup meetings. The Consultant shall provide all meeting materials. JTC staff will be responsible for securing meeting locations and providing food and refreshments for the meetings.

3. The Consultant Project Manager shall have, at a minimum, twice-monthly scheduled conference calls with the JTC Project Manager. Full or partial Consultant team conference calls may be scheduled as needed.
4. The Consultant shall prepare and present to the JTC Project Manager, monthly written progress reports that address and summarize the issues in the Consultant's contracted Scope of Work and Work Plan.
5. The Consultant shall prepare draft deliverables as described above in Tasks 1-6. The Consultant shall present a draft to the JTC Project Manager and Staff Workgroup for comments and suggestions. The Consultant shall work with the JTC Project Manager on review of the draft deliverables and PowerPoints and incorporate any needed changes.
6. The Consultant shall present a draft report to the JTC Project Manager and Staff Workgroup by November 16, 2021, for comments and suggestions. The Consultant shall work with the JTC Project Manager on review of the draft report and incorporate any needed changes.
7. The Consultant shall submit the draft final report by December 15, 2020. The draft final report is not final until the four JTC Executive Committee Members have voted to accept it.
8. The Consultant may be requested to make a presentation to the House and Senate Transportation Committees during the 2022 legislative session. The decision will be up to the chairs of the House and Senate Transportation Committees.
9. The Consultant must deliver the approved Final Report in an electronic format suitable for printing and web-based distribution (PDF).

## **V. OVERSIGHT AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY**

The JTC will have prime oversight for this study. The clients of this study are the four JTC Executive Committee Members (the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Transportation Committees), who are represented in day-to-day study activities by the JTC Project Manager.

JTC staff will be responsible for the following activities:

- Prepare, publish and administer the RFP process;
- Coordinate the Consultant selection process and negotiate the contract;
- Administer the contract (review and approve invoices, ensure milestones are being met, etc.);
- Attend regularly scheduled briefings with Consultant;
- Receive, evaluate and edit Consultant products; and,
- Oversee communications and meetings between JTC, the Consultant, and the Staff Workgroup.

## **VI. QUALIFICATIONS**

- Bidder must be licensed to do business in the state of Washington.
- JTC shall also examine Bidder for responsibility. Responsibility shall include such measures as insurance coverage that meets state requirements, references, prior experience and satisfaction of existing clients, and other information related to responsibility.

## VII. DEFINITIONS

- **Apparently Successful Bidder** or **Apparently Successful Consultant** - the Bidder or Consultant selected as the most qualified entity to perform the stated services.
- **Bidder or Consultant** – an entity intending to submit or submitting a proposal for the project.
- **JTC** – Joint Transportation Committee, a Washington State legislative agency governed by an Executive Committee comprised of the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Transportation Committees. JTC shall mean the Executive Committee, Committee Coordinator, Project Manager, and/or any other staff of the JTC.
- **JTC Coordinator** – the Chief Executive Officer of the Joint Transportation Committee.
- **RFP** – this Request for Proposals, any addendum or erratum thereto, Bidder’s written questions and the respective answers, and any related correspondence that is addressed to all Bidders.
- **Contract definitions** are provided in the State of Washington General Terms and Conditions for personal services contracts in Exhibit A.

## VIII. PROVISO

Below is the budget proviso language for this study from Sec. 204 of the 2021-23 transportation budget ([SSB 5165](#)).

\$200,000 of the multimodal transportation account—state appropriation is for the joint transportation committee to update the Washington State Short Line Rail Inventory and Needs Assessment, prepared in 2015, and to facilitate a stakeholder process to assess the effectiveness of state support for short line rail infrastructure based on current and future short line rail infrastructure needs. This assessment must include consideration of current state grant and loan programs, including state investment in nonstate owned short lines, the state's role and investments in the Palouse River and Coulee City (PCC) rail system, and any other ongoing state activities related to short line rail infrastructure. The joint transportation committee must solicit input from all regions of the state from representatives of: Short line rail infrastructure owners, short line rail operators, short line rail customers from representative industries, ports served by short line rail infrastructure, the Washington state department of transportation, the utilities and transportation commission, and other relevant stakeholders as identified by the joint transportation committee. A report with recommendations to enhance the state's support for short line rail infrastructure is due to the transportation committees of the legislature by January 1, 2022.

