

Seneca Nation of Indians
Request for Proposals (RFP)
Seneca Transit System (STS) Bus Service
Request for Clarifications
Response to Request for Clarifications

Consistent with the above cited Request for Proposals for Seneca Transit System Bus Service, the Seneca Nation conducted a pre-proposal conference on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. in the Second-Floor conference room of the Seneca Allegany Administration Building in Salamanca, NY. In addition to the pre-proposal conference conducted at the Seneca Allegany Administration Building, the pre-proposal conference was available through an internet link published in the Request for Proposal document to remote attendees through the Microsoft Teams application.

Attendees at the pre-proposal conference at the Seneca Allegany Administration Building included representatives of the Seneca Transit System, as well as prospective service providers. Additionally, prospective service providers and interested parties participated in the pre-proposal conference through the Microsoft Teams application.

On pages 2-7 of this document find the outline of the Seneca Transit System address that was presented to attendees at the cited pre-proposal conference and via the Microsoft Teams application.

Consistent with the cited Request for Proposals document, potential respondents to the Request for Proposals document were afforded the opportunity to submit formal Requests for Clarifications on the Request for Proposals document to the Seneca Nation by 4:00 p.m. on June 30, 2026. The Seneca Nation received one such request for clarifications from First Transit, Inc. on June 30, 2026. No other request for clarifications was received by the specified deadline.

On pages 8-12 of this document find the Seneca Nation response to the Request for Clarifications that was received from First Transit Inc.

Consistent with the terms of the Request for Proposals document, the request for clarifications received by the Seneca Nation and the Seneca Nation response to the request for clarifications are hereby incorporated into the Request for Proposal document by reference.

The complete Seneca Nation response to the Request for Clarifications is posted on the Seneca Transit System website, www.sni.org.

Proposals in response to the Seneca Nation of Indians Request for Proposals for Seneca Transit System Bus Service are due on August 3, 2026.

June 23, 2026
Seneca Nation of Indians Request for Proposals
Seneca Transit System Bus Service
Pre-Proposal Conference
10:00 a.m., Seneca Allegany Administration Building

Seneca Transit System is sponsored by the Seneca Nation of Indians.

The Seneca Nation is:

- Recipient from Federal Transit Administration
 - Tribal Transit Program Formula Apportionment Funding
 - Tribal Transit Program Discretionary Funding
- Recipient from NYSDOT:
 - State Transit Operating Assistance and FTA section 5311 funding

Seneca Nation of Indians is requesting proposals to operate Seneca Transit System fixed route services, which are illustrated in Exhibits B-1, B-2, B-3, and B-4. The estimated hours and miles of STS service are presented in Exhibit B-5. The Cost Pricing Form is provided in Exhibit B-6.

Under this Request for Proposal (RFP), the Seneca Nation requests hourly rates for the third-party contract operation of Seneca Transit System services using vehicles owned by the Seneca Nation and

an hourly rate for the third-party contract operation of Seneca Transit System services using contractor-owned vehicles.

Under the terms of the RFP, operation of all STS services shall assume that the Seneca Nation will provide required fuel to operate the STS services.

Term and Scope of services in RFP

- October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027
 - Options to renew up to three (3) consecutives, one-year options
 - Year to Year contract
 - Seneca Nation cannot award a contract for more than one year

The Request for Proposal document includes the following parts:

- Public Notice
- Instructions
- Terms and Conditions
- Materials to be Submitted with Bids
- Certifications
- Federal and New York State requirements and clauses
- Protest procedures
- Scope of work
 - Exhibits B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5
- Pricing Form, Exhibit B-6
- Proposal evaluation criteria and weighting
- Proposed Third-Party Contract Service Agreement
- Proposed Lease and Service Agreement
- All documents in RFP, amendments to the RFP, requests, and responses to requests to clarifications, and the proposed contract are all incorporated by reference into the contract documents. This statement is included in the proposed contract.

