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Committee Meetings

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Agency: [Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority](#)

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Summary

- RTA approved \$571,710 in spending for two [requests for proposal \(RFPs\)](#).
- Each RFP only had one applicant, raising questions about making the procurement process competitive.
- This meeting seemed calm, quick and productive; everyone was respectful and engaged.

Follow-Up Questions

- How long are RFPs posted and where are they publicized?

Notes

Today's work by the RTA Board of Trustees was divided into meetings of three committees, including one which met in [executive session](#). I attended this meeting in person but have included screenshots of slides from [YouTube](#).

The first portion of today's meeting was the RTA Operational Planning & Infrastructure Committee.

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. by Committee Chair Jeffrey Sleasman

Roll taken, Trustee Rev. Charles Lucas absent, minutes approved unanimously

Sleasman welcomed Grant Kersh, RTA resident engineer, and Lou Catalusci, contract administrator, to present information on the 2025 bridge inspections contract.

Kersh shared a map of the Cleveland RTA bridges scheduled to be inspected this year and showed slides of the process. The photos showed workers climbing all over the

structures and divers going underwater into the Cuyahoga River to inspect [trusses](#). Completing the work is expected to meet federal inspection requirements.

He said 19 crossings and 34 total structures will be inspected this year. Some of the work will require service shutdowns.

Catalusci then presented the procurement overview recommending the contract, worth \$371,710, be awarded to [Burgess & Niple](#) of Columbus, the only firm to apply.



Engineering Services for Special Bridge Inspections - 2025

Procurement Overview:

- Request for Proposal (RFP) issued December 22, 2024
- Accessed on the GCRTA website by twenty-four (24) interested parties
- One (1) firm submitted a proposal
- One (1) firm was interviewed

Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority

18:48 / 1:47:08

The screenshot shows a YouTube video player. The title is "Engineering Services for Special Bridge Inspections - 2025". Below the title is a bulleted list under the heading "Procurement Overview:". The list includes: "Request for Proposal (RFP) issued December 22, 2024", "Accessed on the GCRTA website by twenty-four (24) interested parties", "One (1) firm submitted a proposal", and "One (1) firm was interviewed". Below the list is a small inset video showing a meeting with several people around a table. The video player interface at the bottom shows the channel name "Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority", a progress bar at 18:48 / 1:47:08, and various control icons.

Sleasman asked why there was only one bid. Catalusci said:

“We did a survey with the firms that normally propose on other projects and the prevailing reason that was given was they had a lack of inspectors in this area who could inspect the large number of bridges that we had considering the other contracts they have to do inspections.” (23:15 in the YouTube)

The contract was approved in a unanimous vote by the committee. Final step: It will be passed on to the full board for approval.