## IX. HELPFUL RESOURCES

The following resources are provided for convenience and additional background for preparation of proposals. These resources are not exhaustive and should not be solely relied upon to form the basis of a proposal or any subsequent recommendations.

[Washington State Short Line Rail Inventory and Needs Assessment](#), 2015, WSDOT

[2019 Washington State Rail Plan](#), WSDOT

[Palouse River and Coulee City \(PCC\) Rail System](#), WSDOT

[State Rail Grant and Loan Programs](#), WSDOT

## **X. PROJECT BUDGET**

The budget for this project shall not exceed a maximum of **\$ 200,000**. Any resulting contract for this project will be subject to the standard state of Washington General Terms and Conditions for personal services contracts. A copy is attached to this RFP as Exhibit A.

## **XI. INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS**

### **A. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL**

**NOTE: All times listed below refer to local time in Olympia, Washington.**

1. A Letter of Intent to Bid must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on **June 14, 2021** to [sonia.plasencia@leg.wa.gov](mailto:sonia.plasencia@leg.wa.gov) and must include company name, address and email address.
2. Bidders must submit proposals in PDF format as an email attachment and/or as a link where the PDF file can be downloaded.
3. Bidders must provide two samples of previous work similar to this type in PDF format as an email attachment and/or as a link where the PDF file(s) can be downloaded.
4. Proposals are due no later than **5:00 p.m. (local time in Olympia) on June 24, 2021**. Late proposals will not be accepted and will be automatically disqualified. Proposals should be submitted to Sonia Plasencia, RFP Coordinator – [sonia.plasencia@leg.wa.gov](mailto:sonia.plasencia@leg.wa.gov).
5. Selected bidders will be required to participate in oral interviews on **July 8, 2021** via video conference. Selected bidders will be notified of the time and place of their scheduled interview and presentation.
6. All proposals and accompanying documentation become the property of the JTC and will not be returned.
7. JTC will not be liable for any costs associated with preparation and presentation of a proposal submitted in response to this RFP. The Bidder assumes responsibility for the travel and associated costs of Bidder personnel as they relate to bidding on this project.
8. In the event it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFP, an addendum or erratum will be provided to all Bidders who submitted a Letter of Intent to bid.
9. After submission, Bidders will not be allowed to amend their proposal. Responses consisting solely of marketing material are not acceptable and will be rejected.
10. Questions regarding this RFP should be directed to Sonia Plasencia, RFP Coordinator, as the single point of contact for this solicitation, **by email only** to [sonia.plasencia@leg.wa.gov](mailto:sonia.plasencia@leg.wa.gov) . Inquiries concerning clarification of some aspect of the RFP will be accepted beginning at 9:00 a.m. on **June 2**. No inquiries concerning the RFP will be accepted after 5:00 p.m., on **June 14**. Responses to questions will be posted at <http://leg.wa.gov/JTC/Pages/RFPs.aspx> within three business days. By **June 16**, all responses to inquiries will be posted and transmitted to all Bidders who have submitted a Letter of Intent to Bid.

