

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

# **Vehicles Solicitation**

**5.29.2025**

# Help us achieve our mission of delivering Austin Light Rail.

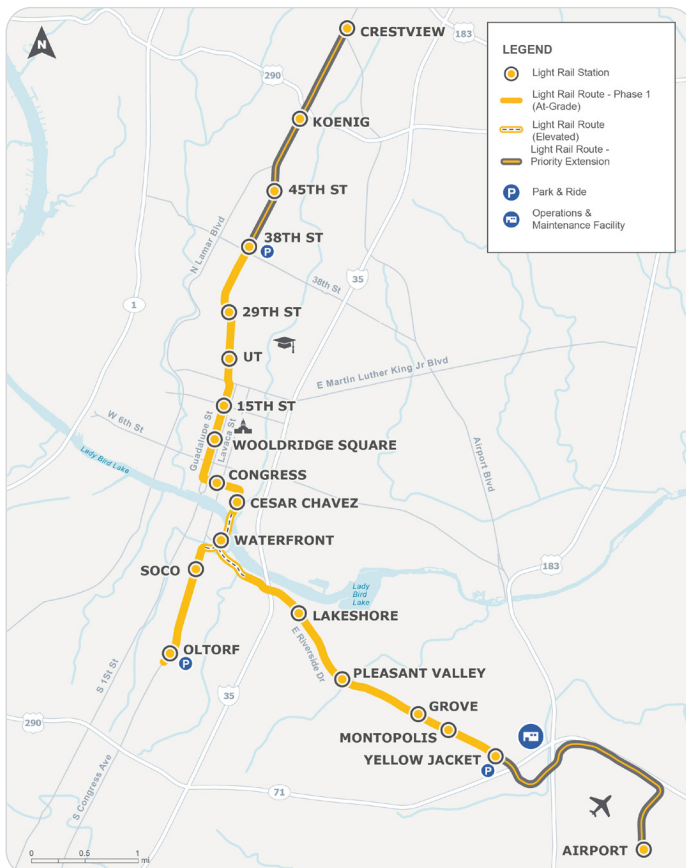
This Request for Information seeks to engage industry participants to provide input and feedback into our solicitation documents and process for procurement of light rail vehicles for Austin Light Rail.

This project will transform how we get around our growing city and help Austin achieve key mobility and affordability goals. Austin Light Rail will directly create 10,000 jobs as a key part of the city mobility improvements. It will also create access to 200k+ jobs when operational.

**Your vision and expertise are critical to our success.**



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## A first for Austin.

Austin Light Rail will transform how people move around Austin with all-electric trains running reliably every 5-10 minutes connecting people to major job centers, education hubs and iconic destinations. Designed to expand as the city grows, the project includes 15 stations along a nearly 10-mile alignment, miles of new walk and bike paths lined with shade trees, and a new bridge across Lady Bird Lake. We need your help in building a project unlike any other in our city's history.

# Our job is to make it happen.

This is one of the largest transit projects in the U.S. and unlike any in Austin’s history. It’s going to revolutionize how we get around, but it’s not going to happen overnight. Integrating a world-class light rail system into our existing infrastructure will be a complex process.

2020–21	2022–23	2023–26	2026–27	2027–33	2033
<b>1. Approved &amp; Established</b>	<b>2. Defining Scope &amp; Goals</b>	<b>3. Planning, Design &amp; Project Development</b>	<b>4. Engineering &amp; Permitting</b>	<b>5. Construction &amp; Testing</b>	<b>6. Open for Service</b>
					
Project was approved by Austin voters. ATP was formed to implement the light rail and assembled a team of transit experts.	Conducted a community-driven process to determine the project goals and formalize the Light Rail Implementation Plan.	ATP is currently working on preliminary design and engineering, environmental review, delivery planning, and completing key steps to fulfill federal funding requirements.	Detailed designs and technical specifications will be finalized, and all necessary permits and land will be secured.	The ground will be prepped and excavated. Light rail tracks, stations, and pedestrian and cyclist paths will be built. Trains will be manufactured, delivered and tested.	Austin's light rail will officially open with 9.8 miles of track, stretching from 38th to Oltorf to East Riverside.
Completed Step	Current Step	Upcoming Step			

Community trust, collaboration and responsible stewardship of public dollars are foundational to our work. ATP wants to collaborate with our industry partners to deliver this large infrastructure project efficiently.

**Through this process, we hope to:**

- Innovate design solutions that balance technical requirements with Austin’s unique needs.
- Design with constructability at the forefront that keeps Austin moving while the project is being built.
- Integrate construction costs into design development to align with the project budget.

We look forward to achieving great milestones as a team, building light rail and making a positive impact on Austin — together.

Go differently.

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# About the Request for Information.

Dear potential partners,

We at Austin Transit Partnership (ATP) are seeking a light rail vehicle manufacturer to join us in stewarding a vibrant culture of transit so that the people and places of Austin are more deeply connected. ATP invites industry feedback through this Request for Information for a partner to design, integrate, manufacture, test, furnish, deliver, commission, and performance test light rail vehicles for Austin Light Rail.

