

SCOPE OF WORK

STATE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES – UPDATED DRAFT (2025)

I. Introduction

The New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA) seeks a qualified firm to perform government relations and legislative services at the State level, supporting RTA's core mission in Orleans, Jefferson, and St. Bernard Parishes. The Consultant shall perform work on an as-needed basis and assist RTA in navigating evolving legislative and political conditions. This shall include assisting RTA with identifying opportunities and effectively engaging policymakers and staff of state and local elected and administration officials to ensure RTA obtains positive state policy and funding outcomes.

RTA is seeking contracted support to secure funding for key regional transportation initiatives. These include Bus Rapid Transit projects that may require modifications to existing state highways, enhancements to Canal/Algiers and Chalmette ferry services, and alignment with emerging state infrastructure legislation, stimulus funding, and competitive discretionary programs. With expert state legislative services, RTA aims to strengthen its participation and effectiveness in these opportunities.

Several critical projects are underway that depend on new state policy and funding to ensure long-term sustainability and operational success. A major upcoming initiative is the Downtown Transit Center; the Bus Rapid Transit initiative; redeveloping the Union Passenger Terminal into a multi-modal, Transit-Oriented Development featuring RTA offices and possible workforce housing. Together, these projects aim to strengthen mobility links across the region, enhance access to economic opportunities, and create a more integrated transportation network.

II. Background

The New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA) is a sales tax-supported entity responsible for developing, operating, and maintaining a public mass transportation system for the benefit of residents within its geographic district. RTA is governed by a publicly appointed Board of Directors consisting of eight members. Serving the New Orleans Metropolitan Area, RTA operates independently while connecting seamlessly with Jefferson Transit (JeT) and St. Bernard Urban Rapid Transit (SBURT). The RTA is advancing transformative initiatives that will strengthen regional mobility, enhance resilience, and align with state and city master plans.

RTA provides essential mobility for nearly 400,000 people who live, work, and visit within its service area. Our network includes five streetcar lines, 34 bus routes, two ferry routes, and paratransit services, delivering more than 19 million rides annually. This includes the

historic St. Charles Streetcar Line—the longest continually operating streetcar in the country since 1835.

Since 2014, RTA has operated ferry services on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) under a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA). This arrangement followed the closure of the Crescent City Connection Division and the removal of tolls that previously funded ferry operations. While LADOTD retains ownership of most assets, the original \$5.1 million allocation under the CEA has not kept pace with inflation or rising maintenance costs, creating a significant funding gap.

New Orleans remains one of the nation's top travel destinations, ranked #2 on Forbes' list of Top 50 Places to Travel in the World in 2019. The city welcomed 18.5 million visitors in 2018 and hosts more than 135 festivals annually—nearly one every three days. With over 22,000 hotel rooms downtown and 38,000 across the metro area, plus more than one million cruise passengers annually, reliable transit is essential to sustaining tourism and economic growth.

III. Scope of Services

The Consultant shall provide state legislative services, including but not limited to:

- Engage with key members and staff of the Louisiana Legislature and Governor's Administration to advance RTA's legislative and policy priorities.
- Coordinate communication with the New Orleans Legislative Delegation and relevant committees and agencies.
- Collaborate with RTA staff on strategic planning for appropriations, grant programs, and funding opportunities.
- Monitor and report on legislative and regulatory developments, including transportation reform measures and budget updates.
- Facilitate dialogue with DOTD officials regarding RTA's legislative agenda and regional connectivity initiatives.
- Arrange meetings, schedule appointments, and manage correspondence with state-level policymakers and influencers.
- Provide day-to-day consultation and representation as needed.
- Track and analyze proposed and enacted legislation impacting public transit, infrastructure funding, and regional mobility. Provide timely updates and strategic recommendations to agency leadership.
- Maintain open communication with state legislators and committees, keeping them informed about the agency's new projects, initiatives, and progress toward statewide transportation objectives.

- Deliver regular updates on state and federal budget allocations, discretionary grant opportunities, and emerging funding streams to support transit operations and capital projects.
- Represent the agency's interests in legislative forums and stakeholder meetings. Develop, manage, and sustain public-private partnerships that enhance transit service delivery and innovation
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