Schedule for the Request for Proposal procurement

- Pre-proposal conference
 - June 23, 2026
- Request for clarifications due to Seneca Transit System
 - June 30, 2026
- Responses from Seneca Nation to requests for clarifications
 - By July 17, 2026
- Proposals due
 - August 3, 2026
- Review proposals received
 - Proposals reviewed to determine whether proposal is complete
 - Complete Proposal evaluation
 - By August 12, 2026
- Request NYSDOT approval to award
 - By August 19, 2026
- Proposal recommendation to Tribal Council, contingent on NYSDOT approval
 - Projected September 2, 2026
- Tribal Council Approval
 - Projected September 19, 2026
- Notice to Proceed
 - Projected September 21, 2026
- Contract year begins
 - October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027

Exhibit B-5
Basis of Estimated Miles and Hours

October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027				
Cattaraugus & Allegany Territories, Irving, Gowanda, Dayton, Village of Cattaraugus, Little Valley, Salamanca, Steamburg				
ESTIMATED Miles (Mon.-Fri.)		ESTIMATED Miles (Sat.)		Total
One-Way Trip Miles	60.0	One-Way Trip Miles	60.0	
Miles/Round Trip	120.0	Miles/Round Trip	120.0	
Number Round Trips/Day	6.0	Number Round Trips/Day	6.0	
Miles/Day	720.0	Miles/Day	720.0	
Number Service Days (Mon. - Fri.)	255.0	Number Service Days (Mon. - Fri.)	52.0	
<u>Subtotal Miles</u>	<u>183,600.0</u>	<u>Subtotal Miles</u>	<u>37,440.0</u>	<u>221,040.0</u>
Total Miles	183,600.0	Total Miles	37,440.0	221,040.0
ESTIMATED Hours (Mon.-Fri.)		ESTIMATED Hours (Sat.)		
Hours/One-Way Trip	1.8	Hours/One-Way Trip	1.9	
Hours/Round Trip	3.6	Hours/Round Trip	3.83	
Number Round Trips/Day	6.0	Number Round Trips/Day	6.0	
Hours/Day	21.5	Hours/Day	23.0	
Number Service Days (Mon. - Fri.)	255.0	Number Service Days (Sat.)	52.0	
<u>Subtotal Hours</u>	<u>5,483</u>	<u>Subtotal Hours</u>	<u>1,196</u>	<u>6,679</u>
Total Hours	5,483	Total Hours	1,196	6,679
Allegany Territory Service				
One-Way Trip Miles	8.0	One-Way Trip Miles	8.0	
Miles/Round Trip	16.0	Miles/Round Trip	16.0	
Number Round Trips/Day	11.0	Number Round Trips/Day	11.0	
Miles/Day	176.0	Miles/Day	176.0	
Number Service Days (Mon. - Fri.)	255.0	Number Service Days (Sat.)	52.0	
<u>Subtotal Miles</u>	<u>44,880.0</u>	<u>Subtotal Miles</u>	<u>9,152.0</u>	<u>54,032.0</u>
Total Miles	44,880.0	Total Miles	9,152.0	54,032.0
ESTIMATED Hours (Mon.-Fri.)		ESTIMATED Hours (Sat.)		
Hours/One-Way Trip	0.42	Hours/One-Way Trip	0.42	
Hours/Round Trip	0.83	Hours/Round Trip	0.83	
Number Round Trips/Day	11.0	Number Round Trips/Day	11.0	
Hours/Day	9.250	Hours/Day	9.250	
Number Service Days (Mon. - Fri.)	255.0	Number Service Days (Sat.)	52.0	
<u>Subtotal Hours</u>	<u>2,359</u>	<u>Subtotal Hours</u>	<u>481</u>	<u>2,840</u>
Total Hours	2,359	Total Hours	481	2,840
Total System Miles (est.)				
Cattaraugus & Allegany Territories et al	183,600.0	Cattaraugus & Allegany Territories et al	37,440.0	221,040.0
Allegany Territory	44,880.0	Allegany Territory	9,152.0	54,032.0
Total Miles	228,480.0	Total Miles	46,592.0	275,072.0
Total System Hours (est.)				
Cattaraugus & Allegany Territories et al	5,483	Cattaraugus & Allegany Territories et al	1,196	6,679
Allegany Territory	2,359	Allegany Territory	481	2,840
Total Hours	7,841	Total Hours	1,677	9,518

