



University Transportation Research Center
RFP Cover Sheet

Title: Off-Peak Rail Transit Service Study-Importance for Auto Reduction and Peak Ridership Growth

Proposal Number: 2010-08
Sponsor: NJDOT
Date Issued: August 04, 2009
Pre-Proposal Meeting: Contact NJDOT by August 17, 2009
RFP Due at NJDOT: by September 14, 2009
RFP Closing Date: September 14, 2009

If you plan to apply:

1. Please contact Camille Crichton-Summers (camille.crichton-summers@dot.state.nj.us) or Stephanie Nock (609-530-5637 or STEPHANIE.NOCK@dot.state.nj.us) to request a pre-proposal meeting, and so that you will receive information about this meeting if it is held. *This meeting will be your only opportunity to ask questions about this proposal.*
2. If you plan to submit a proposal through UTRC, please notify us by email at peickemeyer@utrc2.org and ckamga@utrc2.org. Please indicate whether you are open to teaming up with faculty at other universities on this project.

Proposal submission guidelines:

Please contact Camille Kamga (ckamga@utrc2.org, 212-650-8087) to discuss submission logistics. After UTRC confirms that the proposals' budgets meet UTRC and NJDOT guidelines, please use the UTRC cover sheet available at <http://www.utrc2.org/research/resourcesforpis.php> for submission of printed proposals to NJDOT.

Proposals must be prepared in accordance with NJDOT's Information and Instructions for Preparing Proposals. Please visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/refdata/research/pdf/techpropresproj.pdf>

For questions about budget preparation, contact: Camille Kamga, ckamga@utrc2.org

NJDOT has not specified a budget or timeline for this project. Please note that matching funds up to \$35,000 are available from UTRC for this RFP.

New Jersey Department of Transportation

Bureau of Research

RESEARCH PROJECT

Request for Proposals

2010 Program

Date of RFP
08-04-09

Closing Date
09-14-09

**Off-Peak Rail Transit Service Study-Importance for Auto Reduction and Peak Ridership Growth
Project 2010-08**

(Proposals must be prepared in accordance with NJDOT's *Information and Instructions for Preparing Proposals*. Please visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/transportation/refdata/research/pdf/techpropresproj.pdf>
Revised Proposal Evaluation Forms are available for your information on the website.)

Proposals will be based on the merit of the information contained in the proposal. Budgets will be evaluated separately. Please place three (3) copies of the budget for this project in a separate sealed envelope.

1. RESEARCH PROBLEM STATEMENT, BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

New Jersey Transit, NJT, has recently implemented major increases in off-peak rail service on the Pascack Valley Line (PVL) and the Northeast Corridor Line (NEC). With increasing emphasis on the need for low cost transit improvement, off-peak service is often a way to utilize existing crews and equipment required for peak service. Also, with peak congestion, and 24/7 service, the need for off-peak transit service has been increasing.

We would propose doing a survey and analysis of two rail lines, one which has never had off-peak service and recently instituted service, and the second a line which has had off-peak service, but in the past 3-5 years has increased off-peak service as well as instituting express off-peak service.

The Pascack Valley line has historically been a peak period, peak direction only service. In Fall, 2007, NJ Transit completed a major capital investment project that added passing sidings. As a result, off-peak service was offered for the first time in over 40 years on this line. This represents the "pure" case of a line going from no off-peak service to off-peak and weekend service. Preliminary indications are that this has resulted in significant increases in peak ridership as well as off-peak ridership. The study would fund a survey of peak and off-peak riders to find out what aspects of off-peak service resulted in shifts in riders from auto, bus, other rail lines, as well as induced transit demand because of the presence of new off-peak service.

This research should identify various constraints to rail service including parking issues. Parking restrictions exist along the PVL and this research will need to address the impact. Note that the northern sections do not have restrictions, unlike the center part of PVL where there are community or local restrictions on parking.

