

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Architectural & Engineering Services for the Renovation & Expansion of the METRA Transfer Center – RFP No. 26-0021
INITIATED BY:	Finance Department

It is requested that Council authorize the execution of a contract with Wendel Architecture PC (Williamsville, NY) for Architectural & Engineering Services for the Renovation & Expansion of the METRA Transfer Center.

The Vendor shall provide all architectural services, engineering services, site plans, cost analysis, and construction plans and specifications required to advertise bids for the construction of the METRA Transfer Center Addition and Renovation and successfully complete the construction of the facility within the existing construction budget. The design must be sensitive to the operational continuity of the Transfer Center and reflect METRA's commitment to sustainability and accessibility.

The selected firm will be responsible for delivering innovative, cost-effective, and code-compliant design solutions that address the following goals:

- Modernize and expand the Transfer Center to meet current and future operational needs.
- Enhance multimodal connectivity and site accessibility for transit users, staff, and the public.
- Improve energy efficiency and sustainability through building systems upgrades and ecological design strategies.
- Ensure compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal codes, FTA procurement and purchasing requirements, ADA and life safety standards.
- Support METRA's long-term vision for a safe, efficient, and community-oriented transit hub.
- The Transfer Center will need to remain in operation during construction and will require temporary facilities and a phasing plan.

RFP Advertisement and Receipt of Proposals:

RFP Specifications were posted on the web pages of the Purchasing Division, the Georgia Procurement Registry, and DemandStar on December 24, 2025. This RFP has been advertised, opened and evaluated. Four (4) proposals were received on January 23, 2026.

The responding vendors were:

Wendel Architecture PC (Williamsville, NY)

2WR of Georgia, Inc. (Columbus, GA)

Axis Infrastructure, LLC (Roswell, GA)

Praxis3, LLC (Atlanta, GA)*

*Praxis3 was deemed non-responsive due to incomplete E-Verify Affidavit, a mandatory submission requirement.

The following events took place after receipt of the proposals:

RFP MEETINGS/EVENTS		
Description	Date	Agenda/Action
Pre-Evaluation	02/18/26	The Purchasing Manager advised Evaluation Committee members of the RFP rules and process. The proposals were distributed to the committee.
1 st Evaluation	03/09/26	The Evaluation Committee discussed each proposal and determined no clarifications were required.
Evaluation Forms Sent	03/10/26	Evaluation forms forwarded to voting committee members.
Evaluation Forms Returned	03/16/26	Final completed set of evaluation forms were received from voting committee members.
Evaluation Results	03/17/26	Evaluation results were forwarded to the Committee for review. The Committee unanimously voted to request a cost proposal from the highest-scoring vendor, Wendel Architecture PC.
Cost Proposal Requested	03/30/26	A cost proposal was requested from the vendor. Upon receipt of the request, the vendor submitted questions regarding preparation of the proposal. The questions were forwarded to the Committee for review.
Response to Vendor	04/24/26	Responses from the Committee were received and the information forwarded to the Vendor.
Cost Proposal Received	04/30/26	The vendor's cost proposal was received and forwarded to the Evaluation Committee for review and acceptance.
Cost Proposal Accepted	05/18/26	The Evaluation Committee unanimously accepted the cost proposal and recommends award to Wendel Architecture PC.

Evaluation Committee:

The proposals were reviewed by the Evaluation Committee, which consisted of three (3) voting members from the METRA Department of Transportation, one (1) voting member from the Engineering Department, one (1) voting member from the Inspections and Code Department, and one (1) voting member from the Engineering Department. One (1) representative from the Planning Department and one (1) representative from METRA served as alternate voters. Two (2) representatives from METRA served as non-voting advisors.

Award Recommendation:

The Evaluation Committee unanimously recommends award of the contract to Wendel Architecture PC (Williamsville, NY), the highest scoring vendor, as reflected by their comments provided below:

- The strengths of this vendor's proposal are: having over 50 years of experience in public transportation design, more than 150 transit facility projects completed and support by Kimley-

Horn, who is a nationally recognized civil engineering and transportation planning firm. Vendor is capable of fulfilling the requirements of the contract. They have a local office and their response times will be adequate.