At ATP, we value a solutions-oriented mindset. Our team is looking for partners who will bring a wide range of experiences to the table, along with a clear vision and the expertise to complete the project safely, with high quality, on time, and within budget. Our goal is for the vehicle manufacturer to work with us and our other contractors cooperatively and transparently.

ATP will use a best value procurement process to select the contractor through a comprehensive request for proposals process that evaluates proposals, approach, and cost to determine the best value proposer with which ATP intends to proceed to contract award.

As part of this RFI, we are providing questions to seek your input on ways we can create a successful partnership with a vehicles manufacturer, along with the following documents for your review and comment:

- Draft request for proposals
- Draft form of contract, including technical specifications

This RFI also describes ATP's approach to encouraging full and open competition and managing any potential organizational conflicts of interest during the solicitation process. To provide feedback, **responses should be submitted through PlanetBids by July 28, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. CT.**

Thank you for bringing your vision and expertise to help us deliver the world-class light rail system Austinites deserve. With your partnership, let's go differently. We look forward to your feedback.

Respectfully,

**Brad J. Cummings**

Senior Vice President, Procurement  
and Contract Management



# Request for Information Opportunity.

ATP anticipates procuring three major contracts for the delivery of Austin Light Rail: the Vehicles contract, a progressive design build (PDB) contract for the civils, systems, rail, and stations of Austin Light Rail, and a separate PDB contract for the operations and maintenance facility. The allocation of responsibility among those three contracts is further described below. This Request for Information relates to the Vehicles contract only. We are seeking industry feedback on the draft documents provided with this RFI to inform and assist their development and finalization. We currently anticipate releasing the RFP in October 2025. The draft documents have been uploaded to PlanetBids (<https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/50907/bo/bo-search>).

## **ATP would appreciate written feedback as follows:**

- Please provide any specific comments you would like ATP to consider regarding the draft RFP (including appendices) and draft contract (including exhibits) using the 'RFI Feedback Form' template provided on PlanetBids.
- Please provide a cover letter containing the name and principal business of your firm, a designated point of contact, and whether a one-on-one meeting is requested. Also, please provide an attachment to the cover letter that includes narrative responses to the following questions. The cover letter and attachment should be no more than ten pages in length. Cohesive, concise, and simple responses are strongly encouraged.
  - ATP is proposing to allocate aspects of the scope of work for delivering Austin Light Rail to different contractors as follows:
    - The Vehicles contractor will be responsible for the manufacture and delivery of Vehicles and equipment. The Vehicles contractor will coordinate with the OMF PDB contractor to facilitate design elements of the OMF that interface with the Vehicles, including equipment supplied as part of the Vehicles contract, and Vehicle maintenance equipment supplied by the OMF PDB contractor. The Vehicles contractor will manage integration of the onboard equipment supplied by the LRT PDB contractor and ATP, and coordinate with the LRT PDB contractor to support testing and commissioning of Austin Light Rail that includes the Vehicles, the LRT, and the OMF.
    - The LRT PDB contractor will be responsible for the design and construction of civil, rail, stations, and systems for mainline operations, and for the design and supply of all rail systems elements within the OMF site (including signaling, communications, and power systems). The LRT PDB contractor is responsible for overall integration with the Vehicles contractor and the OMF PDB contractor.
    - The OMF PDB contractor will be responsible for all works within the OMF site, excluding rail systems elements to be delivered by the LRT PDB contractor. The OMF PDB contractor will coordinate work with the LRT PDB contractor and the Vehicles contractor as it relates to systems and equipment in the OMF site.

Provide feedback regarding systems integration, including any lessons learned on managing the interfaces between the vehicle design efforts and interfacing contractors from preliminary design through integrated testing. Please include suggested approaches to coordination with new maintenance facilities, main-line track, and systems all leading towards final acceptance of the Vehicles, LRT, and OMF.

- Provide feedback regarding the planned project schedule, and whether the schedule as outlined is reasonable, achievable, and consistent with your existing capabilities and anticipated backlog for design and manufacture of the Vehicles. Given the scope split identified above, the planned project schedule, and the requirements of the draft form of contract and technical specifications provided with this RFI, please provide high level guidance on the information that needs to be provided to the Vehicles contractor by ATP and its contractors, and the proposed timing of when it is needed to advance the Vehicle design.



- Provide feedback on the structure and approach to the technical support and spares supply (TSSS) scope of services that are set out in Exhibit P of the draft form of contract, including the structure of the services, and the ability to provide pricing for the ongoing services in the manner described.
- Provide feedback on the approach to performance incentives in the draft form of contract and any lessons learned based on prior experience. In particular, share any feedback relating to the 'Performance Guarantees and Performance Incentives' included in the TSSS scope of services that are set out in Exhibit P of the draft form of contract, and the reliability and demonstration threshold concept set out in the draft form of contract, including any alternate approaches or performance metrics that have been successfully implemented on other projects.
- ATP is considering whether to expand the TSSS scope of services set out in Exhibit P of the draft form of contract to include a 'full service' maintenance scope, pursuant to which the Vehicles contractor would perform all maintenance of the Vehicles for an initial period of six years with two options for an additional five years each. ATP is also considering whether to further expand the maintenance scope to include maintenance of the main-line track and systems elements. Provide feedback on whether you would be interested in and capable of providing full-service maintenance of this nature, and if so, provide a description of your preferred maintenance scope and term.
- To the extent possible, please provide a recommended list of spare parts based on your proposed vehicle platform, such that ATP may incorporate industry recommendations in crafting the anticipated spare parts schedule. Do not include pricing information. Outline the recommended approach for spare parts delivery – such as the use of kits or parts grouping – and suggest an appropriate breakdown of complex systems and components to support logical ordering.
- To the extent you consider there to be a perceived, potential, or actual OCI that may affect your ability to respond to the RFP (please see Section 6.9 of ATP's Procurement Policy and Procedures and Section 4.9 of the RFP for more detail), provide a completed version of the 'OCI Form' provided on PlanetBids.