## **B. LETTER OF SUBMITTAL**

The Letter of Submittal and the attached Certification and Assurances form (Exhibit B) must each be signed and dated by a person authorized to legally bind the Bidder to a contractual relationship, e.g., the President or Executive Director if a corporation, the managing partner if a partnership, or the proprietor if a sole proprietorship. Along with introductory remarks, the Letter of Submittal is to include by attachment the following information about the Bidder and any proposed subcontractors:

1. Name, address, principal place of business, telephone number, and fax number/email address of legal entity or individual with whom contract would be written.
2. Name, address, and telephone number of each principal officer (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, etc.).
3. Legal status of the Bidder (sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, etc.) and the year the entity was organized to do business as the entity now substantially exists.
4. Federal Employer Tax Identification number or Social Security number and the Washington Uniform Business Identification (UBI) number issued by the state of Washington Department of Revenue.
5. Location of the facility from which the Bidder would operate.
6. The names of any Washington State employees or former Washington State employees employed or on the firm's governing board as of the date of the proposal. Include their position and responsibilities within the Consultant's organization. If following a review of this information, it is determined by the JTC that a conflict of interest exists, the Bidder may be disqualified from further consideration for the award of a contract.

## **C. PROPOSAL FORMAT**

The proposal must be submitted in PDF format and be printable on eight and one-half by eleven (8 1/2x11) inch paper. The five major sections of the proposal are to be submitted in the order noted below:

1. Letter of Submittal, including signed Certifications and Assurances (Exhibit B).
2. Technical Approach
  - The Technical Approach should respond to Tasks 1-6 in Section III of this RFP, not to exceed ten pages. This page limitation does not include resumes, qualifications, work samples, the Letter of Submittal or signed Certifications and Assurances form.
  - The Technical Approach should describe the approaches, methodologies, and techniques that will be used to undertake each of these tasks and produce the deliverables; and shall identify each person responsible for each task. It should describe in as much detail as possible the anticipated tasks, levels of effort, schedules, and coordination work required to undertake the Tasks.
3. Management Approach
  - The Management Approach shall describe how your firm proposes to organize, manage, control, and report on the status of the study. Identify all critical milestones. It should include the following:
    - A statement of qualifications to conduct this work.
    - Identification of the individual(s) who will do the actual work being proposed, with attached professional resumes. Please keep resumes as concise as possible.



- An organization chart indicating the lines of authority for all personnel involved in performance of the potential contract.
  - A description of staff responsibilities and the amount of time they will devote to the project by task or topic area.
  - Bidders must include two samples of previous work similar to this type of project as electronic copies.
4. Cost Approach
- The total cost of this work shall be documented in a detailed budget, including direct and indirect labor, travel, and any other expenses (itemized). The cost description shall identify projected work hours and hourly rate(s) for each employee, by name and task, who will be assigned to this project.
5. References
- Include three references with whom your firm and the proposed Consultant Project Manager has done similar work. For each reference, include name, title, organization, address, phone number and email address. References shall not include staff of the Joint Transportation Committee, nor Washington State House or Senate Transportation Committee staff.

## **XII. EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by a panel selected by the JTC. After the initial evaluations, the JTC will select a small group of Bidders as finalists for oral interviews and presentations to the evaluation panel. Commitments made by the Bidder at the oral interview, if any, will be considered binding. The score from the oral presentation will be considered independently and will determine the apparently successful bidder.

Written proposals submitted in response to this RFP will be evaluated and weighted on the following three categories. This evaluation will be used solely for selecting Bidders to be invited for interviews.

- Technical Approach (50%)
  - Proposed project approach and methodology
  - Quality of work plan
  - Feasibility of proposed schedule
  - Description of proposed deliverables
- Management Approach (40%)
  - Project team structure internal controls
  - Staff qualifications & resumes
  - Relevant experience with projects of similar complexity & type
  - Other applicable experience
- Cost Approach (10%)
  - Quality of detailed budget
  - Reasonableness of cost approach
  - Total project cost

