

**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (on behalf of the)
NEW YORK METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL**

**Socioeconomic and Demographic Methodologies and Forecasting Solutions
Request for Information
RFI #NYMTC-01-2021**

Questions and Answers

RFI Schedule

Question 1: Can you please confirm that the Expression of Interest due on July 30th is a simple email mentioning that a firm will submit an RFI on the due date (September 10 for now) and that no other information is required at that time?

Answer: Yes.

RFI Purpose

Question 2: This RFI is mainly to get information of possible options for methodology rather than a contractor that would develop the forecasts?

Answer: Yes.

Question 3: Is the intent to revise the entire current methodology or methods of expansion and reporting.

Answer: NYMTC will consider revising the entire current methodology if that allows us to meet the objectives of the RFI. It is NYMTC's intent to develop a forecasting solution with enhanced reporting capabilities and an extendable forecast horizon.

Question 4: Is NYMTC open to exploring both a traditional Excel/database type of model as well as more advanced capabilities based on system design and/or simulation technologies or combinations of both?

Answer: NYMTC is open to all modeling approaches that meet the objectives of this RFI.

RFI #NYMTC-01-2021: Socioeconomic and Demographic Methodologies and Forecasting Solutions

Question 5: Does NYMTC require or desire seamless linking of outputs to GIS or other application programming like Python or “R”? If so, what additional capabilities do you require?

Answer: NYMTC does not require the seamless linking of outputs to GIS or other programming applications. NYMTC requires tools that enable output to be exported into multiple systems such as Excel, Access, and ArcGIS, as appropriate.

Question 6: Must the solution(s) be Windows based?

Answer: Yes

Question 7: Must the solution(s) provide visualization capability through graphics, mapping, or simulation modeling?

Answer: This is not required, however NYTMC is interested in learning more about such capability.

Question 8: The RFI’s functional requirement #1 relates to automatic collection of input data. By this, do you mean automating access to federal state data sources through API’s or related online applications that provide regular updates or simply the required historical inputs?

Answer: NYMTC requires an automated process for collecting input data, which may include both historical data and 3rd party forecasted data, each time a new SED forecast is developed.

Question 9: The RFI references the SED requirement for population and economic projections. As in prior SED forecasting efforts, the Excel economic and demographic models are assumed to have been integrated into a single interactive process. Is this same integrated solution desired or would NYMTC be open to separate projection models?

Answer: NYMTC is open to separate projection models.

Question 10: Does NYMTC wish for an explicit process and method for validating the model or models used to generate the projections? Should this be part of the response to this RFI?

Answer: This is not required.

RFP Schedule

Question 11: Is there a timeline for an RFP to be released? If not, what steps are expected to decide on releasing an RFP?

Answer: There is not a timeline for an RFP to be released. NYMTC will review all responses and use the information received from this RFI to review the available options and solutions in making decisions for future contracting strategies.

Current SED Forecast Model

Question 12: Is the current excel model accessible (even at a high level) for review.

Answer: The current excel based models are not accessible for review. A description of the models and their methodology is available via the NYMTC website.

Project Budget and Future Contacting Opportunities

Question 13: Do you happen to know the estimated funding source, or budget for this project? If so, has funding for an RFP been secured?

Answer: Unless constrained otherwise, it is NYSDOT's practice to not specify its project budget in its best value RFPs. NYSDOT prefers to let the marketplace 'speak freely' to determine what is the proper value in terms of costs associated with all the services requested and responded to. Further, on its website NYMTC publishes their Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) which lists all NYMTC's programmed projects and activities as well as an associated budget dollar figure. Please take notice that NYMTC's UPWP budget is for MPO accounting and programming purposes; the reality is that the UPWP budget for any potential SED related contracting opportunities that may arise following this RFI should not have a direct bearing on what cost an interested consultant should offer. Use of NYMTC's UPWP budget figure is not recommended as guidance.

Question 14: If this were to become an RFP, who would vendors contract with?

Answer: Any contract resulting from a NYMTC RFP would be held by NYSDOT on NYMTC's behalf.

RFI #NYMTC-01-2021: Socioeconomic and Demographic Methodologies and Forecasting Solutions

Question 15: If an RFP were to be issued, the services would be for the NYC area, correct?

Answer: If an RFP were to be issued, services would be provided to NYMTC, its member agencies, and planning partners throughout the 31-county NYMTC forecasting area.

Question 16: In section B.1, the RFI notes a maximum 5-year length of contract. In the response to Question 2 in the recently released draft of questions from the webinar, you indicate that the intent of the RFI is “to get information on possible solutions rather than a contractor that would develop the forecasts”. Can you explain how this seemingly limited intent for information would be extended to a 5-year contract? Is the expectation that the award would involve overseeing and monitoring the work of the developers, or being available to advise the NYMTC and/or the developers?

Answer: NYMTC will review all responses and use the information received from this RFI to review the available options and solutions in making decisions for future contracting strategies. No information is currently available regarding possible RFP’s that may be informed by the information received from this RFI.

This RFI is strictly a mechanism for gathering information and will not constitute a procurement process. No contract award(s) will be made because of this request.

Current NYMTC SED Forecast Contract

Question 17: Is this a new requirement? Or is there an incumbent vendor providing these services? If there is an incumbent, would you be able to provide the contract number, vendor name, and term of the contract?

Answer: Socioeconomic and demographic forecasting is not a new requirement for NYMTC. The most recently adopted SED forecasts were developed by WSP USA, Inc through a Task Assignment awarded under Contract C000795 ‘Planning Services Agreement (PSA4) for NYMTC’. C000795’s contract period is July 5, 2017 to July 4, 2022.

NYMTC and NYSDOT thank all who participate in this information gathering process.