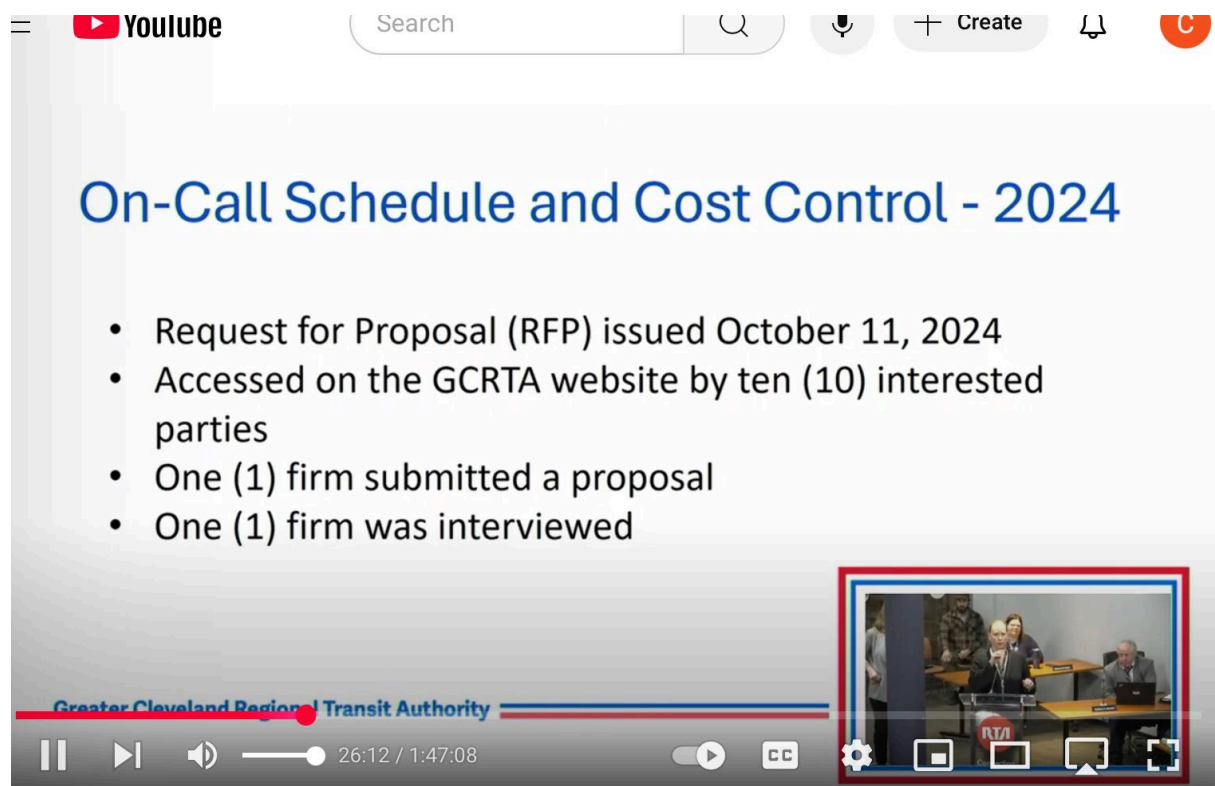
The next item was also a presentation of a competitive negotiated procurement for “on-call schedule and cost control services.”

Kathleen McGerver, engineer project manager, and Jenn Martin, contract administrator, presented an RFP for task-based consulting services not to exceed \$200,000. (24:55 on YouTube.)

Martin recommended Vail Network Co, doing business as [VN Services](#), from Chesterland, a [DBE](#) firm and the only applicant, be awarded the contract. Company President Andre Bryan was on hand to answer questions but wasn't asked anything.

CEO India Birdsong Terry asked about the new engineer hires and continued dependence on contractors. Mike Schipper, deputy general manager for Engineering and Project Management, said outside firms are used for cost estimating and change over items. He said, "On some items it's worth it to have an independent contractor."

Sleasman asked why there was only one bidder. Martin said the firm that previously held the contract but didn't apply this time wrote a letter explaining they lost their DBE status but hope to reapply when the contract is renewed.



YouTube

Search

On-Call Schedule and Cost Control - 2024

- Request for Proposal (RFP) issued October 11, 2024
- Accessed on the GCRTA website by ten (10) interested parties
- One (1) firm submitted a proposal
- One (1) firm was interviewed

Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority

26:12 / 1:47:08

RTA

Approved unanimously to go to the full board for consideration.

This committee adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

Next, Chair David Weiss called to order the Audit Safety Compliance and Real Estate Committee.

Roll was taken, everyone was present, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

There was only one order of business for this committee: To review a batch of temporary and permanent easements. Easements were requested by the NEORSD Kingsbury Run Consolidated Sewer Project as part of the ongoing [Project Clean Lake](#). It is a 25-year operation working to redirect hundreds of millions of gallons of combined sewer overflow from Lake Erie to treatment.

Jim Reed, GCRTA property manager, presented a series of maps to show the locations of the easements, (mostly in a ravine near East 55th Street and the Opportunity Corridor) and a chart to show their calculated value.

Committee Vice Chair Lauren Welch asked if there would be any RTA service interruptions from this project and Reed said no because RTA uses this land to stage large equipment; it's not a service area.

He said this will be a 2.5-year project.

Board member Stephen Love said some residents had expressed hopes for a park in this area and Reed said that there should only be one large permanent structure left on the property by the project/NEORSD. He said it will be made to look attractive with shrubbery.

All the easements were approved by a unanimous vote.

This committee adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Next, Weiss called to order the Ad hoc Compensation Committee, called roll, and minutes were approved.

The board then went into executive session for 45 minutes.

The board came out of executive session and adjourned for the day.

If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, please email us at clDOCUMENTERS@gmail.com with "Correction Request" in the subject line.