### **XIII. ESTIMATED SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

Letters of Intent to Bid due	June 14, 2021
Due date for proposals	June 24, 2021
Oral Interviews	July 8, 2021
Announce apparently successful Bidder	Approximately July 13, 2021
Estimated contract start date	July 26, 2021
Kick-off meeting with Staff Workgroup	Approximately the week of August 16, 2021
Presentation to JTC in Olympia	September 23, 2021 JTC meeting
Submit draft report to JTC staff	November 18, 2021
Final report draft due to JTC	December 15, 2021
Present draft final report to JTC in Olympia	December 16, 2021, JTC meeting
Final report submitted to House and Senate Transportation Committees	by January 1, 2022

### **XIV. JTC RIGHTS**

1. Determination of clarity and completeness in the responses to any of the provisions in this RFP will be made solely by the JTC. The JTC reserves the right to require clarification, additional information, and materials in any form relative to any or all of the provisions or conditions of this RFP.
2. The JTC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals at any time prior to the execution of a contract acceptable to the JTC, without any penalty to the JTC.
3. The JTC intends to award the contract to the Bidder with the best combination of attributes based on the evaluation criteria listed in Section XII of this RFP. This RFP does not, however, obligate the JTC to contract for services herein.
4. Should the JTC fail to negotiate a contract with the Apparently Successful Bidder, the JTC reserves the right to negotiate and contract with the next most qualified Bidder.
5. The JTC reserves the right to waive specific terms and conditions contained in this RFP.
6. It shall be understood by Bidders that their proposal is predicated upon acceptance of all terms and conditions contained in this RFP unless the Bidder has obtained such a waiver, in writing, from the JTC prior to submission of the proposal. Any such waiver will be granted to all Bidders.
7. The JTC reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to waive minor administrative irregularities contained in any Bidder's proposal.

*Thank you for your interest.*

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**GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

DEFINITIONS -- As used throughout this contract, the following terms shall have the meaning set forth below:

- A. The "Joint Transportation Committee," or "JTC," shall mean the Washington State Joint Transportation Committee, any division, section, office, unit, or other entity of JTC or any of the officers or other officials lawfully representing the JTC.
- B. "Contractor" shall mean that firm, provider, organization, individual, or other entity performing services under this contract, and shall include all employees of the Contractor.
- C. "Subcontractor" shall mean one not in the employment of the Contractor, who is performing all or part of those services under this contract under a separate contract with the Contractor. The terms "Subcontractor" and "Subcontractors" means Subcontractor(s) in any tier.

ADVANCE PAYMENTS PROHIBITED -- No payment in advance or in anticipation of services or supplies to be provided under this contract shall be made by JTC.

CHANGE OF CONTROL OR PERSONNEL -- Contractor shall promptly and in any case within twenty-four (24) hours notify the JTC Project Manager in writing:

1. If any of the representations and warranties of the Contractor set forth in this contract shall cease to be true at any time during the term of this contract;
2. Of any material change in the Contractor's management staff;
3. Of any change in control of the Contractor or in the business structure of the Contractor;
4. Of any other material change in the Contractor's business, partnership, or corporate organization relating to this engagement. All written notices regarding changes in management staff shall contain the same information about newly assigned management staff as was requested by JTC in the RFP and such additional information as may be requested by the JTC. For purposes hereof, the term "management staff" shall mean those persons identified as senior management in any response to a RFP or who otherwise will exercise a major administrative role or major policy or Consultant role to the provision of the Contractor's services hereunder. All written notices regarding changes in control of the Contractor shall contain the same information about any new controlling entity as was requested by JTC in the RFP regarding the Contractor and such additional information as may be requested by JTC.

Approval of these changes rests solely with JTC and will not be unreasonably withheld.

