



# **North Central Texas Council of Governments**

**NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (NCTCOG)**

**REQUEST FOR PARTNERS  
TO APPLY FOR THE UPCOMING 2023 ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY  
AND INNOVATION (ATTAIN) NOFO**

**Revised November 6, 2023**

**REQUEST FOR PARTNERS  
TO APPLY FOR THE UPCOMING 2023 ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY  
AND INNOVATION (ATTAIN) NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)**

**INTRODUCTION**

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is requesting partnership proposals from Project Teams who want to team up with NCTCOG to compete for federal and State grant funding. While NCTCOG is an eligible applicant, staff believes that projects will likely be more successful if developed through a public-private partnership that includes key collaborators.

In 2022, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued the announcement for the ATTAIN program and Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for up to \$60 million in federal funding annually for the next five years to provide grants to eligible entities to deploy, install, and operate advanced transportation technologies to improve safety, mobility, efficiency, system performance, intermodal connectivity, and infrastructure return on investment.

Through this Request for Partners (RFP), The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) is seeking private-sector and research partners for a proposal to the USDOT upcoming 2023 ATTAIN funding opportunity. A copy of the ATTAIN Notice of Funding Opportunity that details the \$60 million grant program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 as well as the application requirements can be found on the USDOT website.

Through this RFP, NCTCOG intends to select a Project Team to work with to develop a proposal for the 2023 ATTAIN grant application. NCTCOG also reserves the right to select multiple Project Team(s) to enable a pipeline of projects ready for a variety of funding opportunities. NCTCOG intends to work with Project Team(s) selected through this RFP to develop competitive grant proposals up until the ATTAIN deadline.

All questions regarding the services required shall be directed in writing by email to [TransRFPs@nctcog.org](mailto:TransRFPs@nctcog.org) by the close of business on **Wednesday, November 22, 2023**.

**PURPOSE AND NEED**

NCTCOG plans to propose an application leveraging the concepts of Digital Roads which will harness data, technology, and connectivity to improve the way roads are designed, built, operated, and traveled. This will enable safer trips, efficient and faster delivery, and an enhanced customer service for all. Any proposed projects should integrate with the expansion of NCTCOG's, soon to be procured, regional Traffic Systems Management Operations (TSMO) Data Hub. The primary focus will be in the system development and operations with the emphasize on the expansion of the regional TSMO data hub use cases and the development of the next generation of local and regional transportation management systems using innovative concepts and technology. Projects should align with the goals of the ATTAIN program. Last year's program selected several projects that included rural applications, complete trips and transit. For reference, some specific outcome-related goals in the 2022 ATTAIN program included:

- improve the mobility of people and goods;
  - improve the durability and extend the life of transportation infrastructure;
  - reduce costs and improve return on investments, including through optimization of existing transportation capacity;
  - Protect the environment and deliver environmental benefits that alleviate congestion and streamline traffic flow;
  - measure and improve the operational performance of the applicable transportation network;
  - reduce the number and severity of traffic crashes and increase driver, passenger, and pedestrian safety;
  - collect, disseminate, and use real-time traffic, work zone, weather, transit, paratransit, parking, and other transportation-related information to improve mobility, reduce congestion, and provide for more efficient, accessible, and integrated transportation and transportation services;
  - facilitate account-based payments for transportation access and services and integrate payment systems across modes;
  - monitor transportation assets to improve infrastructure management, reduce maintenance costs, prioritize investment decisions, and ensure a state of good repair;
  - deliver economic benefits by reducing delays, improving system performance, and providing for the efficient and reliable movement of goods and services;
  - accelerate the deployment of vehicle-to-vehicle, vehicle-to-infrastructure, vehicle-to-pedestrian, autonomous vehicles, and other technologies; or
  - incentivize travelers—
    - to share trips during periods in which travel demand exceeds system capacity; or
    - to shift trips to periods in which travel demand does not exceed system capacity.
- [§ 13006(b)(3); 23 U.S.C. 503(c)(4)(B)]

## **REQUIRED APPLICATION ELEMENTS**

NCTCOG is looking for private-sector and research partners, who have the right expertise and provide innovative solutions to the concepts proposed in the ATTAIN NOFO, to join the project team. Those who are interested in partnering with NCTCOG must submit a signed commitment letter, on company letterhead, along with relevant information that includes:

1. Description of the vendor's expertise, services, and the role they are proposing to play relevant to the strategies provided under the Introduction section.
2. Description of vendor's proposed detailed solution, deployment scenarios, and proposed locations within the NCTCOG region that they want NCTCOG to consider for inclusion relevant to the strategies proposed under the Introduction section.
3. Description of how proposed projects align with the 2022 ATTAIN goals and the estimated project budgets.
4. Description of the resources or services the proposer could contribute to the project as a required match by FHWA, with a dollar estimate (if possible).
5. Commitment to support the NCTCOG proposal development effort at their own cost.

It is acceptable if multiple vendors are partnering to provide an end-to-end solution, but not required.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Selection of the Project Team will be determined based on a qualitative evaluation of the responsiveness to content outlined in the preceding “Required Application Elements” section. Evaluation will assess:

- Completeness of the Project Team. That is, does the proposed team have the experience and expertise necessary to successfully implement the project.
  - experience and readiness of the Project Team;
  - appropriate divisions of roles/responsibilities;
- Likelihood of project success based on the:
  - Alignment of project to ATTAIN goals;
  - Integration / expansion into NCTCOG’s TSMO data hub; and
  - maturity/detail of the project ideas being proposed, including budget estimates.
- Demonstrated availability of matching funds. Applicants should detail both amounts and sources of matching funds.
- Extent of grant-writing or other resources available

NCTCOG is not obligated to fund a proposal from an applicant that has demonstrated marginal or unsatisfactory performance on previous grants or contracts with NCTCOG or other federal or State agencies. NCTCOG is not obligated to fund a proposal from an applicant based on a determination of the risks associated with the applicant, including the financial condition of the applicant and other risk factors as may be determined by NCTCOG.

