

FY 2021 SERVICE DEVELOPMENT AND NEW
TECHNOLOGY (SDNT) APPLICATION

Name Of Applicant (legal organization name)

Beaver Island Transportation Authority

Name of Applicant's Project Manager Mary Cook

Project Manager Phone # 2314483049

Project Manager Email Address bitrans@tds.net

Project Title Master Plan Update

Explain why the project is needed, what is the existing issue to be resolved, what is the purpose or goal, how will this purpose or goal resolve the issue, who will the project benefit, what is a description of the target audience, etc. How you will achieve the project's purpose or goal, who will conduct the project, what methods do you anticipate using, why do you prefer these methods, why do you think these methods are the best choice for the target audience, what are the anticipated results, how will these results be communicated to the target audience, etc.

The last study which was done was approximately 20 years ago and was dedicated toward a master plan for the ferry system. Over that time period, a number of the dynamics on the island have changed. The Authority's 30 year operational agreement with our private operator expires in 2022. Passenger use of the ferry has declined steadily. The Emerald Isle ferry is nearing 25 years old and requires significant and often costly mechanical updates. With these issues in mind, the Authority would like to engage a consulting firm to review and update our master plan, examine our operational relationship with the private operator, perform a fare study/analysis, and make recommendations for revenue options for the Authority. Our hope is the study will help determine the following:

- 1) Does the current private/public partnership remain a viable option going forward, and if so, what recommended changes need to be made to the operational agreement to reflect current and future needs. Is the current operator the best option? Is a public option a possibility?
- 2) Why have passenger numbers declined? Are fares equitable or should they be reduced?
- 3) What does the Authority need to update in terms of vessels and infrastructure, based on economic forecasts for Beaver Island?
- 4) What are the Authority's best options for local revenue enhancements?

What will be produced and/or implemented using the results of this project

Consultant firm will produce a report with recommendations on the above items. The Authority will use the recommendations of the report in making decisions on the Operational Agreement with the Private Contractor, setting fares, developing an asset management plan for current and future capital needs, and reviewing options for local revenue other than fares.

What is the timeframe for the project? Projects are expected to begin within six months of an executed authorization

The timeframe is to issue an RFP within four months of authorization, selection of a vendor by the fourth month, and contract approval by the eighth month of project authorization. The project completion date will be nine months from contract execution.

Note: Provide letters of support- if the project is within a transit agency's geographical area, letters of support and coordination from the local transit agency must be provided.

BUDGET (If project will have multiple activities, or is paid based on milestone progress, split budget accordingly; otherwise show as one activity with the total amount being requested.)

ACTIVITY/ITEM	FEDERAL	STATE	LOCAL	TOTAL
Complete Study	\$ 68,000	\$ 17,000	\$	\$ 85,000
TOTAL	\$ \$68000	\$ \$17000	\$	\$ \$85000