CHANGES AND MODIFICATIONS -- The JTC may, at any time, by written notification to the Contractor, make changes in the general scope of the services to be performed under the contract. If any such changes cause an increase or decrease in the cost of, or the time required for the performance of this contract, an equitable adjustment may be made in the contract price or period of performance, or both, and the contract shall be modified in writing accordingly. Any claim by the Contractor for adjustment under this clause must be asserted within thirty (30) days from the date of Contractor's receipt of the notice of such change; *provided*, however, that the JTC may, upon determining that the facts justify such action, receive and act upon such claim asserted at any time prior to final payment under this contract. Failure to agree to any adjustment shall be a dispute concerning a question of fact within the meaning of the clause of this contract entitled "Disputes." However, nothing in this clause shall excuse the Contractor from proceeding with the contract as changed.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST -- JTC may, by written notice to the Contractor, terminate this contract if it is found after due notice and examination by the JTC that there is a violation of the State Ethics Law Chapter 42.52 RCW; or any similar statute involving the Contractor in the procurement of, or performance under, this contract.

In the event this contract is terminated as provided above, JTC shall be entitled to pursue the same remedies against the Contractor as it could pursue in the event of a breach of the contract by the Contractor. The rights and remedies of JTC provided for in this clause shall not be exclusive and are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law. The existence of facts upon which the JTC makes any determination under this clause shall be an issue and may be reviewed as provided in the "Disputes" clause of this contract.

CONTRACTOR NOT EMPLOYEE OF THE AGENCY -- The Contractor and his or her employees or agents performing under this contract are not employees or agents of JTC. The Contractor will not hold himself/herself out as or claim to be an officer or employee of JTC or of the state of Washington by reason hereof, nor will the Contractor make any claim or right, privilege or benefit which would accrue to an employee under Chapter 41.06 RCW.

COVENANT AGAINST CONTINGENT FEES -- The Contractor warrants that no person or selling agent has been employed or retained to solicit or secure this contract upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, excepting bona fide employees or bona fide established agent maintained by the Contractor for the purpose of securing business. JTC shall have the right, in the event of breach of this clause by the Contractor, to annul this contract without liability or, at its discretion, to deduct from the contract price or consideration or recover by other means the full amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee.

DISPUTES -- If a dispute should arise between the Contractor and JTC regarding the performance or expected outcomes of the contract, such dispute shall be referred to the JTC Committee Coordinator for review and decision. If the decision by the JTC Committee Coordinator is not satisfactory to the Contractor, the Contractor may request in writing that the dispute be reviewed by the Legislative Members of the JTC Executive Committee. Such written request shall be provided to the JTC Committee Coordinator within five (5) days following the Committee Coordinator's decision. The Committee Coordinator shall present the written request to the Legislative Members of the JTC Executive Committee at its earliest convenience for review and decision. The decision of the Legislative Members shall become final and binding.

Unless mutually agreed to by the JTC and the Contractor, the work to be performed under this agreement shall not be delayed or stopped during the review of a dispute either by the JTC Committee Coordinator or the JTC Executive Committee.

FORCE MAJEURE -- Neither party shall be liable to the other or deemed in default under this contract for any delay or failure to perform its obligations under this contract if such delay or failure arises from any cause or causes beyond the reasonable control of the parties and without fault or negligence of the parties, including and not limited to acts of God, war, riots, strikes, fire, floods, earthquakes, epidemics, or other similar circumstances.

GOVERNING LAW -- This contract shall be governed by the laws of the state of Washington. In the event of a lawsuit involving this contract, venue shall be proper only in Thurston County. The Contractor, by execution of this contract, acknowledges the jurisdiction of the courts of the state of Washington in this matter.

INDEMNIFICATION -- The contractor shall defend, protect, and hold harmless the state of Washington, JTC, or any employees thereof, from and against all claims, suits or actions arising from the Contractor's acts which are libelous or slanderous, which result in injury to persons or property, which violate a right of confidentiality, or which constitute an infringement of any copyright, patent, trademark, or trade name through use of reproduction of material of any kind.

INDUSTRIAL INSURANCE COVERAGE -- The Contractor shall provide or purchase industrial insurance coverage prior to performing work under this contract as required under Title 51 RCW. JTC will not be responsible for payment of industrial insurance premiums or for any other claim or benefit for this Contractor, or any Subcontractor or employee of the Contractor, which might arise under the industrial insurance laws during performance of duties and services under this contract.