- Long history of being an architecture firm. Multiple transit jobs exceeding the complexity of the project for METRA. Offices all over the country, able to bring ideas from other regions.
- Extensive experience and a long history with similar projects. The Engineering Department has had a good experience working with [sub-contractor] Kimley-Horn on projects.

Vendor Experience/Qualifications:

- Wendel has been master planning and designing transit facilities since 1975, and they have planned or designed more than 150 public transportation facility projects over the past fifteen years alone.
- Since designing their first project in 1975, they have completed several hundred transportation projects from coast to coast and have become nationally known as a transit industry design leader.
- Wendel team members have extensive experience delivering projects under Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding and oversight and understand the compliance requirements that apply throughout the various project stages.

Client Work History:

- Clarksville Transit Center April 2021 – June 2024
1 Public Square, Suite 301, Clarksville, TN 37040
Provided design services for WeGo's new transfer center in the Clarksville Pike neighborhood of North Nashville for the Nashville Metropolitan Authority. This project includes six bus bays along with passenger waiting amenities. The site uses approximately one acre in sawtooth platform configuration around a central plaza. Passengers get off the bus right into the site, allowing for safe and convenient transfer without crossing the bus path. A kiss and ride drop off area is provided along with a dedicated paratransit bay for patrons that wish to transfer to fixed route vehicles. There are two on street level boarding platform for express service.
- BJCTA West Transit Center October 2018 – April 2022
710 North 20th Street, 2nd Floor, Birmingham, AL 35203
Performed design services for 10 BRT stations in the downtown core, plus two terminus stations that anchor each end. The West Terminus Station provides a logical connection point between the fixed route service and the BRT service. The site is designed to engage the Five Points West community and provide indoor and outdoor waiting areas, ticketing, public restrooms, and driver break areas.
- Augusta Public Transit Department April 2016 – June 2019
1535 Fenwick Street, Augusta, GA 30904
Provided architecture and engineering services for the design and construction of a new operations and maintenance facility to house 40 buses and accommodate future expansion. All maintenance services, operations, and administration functions are in

a contiguous building closer to the operations' core. Wendel also provided site selection and master planning services as part of the design work.

The City's Procurement Ordinance Article 3-110, Competitive Sealed Proposals for the procurement of Equipment, Supplies and Professional Services and Article 3-111 Architectural/Engineering and Land Surveying Services, govern the RFP Process. During the RFP process, there is no formal opening due to the possibility of negotiated components of the proposal. In the event City Council does not approve the recommended offeror, no proposal responses or any negotiated components are made public until after the award of the contract. Therefore, the evaluation results and cost information has been submitted to the Mayor in a separate memo for informational purposes.

The recommended firm's cost proposal is within the Department's budget. Funds are budgeted for this expense: Transportation Fund – Transportation – FTA – Capital Expend-Over \$5,000; 0751-610-2400-MFTA-7761.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH WENDEL ARCHITECTURE PC (WILLIAMSVILLE, NY) FOR ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE RENOVATION & EXPANSION OF THE METRA TRANSFER CENTER.

WHEREAS, an RFP was administered (RFP No. 26-0021) and four (4) proposals were received; and,

WHEREAS, the proposal submitted by Wendel Architecture PC met all proposal requirements and was evaluated most responsive to the RFP.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the Mayor and/or his designee is hereby authorized to execute a contract with Wendel Architecture PC (Williamsville, NY) for Architectural & Engineering Services for the Renovation & Expansion of the METRA Transfer Center. The recommended firm’s cost proposal is within the Department’s budget. Funds are budgeted for this expense: Transportation Fund – Transportation – FTA – Capital Expend-Over \$5,000; 0751-610-2400-MFTA-7761.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the ____ day of _____, 2026 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

Councilor Allen	voting _____
Councilor Anker	voting _____
Councilor Chambers	voting _____
Councilor Cogle	voting _____
Councilor Crabb	voting _____
Councilor Davis	voting _____
Councilor Garrett	voting _____
Councilor Hickey	voting _____
Councilor Huff	voting _____
Councilor Tucker	voting _____

Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

B.H. “Skip” Henderson III, Mayor