The Northeast Corridor has gone over a 5 year period from 30 minute, all stop local service to 20 minute off-peak service, with express service. The study would survey select midday NJT trains from the Metropark-Trenton area with this enhanced service, to determine impacts on ridership, auto diversions, induced demand etc.

On the NEC, parking restrictions also may limit ridership, is there available parking on the weekday off peak?

The study will document the impact of off-peak service, as well as enhanced off-peak service on existing lines that already have such service. The importance of off-peak service on diversions of auto

trips, induced ridership, and VMT/Greenhouse Gas Emissions will also be quantified. The importance of off-peak service levels to peak ridership will also be quantified and documented.

2. Tasks

[Provide a listing of appropriate general tasks divided into phases based on types of work (e.g., laboratory, field) or by year (e.g., year 1, year 2) or other appropriate milestones]

The NJDOT is seeking the insight of proposal responders on how best to achieve the research objectives. Proposers are expected to describe a research effort that can realistically be accomplished as expeditiously as possible. Proposals must present the proposers' current thinking in sufficient detail to demonstrate their understanding of the problem and the soundness of their approach for conducting the required research.

PHASE I – Literature Search

Conduct a literature search of the current state of the practice.

After the award of the project, a more comprehensive literature search should be conducted. At the completion of this literature search, the PI will make a presentation to the Research Project Selection and Implementation Panel to discuss their findings and to discuss the appropriate research approach.

PHASE II – Research Approach and Anticipated Results

Clear description of how you will solve the problem and implement anticipated findings. Work may be divided into phases (e.g., Laboratory, Field or Year 1, Year 2) as necessary to clarify tasks. *Exit Criteria* must be developed during this phase.

3. Implementation and Training Plan

The PI must meet with the Research Project Selection and Implementation Panel (RPSIP) and other NJDOT units to present the findings and as appropriate train these personnel in the use the project results.

The PI will develop an implementation plan as per the guidelines provided by NJDOT Research Bureau.

4. Deliverables: [List of minimum deliverables necessary to complete the project]

- Presentation of Summary of Literature Search Results
- Discussion to Support and Refine the Project Tasks
- Project work plan.
- Technical Memorandum on the survey results
- Technical memorandum on the measures that are working or not working
- Technical memorandum on actions taken
- Interim Status reports suitable for Senior Leadership if required
- Quarterly Reports, and
- Final report with appropriate tables, graphs and charts in hard copy version, PDF file format, Word, and on CD ROM. Two copies plus one per RSIP member of each presentation, technical memorandum, draft final report and Final Report (plus 10 copies). The Final Report and Tech Brief are due three (3) months before the end date of the project to allow time for review by the Research Project Selection and Implementation Panel. Final Acceptance will be granted upon receipt of ten copies of the approved final report. Reports to be produced in color.

5. Contract Time:

The PI must provide the anticipated research study duration based on the proposed tasks. Consideration should be given to potential impediments so that adjustments are incorporated into the schedule minimizing the need for time extensions.

6. Contacts:

A meeting may be scheduled with interested parties upon request after the RFP's are distributed to refine the objectives and deliverables and to promote a better understanding of the research needs. Questions on this topic **shall not** be directed to any Research Project Manager, Research Customer, or any other NJDOT person. All questions and answers would be addressed **during this meeting**. Contact Camille Crichton-Summers (Camille.CrichtonSummers@dot.state.nj.us) on or before August 17, 2009 to confirm your interest in participating in such a meeting.

7. DEADLINE

<p>Proposals (10 single-bound copies) are due at the NJDOT Bureau of Research no later than 4:00 p.m. September 14, 2009</p>

Authorization to Begin Work: January 1, 2010--estimated or as negotiated

8. Delivery Instructions:

For private, paid messenger services such as Federal Express, DHL, UPS, etc., or for hand-carried deliveries:

2010 PROPOSAL-NJDOT
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Bureau of Research
1035 Parkway Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600

For U.S. Postal Service mail:

New Jersey Department of Transportation
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