LICENSING, ACCREDITATION AND REGISTRATION -- The Contractor shall comply with all applicable local, state and federal licensing, accreditation, and registration requirements and standards, necessary for the performance of this contract.

LIMITATION OF AUTHORITY -- Only the JTC shall have the express, implied, or apparent authority to alter, amend, modify or waive any clause or condition of this contract. Furthermore, any alteration, amendment, modification, or waiver of any clause or condition of this contract is not effective or binding unless made in writing and signed by the JTC.

NONASSIGNABILITY -- Neither this contract, nor any claim arising under this contract, shall be transferred or assigned by the Contractor.

NONDISCRIMINATION -- During the performance of this contract, the Contractor shall comply with all federal and state nondiscrimination laws, regulations, and policies.

NONCOMPLIANCE WITH NONDISCRIMINATION LAWS -- In the event of the Contractor's noncompliance or refusal to comply with any nondiscrimination law, regulation, or policy, this contract may be rescinded, canceled, or terminated in whole or in part, and the Contractor may be declared ineligible for further contracts with JTC. The Contractor shall, however, be given a reasonable time in which to cure this noncompliance. Any dispute may be resolved in accordance with the "Disputes" procedure set forth herein.

PAYMENT OF TAXES -- Contractor shall pay all applicable taxes assessed on the compensation received under this contract and shall identify and pay those taxes under Contractor's federal and state identification number(s).

RECORDS, DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS -- The Contractor shall maintain books, records, documents, data and other evidence of accounting procedures and practices which sufficiently and properly reflect all direct and indirect costs of any nature expended in the performance of this contract. These records shall be subject at all reasonable times to inspection, review, or audit by personnel duly authorized by the JTC, State Auditor or state or federal officials so authorized by law, regulation, or contract. The Contractor will retain all books, records, documents, and other materials relevant to this contract for six (6) years after the date of final payment and make them available for inspection by persons authorized under this provision.

If any litigation, claim or audit is started before the expiration of the six (6) year period, the records shall be retained until all litigation claims, or audit findings involving the records have been resolved.

REGISTRATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE -- The Contractor shall complete registration with the Department of Revenue, <https://dor.wa.gov/doing-business/register-my-business>, and be responsible for payment of all taxes due on payments made under this contract.

RIGHT OF INSPECTION -- The Contractor shall provide right of access to its facilities to the JTC, or any of its officers, or to any other authorized agent or official of the state of Washington or the federal government at all reasonable times, in order to monitor and evaluate performance, compliance, and/or quality assurance under this contract.

RIGHTS IN DATA -- Unless otherwise provided, data which originates from this contract shall be "works for hire" as defined by the U.S. Copyright Act and shall be owned by JTC. Data shall include, but not be limited to: working papers, reports, documents, pamphlets, advertisements, books, magazines, surveys, studies, computer programs, films, tapes, and/or sound reproductions. Ownership includes the right to copyright, patent, register, and the ability to transfer these rights.

Data which is delivered under the contract, but which does not originate therefrom shall be transferred to JTC with a nonexclusive, royalty-free, irrevocable license to publish, translate, reproduce, deliver, perform, dispose of, and to authorize others to do so; *provided*, that such license shall be limited to the extent which the Contractor has a right to grant such a license. The Contractor shall exert all reasonable effort to advise JTC, at the time of delivery of data furnished under this contract, of all known or potential invasions of privacy contained therein and of any portion of such document which was not produced in the performance of this contract. JTC shall receive prompt written notice of each notice of claim of copyright infringement received by the Contractor with respect to any data delivered under this contract. JTC shall have the right to modify or remove any restrictive markings placed upon the data by the Contractor.

