

Northern Michigan Rail Ridership Feasibility & Cost Estimate Study

RFP #1-2017

Questions and Answers submitted to date

Is the preliminary analysis a market analysis or a technical analysis or both?

The preliminary analysis should focus on both the market demand and a general assessment of conditions and priority list of needed upgrades, among other items listed in Section 2.2 WORK TASKS of the Request for Proposals.

Is it fair to assume that existing track condition information is available from the Michigan Department of Transportation or Great Lakes Central Railroad?

It is fair to assume that the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Great Lakes Central Railroad can provide information about existing track conditions.

Should the study evaluate seasonality and usage in the service? Summer vs. winter?

There will be seasonality in the usage and service with more emphasis on the summer season based on festivals and outdoor activities.

Should we assume that the Petoskey link is part of the base case for the system or should it be treated as a potential longer term development?

Petoskey should be part of the base case. There is considerable interest in the project and support from the Petoskey community.

Has the rail line to Petoskey been cut and has the Michigan Department of Transportation sold some of the right-of-way?

The project team believes part of the railroad tracks connecting to downtown Petoskey were disconnected from the national railroad system. The project team also believes the City of Petoskey owns the right-of-way along the tracks in portions of downtown Petoskey.

When/where do we anticipate the bulk of the public forums and project meetings to be held?

The Request for Proposals outlines the various locations and tentative timeline for the various public forum meetings. The project steering committee meetings will be in Traverse City, Lansing and Ann Arbor. Additionally, the steering committee will make use of telecommunication tools for conference calling.

Is there a set budget for the project? Can the project team share the budget?

The project team is unable to share budget information during the Request for Proposals solicitation process.

What is the performance period for the analysis?

The projects team expects a project duration of no more than twelve months.

How will price be considered in the Request For Proposals review process?

Price will be review separately from the overall evaluation criteria. Proposers should review the Evaluation Procedures within section 3.5 PROPOSAL EVALUTION of the Request for Proposals.

Which locations – specifically Ann Arbor should sites for rail connections occur?

A high-level evaluation on sites in villages and towns along the rail line is recommended but specific locations are not required.

We understand that any answers to questions or addendums will be posted to the BATA Request for Proposal website. However, I wanted to inquire if you were also planning on emailing out updates?

The project team will not email updates. All questions, comments, responses and addendums will be posted on www.bata.net/rfp only.

Is a specific software required to be used for ridership forecasting? Specifically, does TransCAD need to be used?

A specific software is not required for ridership forecasting.

Would you be willing to share the names of the various engineering firms who have expressed an interest in the Northern Michigan Rail Ridership RFP so that we can contact them and submit our credentials?

The project team is unable to share the names of firms who have expressed an interest in the study.