# Terms and Conditions

ATP reserves the right not to hold one-on-one meetings with all entities that request one. Any one-on-one meetings will be held in-person in September 2025 and ATP will provide further details and agenda topics in advance of any scheduled meetings.

ATP will not score or evaluate the feedback received in response to this RFI, nor is it required in order to respond to the RFP once issued. ATP does not intend to provide responses to feedback, but may choose to do so, and may consider the feedback received when finalizing the draft documents. To the extent you have any questions relating to the administrative process for this RFI (“Requests for Clarification”), please submit them to PlanetBids by June 10, 2025. If ATP elects to provide any responses, they will be posted on PlanetBids.

**The deadline to provide feedback to this RFI is July 28, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. CT.**

Any communication with ATP, including its board members, staff, and consultants, or its stakeholders, including the FTA, the City of Austin, and CapMetro, related to this RFI between the release of this RFI and the release of the RFP shall be directed to Brad J. Cummings, Senior Vice President, Procurement and Contract Management at [brad.cummings@atptx.org](mailto:brad.cummings@atptx.org).

The information contained in this RFI is preliminary in nature and reflects ATP’s current views. ATP’s receipt or consideration of any information related to this RFI, or feedback to this RFI or any Requests for Clarifications, does not impose any obligations whatsoever on ATP or the respondent. ATP does not intend to and is not obligated to provide responses to any of the Requests for Clarification or feedback received through this RFI or the one-on-one meetings, but retains the right to do so in its sole discretion. While feedback is valued, ATP is not obligated to update the draft RFP or the draft contract to incorporate any of the Requests for Clarification or feedback received through this RFI or the one-on-one meetings.

This RFI is an inquiry only. ATP will not enter into an agreement or contract as a result of this RFI process. No feedback to this RFI, either written or via a one-on-one meeting, will be scored or evaluated in connection with any future procurement. Neither ATP nor any other agency guarantees that the work discussed in this RFI will advance to a public procurement, or that any subsequent procurement will follow the approaches described in this RFI.

ATP will not be liable for any costs incurred in the preparation, submission, revision, or any other aspect of feedback by a respondent to this RFI.

By participating in this RFI (whether or not a proposal is ultimately submitted), each respondent shall be deemed to have acknowledged and agreed that any materials submitted to ATP, including Requests for Clarification, become ATP records that are subject to production in accordance with the Texas Public Information Act.

- Respondents should familiarize themselves with the Texas Public Information Act. ATP will not advise a respondent as to the nature or content of documents or other records entitled to protection from disclosure under open records laws, as to the interpretation of such laws, or as to the definition of “trade secret” or “confidential”.
- If a respondent wishes to submit a question, provide any feedback, or submit any Requests for Clarification with information that it believes is confidential in nature, such respondent shall clearly label only that portion of the text that it believes is confidential, proprietary, or trade secret protected. This designation shall be for informational purposes only and does not guarantee that ATP will withhold the designated text from production. ATP shall not have any liability to any respondent for the failure to protect confidential material provided by a respondent and will disclose its records in accordance with the Texas Public Information Act.



All materials (including Requests for Clarification) submitted in response to this RFI shall become the property of ATP and will not be returned. Except where prohibited by applicable law, ATP has the right to use any or all ideas presented in any Requests for Clarification or other information submitted in response to this RFI or during the course of discussions and communications related to this solicitation, regardless of whether or not the respondent participates in a future solicitation and regardless of whether the ideas are incorporated in the project.

ATP reserves all its rights with respect to this RFI. No respondent will have any rights against ATP arising from the contents of this RFI, any related one-on-one meetings, or the receipt of information in any feedback or meetings. ATP makes no representations, warranties, or guarantees that the information contained in this RFI or any other documents, or any addenda hereto, is accurate, complete, or timely. Furthermore, no such representations, warranties, or guarantees are made that the information in this RFI or other documents accurately represents the conditions that would be encountered during the performance of any subsequent contract, if any. The furnishing of such information by ATP does not create, nor should be deemed to create, any obligation or liability upon ATP for any reason whatsoever. Each respondent, by submitting feedback to this RFI, expressly agrees: (a) that it has read and understood these terms and conditions; (b) that it has not relied upon any information contained in this RFI; and (c) that it may not hold ATP liable or responsible for the information contained in this RFI.



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