SAFEGUARDING OF INFORMATION -- The use or disclosure by any party of any information concerning JTC for any purpose not directly connected with the administration of JTC or the Contractor's responsibilities with respect to services provided under this contract is prohibited except by written consent of the JTC.

SAVINGS -- In the event funding from state, federal, or other sources is withdrawn, reduced, or limited in any way after the effective date of this contract and prior to normal completion, JTC may terminate the contract under the "Termination for Convenience" clause, without the five-day notice requirement, subject to renegotiation under those new funding limitations and conditions.

SCOPE OF CONTRACT -- This contract and the attachments incorporate all the contracts, covenants, and understandings between the parties concerning the subject matter, and all such covenants, agreements, and understandings have been merged into this contract. No prior contract or understandings, verbal or otherwise, of the parties or their agents shall be valid or enforceable unless embodied in this contract.

SEVERABILITY -- The provisions of this contract are intended to be severable. If any term or provision is illegal or invalid for any reason whatsoever, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the contract.

SUBCONTRACTING -- Neither the Contractor nor any Subcontractor shall enter into subcontracts for any of the work contemplated under this contract without obtaining prior written approval of the JTC.

TERMINATION FOR CAUSE -- In the event the JTC determines the Contractor has failed to comply with the conditions of this contract in a timely manner, the JTC has the right to suspend or terminate this contract. In such event the Contractor shall be liable for damages as authorized by law including, but not limited to, any cost difference between the original contract and the replacement or cover contract and all administrative costs directly related to the replacement contract, e.g., cost of the mailing, advertising, and staff time.

A termination shall be deemed a "Terminate for Convenience" if it is determined that the Contractor (i) was not in default, or (ii) failure to perform was outside of his or her control, fault or negligence.

TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE -- Except as otherwise provided in this contract, the JTC may, by five (5) days written notice, beginning on the second day after the mailing, terminate this contract in whole or in part when it is in the best interests of JTC. If this contract is so terminated, JTC shall be liable only for payment in accordance with the terms of this contract for services rendered prior to the effective date of termination.

TERMINATION PROCEDURE -- Upon termination of this contract, JTC, in addition to any other rights provided in this contract, may require the Contractor to deliver to JTC any property specifically produced or acquired for the performance of such part of this contract as has been terminated. The provisions of the "Treatment of Assets" clause shall apply in such property transfer.

JTC shall pay to the Contractor the agreed upon price, if separately stated, for completed work and services accepted by JTC, and the amount agreed upon by the Contractor and JTC for (i) completed work and services for which no separate price is stated, (ii) partially completed work and services, (iii) other property or services which are accepted by JTC, and (iv) the protection and preservation of property, unless the termination is for default, in which case the JTC shall determine the extent of the liability of JTC. Failure to agree with such determination shall be a dispute within the meaning of the "Disputes" clause of this contract. JTC may withhold from any amounts due the Contractor such sum as the JTC determines to be necessary to protect JTC against potential loss or liability.

The rights and remedies of JTC provided in this section shall not be exclusive and are in addition to any other rights and remedies provided by law or under this contract.

After receipt of a notice of termination, and except as otherwise directed by the JTC, the Contractor shall:

1. Stop work under the contract on the date, and to the extent specified, in the notice;
2. Place no further orders or subcontracts for materials, services, or facilities except as may be necessary for completion of such portion of the work under the contract as is not terminated;
3. Assign to JTC, in the manner, at the times, and to the extent directed by the JTC, all of the rights, title, and interest of the Contractor under the orders and subcontracts so terminated, in which case JTC has the right, at its discretion, to settle or pay any or all claims arising out of the termination of such orders and subcontracts;
4. Settle all outstanding liabilities and all claims arising out of such termination of orders and subcontracts, with the approval or ratification of the JTC to the extent the JTC may require, which approval or ratification shall be final for all the purposes of this clause;
5. Transfer title to JTC and deliver in the manner, at the times, and to the extent directed by the JTC any property which, if the contract has been completed, would have been required to be furnished to JTC;
6. Complete performance of such part of the work as shall not have been terminated by the JTC; and
7. Take such action as may be necessary, or as the JTC may direct, for the protection and preservation of the property related to this contract which is in the possession of the Contractor and in which JTC has or may acquire an interest.