§ There are three (3) annual special events (Marvin Curry Pow Wow, Catt. County Fair and Seneca Nation Fall Festival)

§ Service days do not include these six holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day

Exhibit B-6

Cost Pricing Form

Cattaraugus & Allegany Territories, Irving, Gowanda, Dayton, Village of Cattaraugus, Little Valley, Salamanca and Steamburg

Fixed Route/Route Deviation Bus Service Pricing

Item 1: Seneca Nation Owned Vehicles Using Fuel Purchased from the Seneca Nation

Cost price Per Hour for the described service with the contractor providing the driver. The 16-18 passenger bus used in service and the spare bus will be provided by the Seneca Nation. Fuel used in the operation of service will be provided by the Seneca Nation. Fuel shall be excluded from the hourly rate. The hourly rate should include all costs associated with the operation of the vehicles to provide scheduled Seneca Transit System services including but not limited to maintenance, wages, fringe benefits, service, administrative, overhead, G&A, insurance, fee/markup, etc.

9,518 Service Hours/275,072 Service Miles

Contractor Hourly Rate : _____

Item 2: Contractor Owned Vehicles Using Fuel Purchased from Seneca Nation

Cost price Per Hour for the described service with the contractor providing the vehicle and driver. The passenger bus will be equipped with a wheelchair to meet ADA requirements. Fuel used in the operation of service will be provided by the Seneca Nation. The hourly rate should include all costs associated with the operation of the vehicles to provide scheduled Seneca Transit System services including but not limited to maintenance, wages, fringe benefits, service, administrative, overhead, G&A, insurance, fee/markup, etc.

9,518 Service Hours/275,072 Service Miles

Contractor Hourly Rate : _____

RFP includes proposal evaluation factors

Request information in 20 pages or less to enable the following factors to be evaluated

- Points assigned to each factor, total 220 points
 1. Service management and operational capabilities, 30 points
 - a. Proven experience in FTA and NYSDOT fixed route and route deviation service management and operational capabilities, management strategies, and operational experience in a transit environment like the Seneca Nation
 2. Three references, 10 points
 - a. from current or previous contracts where the Respondent provided similar service to a municipal organization or Tribal organization subsidized by FTA
 3. Qualifications of staff, 20 points
 - a. Qualifications of staff proposed, including experience and record of accomplishments of Project manager and other personnel
 - b. We will review the qualifications and experience of the staff proposed
 4. Staffing plan demonstrates ability to efficiently provide services and operational support to operate the STS system, 10 points
 5. Efforts to hire enrolled Seneca and Native American personnel for contract work, 10 points
 6. Demonstration of means and examples to provide reports on monthly meetings on the operations of STS, 10 points
 - a. Including compliance with monthly reporting requirements like customer behavioral incidents, schedule adherence, transit asset management system inventory, ridership statistics
 7. Contractor's ability to provide administrative services and operational support from local office area, 5 points
 8. Demonstration of the contractor's staff program training, 10 points
 - a. Including route training, customer service, disability awareness, passenger assistance, driver awareness, first aid, CPR, operation of technology equipment on buses
 9. Maintenance record and facilities to maintain and store vehicles owned and provided by the Seneca Nation, 20 points
 - a. Seneca Nation does not have storage and maintenance facilities
 - i. Seneca Nation is implementing the construction of the Rochester Street Bus Garage.
 1. Completion is expected during term of the agreement
 - b. Storage and maintenance in accordance with Transit Management Asset guidelines is very important
 10. Availability and condition of contractor owned buses to supplement Seneca Nation-owned buses, 20 points

