



February 13, 2026

**\*\*\*VIA EMAIL\*\*\***

Daniel Drumwright, MSSCM  
Senior Procurement Officer  
Department of Finance - Division of Procurement  
Metropolitan Nashville Davidson County Government  
730 2nd Avenue South, PO Box 196300  
Nashville, TN 37219-6300  
(p) 615-862-6632  
[Daniel.Drumwright2@nashville.gov](mailto:Daniel.Drumwright2@nashville.gov)

Re: Applied Research Associates, Inc. Protest of Award under RFQ 401384

### PROTEST OF AWARD

Dear Mr. Drumwright:

In accordance with R4.36.010, Authority to Resolve Protested Solicitations and Awards, of the Metro Nashville Procurement Regulations, Applied Research Associates, Inc. (ARA) hereby respectfully protests the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County's ("the City") award of a contract for Pavement Data Collection Services to Cyvl, Inc. ("Cyvl") under Request for Quotation 401384 ("the RFQ"), based on the City's evaluation and scoring of ARA under the RFQ.

The grounds for this protest are that ARA's proposed evaluated price was miscalculated by the City, as follows:

- The cost spreadsheet provided as part of the Request for Quotation 401384 requires offerors to submit costs for the following scope for 5 groups with a total centerline mileage of 2570:
  - ✓ Item 1-5: Collection Services of Pavement Distress Data and Images with High Resolution 360-degree images and any associated GIS software and support. The extracted datasets shall include, but are not limited to, the following asset classes and their associated attribute information for the following: Sidewalks, Traffic Signs, Curb and Gutters, Guard Rails, Traffic Signals, Signal Supports, Curb Ramps, Bikeways, Pavement Markings and Signal Cabinets. (cost must include all overhead, supplies, equipment, printing, copying, telephone, computer, plotting, travel, mileage, drafting, and other charges)
  - ✓ Item 6-10: The Contractor shall perform a comprehensive collection of the NDOT 's right-of-way inventory assets utilizing Mobile Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology and any associated GIS software and support. The

extracted datasets shall include, but are not limited to, the following asset classes and their associated attribute information for the following: Sidewalks, Traffic Signs, Curb and Gutters, Guard Rails, Traffic Signals, Signal Supports, Curb Ramps, Bikeways, Pavement Markings, and Signal Cabinets. (cost must include all overhead, supplies, equipment, printing, copying, telephone, computer, plotting, travel, mileage, drafting, and other charges)

- ARA's PathRunner vehicle proposed for data collection is fitted with a high-definition LiDAR system, 3D-PAS pavement imaging system capable of collecting 2,560 pixels per line scan, infrared light source, a 360-degree LadyBug camera system, three panoramic right-of-way cameras, a certified high-speed laser profiler for pavement profile measurements (IRI), as well as a texture laser. Our Pathrunner system meets all required technical specifications in the RFQ. Given these capabilities, ARA can collect both the pavement surface distresses as per ASTM D6433 methodology and LiDAR data simultaneously in a single pass.
- ARA's total evaluated cost to complete the scope requested (Pavement distress data collection, images, GIS software and support, LiDAR data collection and asset extraction) is **\$3,943,254.44** (based on unit price for items 1-5). However, the cost spreadsheet submitted as part of Request for Quotation 401384 requires the offeror to provide separate unit prices for LiDAR and pavement data collection which increases the evaluated cost for individual collections to \$7,340,729.72. Please note that ARA provided comments in the cost spreadsheet to note that LiDAR would be provided at no additional cost when completed along with items 1-5. This noted information did not appear to be calculated in the total cost evaluation.

For these reasons, ARA respectfully submits that: (i) the City's award to Cyvl is not in accordance with the RFQ due to improper total cost evaluation and must be set aside; (ii) the calculation of ARA's proposed price and evaluation score must be recalculated; and (iii) the City must follow the RFQ requirements and award the contract under the RFQ to ARA, whose proposal offers the best value of any eligible proposal.

We appreciate a rapid review of this protest and are available to address any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Jason Bittner  
Vice President and Division Manager

Attachments: Cost Spreadsheet, Overall Award Documentation