TREATMENT OF ASSETS--

1. Title to all property furnished by JTC shall remain in JTC's office. Title to all property furnished by the Contractor, for the cost of which the Contractor is entitled to be reimbursed as a direct item of cost under this contract, shall pass to and vest in JTC upon delivery of such property by the vendor. Title to other property, the cost of which is reimbursable to the Contractor under this contract, shall pass to and vest in JTC upon (i) issuance for use of such property in the performance of this contract, or (ii)

commencement of use of such property in the performance of this contract, or (iii) reimbursement of the cost thereof by JTC in whole or in part, whichever first occurs.

2. Any property of JTC furnished to the Contractor shall, unless otherwise provided herein or approved by the JTC, be used only for the performance of this contract.
3. The Contractor shall be responsible for any loss or damage to property of JTC which results from the negligence of the Contractor or which results from the failure on the part of the Contractor to maintain and administer that property in accordance with sound management practices.
4. If any JTC property is lost, destroyed or damaged, the Contractor shall notify JTC immediately and shall take all reasonable steps to protect that property from further damage.
5. The Contractor shall surrender to JTC all property of JTC prior to settlement upon completion, termination, or cancellation of this contract.
6. All reference to the Contractor under this clause shall also include Contractor's employees, agents, or Subcontractors.

WAIVER OF DEFAULT -- Waiver of any default shall not be deemed to be a waiver of any subsequent default. Waiver of breach of any provision of the contract shall not be deemed to be a waiver of any other or subsequent breach and shall not be construed to be a modification of the terms of the contract unless stated to be such in writing, signed by the JTC and attached to the original contract.

**CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES**

I/we make the following certifications and assurances as a required element of the proposal to which it is attached, understanding that the truthfulness of the facts affirmed here and the continuing compliance with these requirements are conditions precedent to the award or continuation of the related contract(s):

1. I/we declare that all answers and statements made in the proposal are true and correct.
2. The prices and/or cost data have been determined independently, without consultation, communication, or agreement with others for the purpose of restricting competition. However, I/we may freely join with other persons or organizations for the purpose of presenting a single proposal.
3. The attached proposal is a firm offer for a period of 60 days following receipt, and it may be accepted by the JTC without further negotiation (except where obviously required by lack of certainty in key terms) at any time within the 60-day period.
4. In preparing this proposal, I/we have not been assisted by any current or former employee of the state of Washington whose duties relate (or did relate) to this proposal or prospective contract, and who was assisting in other than his or her official, public capacity. (Any exceptions to these assurances are described in full detail on a separate page and attached to this document.)
5. I/we understand that the JTC will not reimburse me/us for any costs incurred in the preparation of this proposal. All proposals become the property of the JTC, and I/we claim no proprietary right to the ideas, writings, items, or samples, unless so stated in this proposal.
6. Unless otherwise required by law, the prices and/or cost data which have been submitted have not been knowingly disclosed by the Bidder and will not knowingly be disclosed by him/her prior to opening, directly or indirectly to any other Bidder or to any competitor.
7. I/we agree that submission of the attached proposal constitutes acceptance of the solicitation contents and the attached sample contract and general terms and conditions. If there are any exceptions to these terms, I/we have described those exceptions in detail on a page attached to this document.
8. No attempt has been made or will be made by the Bidder to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit a proposal for the purpose of restricting competition.
9. The bidder certifies that no condition exists with respect to the bidder, or any of its employees, regarding any current or past relationship with the JTC, or other agencies that violate Chapter 42.52 RCW, the "Ethics in Public Service" Law.

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Signature of Bidder

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Title Date