- a. List of contractor-owned vehicles including age, condition, and ready availability of contractor-owned vehicles is requested and will be evaluated
- 11. Cost of Providing Services under Agreement, 30 points
 - a. Complete Bid Pricing Form
- 12. Demonstration of competitive nature of proposed hourly rates to regional operations, 20 points
- 13. Financial stability and capabilities of Contractor, 10 points
 - a. Bank reference is requested
- 14. Plans to affect a smooth transition from current operations, 5 points
 - a. Illustrate a smooth transition on the effective date of the new contract
- 15. Completeness of Response to RFP, 10 points
 - a. Compliance with contract requirements such as DBE, EEO, and drug testing
- Total 220 points
- Cost is a factor
 - This is not a low bid procurement
 - Cost is one of the factors that will be evaluated to select the successful response to the RFP

Questions and Answers

- To be considered, questions and comments must be formally submitted by respondents and Seneca Nation responses and any determined changes to the RFP document will be sent to all potential respondents.

Request for Clarifications
Request for Proposal
Third-Party Contract Operation of Seneca Transit System

RFP Respondent seeking Clarifications: First Transit, Inc.

Request for clarification #1:

On October 3, 2025, US DOT published an interim Final Rule (IFR) modifying the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program regulations (49 CFR Part 26) which require federal grant recipients to pause enforcement of DBE goals in existing contracts supported by federal funds. In light of this ruling, please confirm that there is no D/W/MBE goal for this project and that Good Faith effort is not required.

Seneca Nation Discussion in Response to Request for Clarification:

In the STS Bus Service Request for Proposal document, Part A- Federally Required Clauses, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, paragraph a., it is stated that “This contract is subject to the requirements of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 26, Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Department of Transportation Financial Assistance Programs. The national goal for participation of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) is 10%.”

In the STS Bus Service Request for Proposal document, Part A- Federally Required Clauses, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, paragraph a., it is stated that, FTA exempts Indian Tribes from the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise regulations at 49 C.F.R. part 26 under Map-21 and previous legislation.

Insofar as the October 3, 2025, Interim Final rule pauses enforcement of DBE goals, as well as FTA exempts Indian Tribes from the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise regulations at 49 C.F.R. part 26 under Map-21 and previous legislation, there is no D/W/MBE goal for the service contract that will be awarded pursuant to this RFP.

The cognizant Seneca Nation Procurement Policy states the following on small and minority and women’s business enterprises:

- A. The Nation will take all necessary affirmative steps to ensure that minority firms, women’s business enterprises and labor surplus area firms are used when possible.
- B. Affirmative action steps shall include:
 - a. The Nation Council reserves the right to select a Seneca-owned vendor, subject to the vendor’s ability to meet the bid specifications at a reasonable price;

- b. Placing small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises on solicitation lists;
- c. Assuring small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises are solicited whenever they are potential sources;
- d. Dividing total requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises;
- e. Establishing delivery schedules, where requirements permit, which encourage participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises; and
- f. Using assistance of the Small Business Administration, and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce.

Pursuant to the Seneca Nation Procurement Policy, there is no stated Disadvantaged/Women's/Minority Business Enterprise (D/W/MBE) goal for this contract. However, the above stated Seneca Nation Procurement Policy on small, and minority and women's business enterprises requires a good faith effort to meet policy objectives.

Reference the STS Bus Service RFP document, Part – A Federally Required Clauses, paragraph d. Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, FTA exempts Indian Tribes from the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise regulations at 49 C.F.R. part 26 under Map-21 and previous legislation. This statement, as well as the cited Interim Final rule pausing enforcement of DBE goals, does not preclude compliance with the Seneca Nation Procurement Policy as it relates to small and minority and women's business enterprises.

