

The Commuter

Expected Request for Bid Commuter Contract Requirements

The following is a summary of the expected Request for Bid (RFB) requirements for the commuter bus service contract. The full version of the most recent RFB can be found at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/EBCCommuter/files/RFB/Specifications.doc>. The actual final RFB that is issued by the Township will also be posted at our web site once it becomes available.

Length of contract: Three years.

East Brunswick terminal hours: From 5:00 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. five (5) days a week at both terminals. Neilson only Saturdays from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Sunday from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Rent: Monthly rent from the vendor to the Parking Utility will be \$45,000.

Dispatchers: A dispatcher must be on duty at TCC weekdays from 5:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. A dispatcher must be on duty at Neilson from 5:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. on weekdays, and till noon on Wednesday. A dispatcher must be on duty at the PABT weekdays from 3:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. A dispatcher must be on duty at each Downtown bus stop beginning fifteen minutes prior to the departure of the first bus from the southernmost bus stop through the departure of the last bus from the northernmost bus stop every weekday.

Seat availability requirement: Bus seats must be available for passengers to travel between East Brunswick and New York. Availability means that no passenger need wait longer than the specified period of time set forth below. Standing room on a bus does not qualify as an available seat.

(i) Weekdays between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. from TCC and Neilson - 10 minutes;

(ii) Weekdays between the hours of 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the PABT and Downtown - 10 minutes;

(iii) Weekdays between the hours of 6:31 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at the PABT and Downtown - 15 minutes;

(iv) At TCC, weekdays after 2:00 p.m. - 60 minutes;

(v) At Neilson, Saturdays before 7:00 a.m. and after 11:00 p.m. and Sundays and holidays before 8:00 a.m. and after 9:00 p.m. - 60 minutes;

(vi) At the PABT, Saturdays before 8:00 a.m. and after midnight and Sundays and holidays before 9:01 a.m. and after 10:00 p.m. - 60 minutes;

(vii) Crosstown service via 42 Street – weekdays only;

(a) From TCC and Neilson to New York City starting at 6:20 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – 15 minutes;

(b) From New York City to Neilson and TCC starting at 4:35 p.m. to 6:35 p.m. – 20 minutes;

(viii) During all other hours within which operating bus service is provided at Neilson, TCC, the PABT and Downtown, including Saturdays, Sundays and holidays 30 minutes.

Frequency of service: Seat availability is not to be confused with frequency of service. Providing a bus every 10 minutes does not ensure a seat within 10 minutes to all waiting passengers. It is the intent of the Township that each commuter be able to board a bus within the time after his/her arrival at the bus stop as specified above. Nothing in the RFB requires bus departures at any specific intervals.

Ticket sales: The Vendor must make change at ticket service windows for commuters upon request. The vendor is required to place at TCC and Neilson credit card ticket machines which offer full service and which are available regardless of whether or not the ticket windows are open. The use of credit card ticket machines shall be in addition to window service.

Cleaning: The Vendor shall be responsible for its ticket area and is to be cleaned daily, including the windows, floors and public facilities. Bathrooms are to be cleaned once each day on a schedule to be agreed upon and provided with adequate supplies, such as soap and paper products.

Posted schedule: The Vendor will post an agreed upon bus schedule in the window and in a frame hung on the wall inside TCC and Neilson and will be displayed at the appropriate locations subject to the approval of the Parking Utility supervisor. The posted schedules must be replaced each time the Vendor changes its schedule. The Vendor is required to post at least seven calendar days notice of an intent to change a schedule, along with the proposed changes and the effective date.

TCC/PABT service: The first bus shall depart TCC no later than 5:20 a.m. and the last bus no earlier than 9:45 p.m. The first bus shall depart the PABT no later than 7:00 a.m. and the last bus no earlier than 12:00 a.m. midnight.

TCC/Downtown service: The first bus shall depart TCC no later than 5:20 a.m. and the last morning bus shall depart no earlier than 8:05 a.m. The first bus from Downtown shall depart no later than 3:30 p.m. and the last bus from Downtown New York to TCC shall depart no earlier than 8:00 p.m.

Neilson/PABT service: The first bus from Neilson shall depart no later than (i) 4:50 a.m. weekdays, (ii) 6:00 a.m. Saturdays, and (iii) 7:00 a.m. Sundays and holidays. The last bus from Neilson shall depart no earlier than (x) 11:55 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) and (y) 10:55 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The first bus from the PABT to Neilson shall depart no later than (i) 6:00 a.m. weekdays, (ii) 7:00 a.m. Saturdays, and (iii) 8:00 a.m. Sundays and holidays. The last bus from the PABT shall depart no earlier than (x) 1:00 a.m. weekdays and Saturdays and (y) 12:00 a.m. midnight Sundays and holidays.

Neilson/Downtown service: The first bus shall depart weekdays from Neilson no later than 4:50 a.m. and the last bus from Neilson shall depart no earlier than 8:30 a.m. The first bus from Downtown shall depart no later than 3:30 p.m. and the last bus shall depart no earlier than 8:00 p.m.

Crosstown service: The Vendor shall dedicate a portion of the morning and afternoon service from and to both TCC and Nielson to appropriate stops along 42nd Street.

Liquidated damages and quality control measures: The RFB contains extensive language designed to give the vendor the maximum financial motivation to operate a high quality commuter service.

Award terms: The contract shall be awarded to the bidder proposing the lowest priced ten trip ticket determined by totaling the proposed ticket prices for each of the three years of the contract.

Odds and Ends

Jersey City service: Service from Neilson Plaza is expected to begin in a few weeks. Please send an e-mail to ebjc-subscribe@yahoo.com for additional information as it becomes available.

Neilson rehabilitation: The rehabilitation is expected to be completed in August. Further information on its completion will be sent to our e-mail list below when the it is completed.

GOP convention: Traffic and other disruptions are likely during the NYC GOP convention being held in New York in from Aug. 30 to Sep. 2. The Parking Utility has asked Suburban Transit to communicate with commuters regarding any alternative arrangements that will be necessary.

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