Selection through this RFP is not a guarantee of funding, but simply indicates that the selected Project Team(s) will partner with NCTCOG on competitive grant proposal(s). Partnership in a proposal submitted by NCTCOG does not constitute a guarantee of grant funding or contract with NCTCOG for project implementation as funding is contingent on award by the grant funding agency. Selected proposals will be refined in conjunction with the Project Team(s) based on the details of the federal or State grant opportunities to which NCTCOG is submitting. Selected Project Teams would have an opportunity to re-confirm their commitment/participation prior to NCTCOG submitting any grant applications.

NCTCOG may, at its discretion, issue additional requests for partners/projects for other specific grant opportunities if warranted. NCTCOG also reserves the right to select multiple Project Team(s) to enable a pipeline of projects ready for a variety of funding opportunities.

## **SCHEDULE**

All questions regarding the services required shall be directed in writing by email to [TransRFPs@nctcog.org](mailto:TransRFPs@nctcog.org) by the close of business on **Wednesday, November 22, 2023**. All questions and responses will be posted on NCTCOG’s website at [www.nctcog.org/rfp](http://www.nctcog.org/rfp) by the close of business on **Wednesday, November 29, 2023**. NCTCOG reserves the right to respond to inquiries as it deems necessary.

The schedule is as follows:

Request for Partners Issued: October 27, 2023

Deadline for submitting questions: **November 22, 2023**

Applications due: **Friday December 8, 2023, by 5:00 pm Central Time**

## **SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS**

Proposals must be received, “in-hand”, by 5:00 pm Central Time, Friday, **December 8, 2023**.

Proposals should be addressed to Natalie Bettger, Senior Program Manager, North Central Texas Council of Governments, 616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, Texas 76011. An in-hand submittal may consist of either a hard-copy proposal or a flash drive delivered by the deadline. Applications received after that time will not be considered and will be returned to the applicant unopened; postmarked by the published deadline does not constitute an on-time application. Applications containing original signatures and notary seals should be labeled “Original.”

An electronic submittal should also be submitted to [TransRFPs@nctcog.org](mailto:TransRFPs@nctcog.org). However, the electronic submittal is not sufficient to constitute an application on its own and will only be considered a courtesy/convenience copy.

- **Formatting** – Applications should be no more than 15 pages, single-spaced, in at least 11-point font with 1-inch margins, printed double-sided, and include a footer containing applicant, page number, and total pages in the packet. (e.g., [Applicant] 1 of 15). Letters and other supplemental materials do not count against the 15-page limit.
- **Content Criteria** – The applicant should provide discussion responding to each of the content elements described under “Required Application Elements”.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000(d) to 2000(d)(1) and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations Part 26, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs of the Department of Transportation issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all potential partners that it will affirmatively assure that, in regard to any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit Request for Partners in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The NCTCOG Executive Board encourages the use of local firms. However, all Project Team applicants, regardless of firm locale, will be evaluated using the partner selection criteria contained in the Request for Partners.

Application information shall be a public record to the extent provided by the Texas Open Records Act and the Freedom of Information Act and shall be available to the public as provided therein. If an application contains information that the applicant considers proprietary and does

not want disclosed to the public or used for any purpose other than the evaluation of the application, all such information must be indicated with the following suggested language:

The information contained on pages shall not be duplicated, used in whole or in part, for any purpose other than to evaluate the proposal; provided that if a contract is awarded to this office as a result of or in connection with the submission of such information, NCTCOG has the right to duplicate, use or disclose this information to the extent provided in the contract.

### **Required Certifications**

**Applicants shall include a statement of compliance with the following requirements as part of their proposal response. If the applicant is unable to make a certification, the applicant must indicate that in its response and state why the certification does not apply.**

1. If required to make a certification pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 2271.02, the CONSULTANT providing goods and services under this contract confirms that it does not and will not boycott Israel during the term of this contract.
2. Pursuant to Chapter 2274, Government Code, as enacted by S.B. 13, 87th Legislature, NCTCOG is prohibited from using public funds to contract with entities who boycott energy companies. By signing this contract, the CONSULTANT verifies that it does not discriminate against energy companies and will not discriminate during the term of the contract.
3. Pursuant to Chapter 2274, Government Code, as enacted by S.B. 19, 87th Legislature, NCTCOG is prohibited from using public funds to contract with entities who discriminate against firearm and ammunition industries. By signing this contract, the CONSULTANT agrees that it does not have a practice, policy, guidance, or directive that discriminates against a firearm entity or firearm trade association and will not discriminate during the term of the contract.

### **NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

(NCTCOG) is a voluntary association of, by and for local governments. NCTCOG was established to assist local governments in planning for common needs, cooperating for mutual benefit, and coordinating for sound regional development. NCTCOG's purpose is to strengthen both the individual and collective power of local governments and to help them recognize regional opportunities, eliminate unnecessary duplication, and make joint decisions.

## **BACKGROUND**

Since 1974, NCTCOG has served as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for transportation in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area. NCTCOG's Transportation Department is responsible for regional transportation planning for all modes of transportation. The Department provides technical support and staff assistance to the Regional Transportation Council and its technical committees, which comprise the MPO policy-making structure. In addition, the Department provides technical assistance to the local governments of North Central Texas in planning, programming, coordinating, and implementing transportation decisions.