Seneca Nation Recommendation with respect to STS RFP Request for Clarification:

The Seneca Nation advises that there is no Disadvantaged/Women's/Minority Business Enterprise goal associated with the service contract that will be award pursuant to the STS Bus Service Request for Proposal.

Demonstration of a Good Faith Effort to utilize small, minority, and women's business enterprises, when possible, will be considered.

Request for Clarifications
Request for Proposal
Third-Party Contract Operation of Seneca Transit System

RFP Respondent seeking Clarifications: First Transit, Inc.

Request for clarification #2:

Would the Seneca Nation consider accepting Proposals submitted electronically via Dropbox or similar? This allows bidders more time to meet your deadlines and eliminates the need for a minimum of two days for shipping to ensure proposals are received prior to the deadline.

Seneca Nation Discussion in Response to Request for Clarification:

The Seneca Nation denies this request for clarifications to allow respondents to the RFP to submit electronic copies of the response to the RFP. The Seneca Nation requires original signatures, as specified on forms included in the RFP document. Additionally, if the Seneca Nation allows the submittal of electronic proposals, The Seneca Nation must assume the responsibility to print out and assemble the response(s) to the RFP. Thus, the Seneca Nation might not print out the copy and assemble the response to the RFP, properly. By accepting electronic proposals, the Seneca Nation assumes the responsibility for printing out and assembling the proposal(s). The Seneca Nation will not assume responsibility for printing out and assembling responses to the RFP.

Seneca Nation Recommendation with respect to STS RFP Request for Clarification:

The Seneca Nation denies the request for respondents to the RFP to submit electronic proposals. The Seneca Nation will not assume responsibility for printing out and assembling responses to the RFP.

Request for Clarifications
Request for Proposal
Third-Party Contract Operation of Seneca Transit System

RFP Respondent seeking Clarifications: First Transit, Inc.

Request for clarification #3:

Please confirm whether or not there is a bid and performance bond. If there is a performance bond, please consider reducing the performance bond percentage from 100% to the industry standard of 10-20%

Seneca Nation Discussion in Response to Request for Clarification:

Seneca Nation Procurement Policy does not require a bid or performance bond for service contracts.

Seneca Nation Recommendation with respect to STS RFP Request for Clarification:

Reference the STS Bus Service RFP, Part A- Federally Required Clauses, Bonding Requirements – Applicability – For those construction or facility improvement contracts or subcontracts exceeding \$250,000, FTA may accept the bonding policy and requirements of the recipient. The contract that will be awarded pursuant to the STS Bus Service RFP procurement will provide bus services. The Seneca Nation Procurement Policy does not require respondents to the STS Bus Service RFP to secure a bid-bond or a performance bond to support the bus service contract that will be awarded pursuant to the RFP.

Request for Clarifications
Request for Proposal
Third-Party Contract Operation of Seneca Transit System

RFP Respondent seeking Clarifications: First Transit, Inc.

Request for clarification #4:

Please confirm that the required forms, submittals, and appendix are not included in the page limit.

Seneca Nation Discussion in Response to Request for Clarification:

Although the clarification did not specify the 20-page proposal submittal limit, this request for clarification seeks relief from the 20-page proposal submittal limit. The following text from the Request for Proposal document indicates that the 20 pages relates to “Information in response to Evaluation Factors. The bidder/proposer to this Request for Proposal is requested to provide information that will demonstrate the firm’s capabilities and responsiveness to the listed Proposal Evaluation Factors by which proposals will be evaluated. Information submitted shall be limited to 20 pages.”

Seneca Nation Recommendation with respect to STS RFP Request for Clarification:

With respect to **Materials to be Submitted**, Item 15., Information in Response to Evaluation Factors, the Seneca Nation will not consider the inclusion of required documents and forms associated with Appendix A – I, nine pages, as pages counting toward the limit of 20 pages for respondents to demonstrate their firm’s capabilities and responsiveness to the Evaluation Factors listed in the subject RFP.