

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FOR

Highly Automated Work Zone Vehicles

ISSUING OFFICE

**PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
BUREAU OF OFFICE SERVICES**

RFI NUMBER

3518RFI02

DATE OF ISSUANCE

February 28, 2019

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
FOR
Highly Automated Work Zone Vehicles

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	Page 2
PART I – GENERAL INFORMATION	Page 3 to 6
ATTACHMENT A – CPI AND TRADE SECRET FORM	

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Activity	Responsibility	Date
Please monitor the eMarketplace website for all communications regarding this RFI.	Responding Entity	On going
<p><u>Electronic responses</u> may be sent to the Issuing Office via email to PDRFPQuestions@pa.gov no later than the date and time established on this Calendar of Events. The Issuing Office reserves the right to accept untimely submissions.</p> <p><u>Paper responses</u> may be sent to the Issuing Office by the date and time established on this Calendar of Events:</p> <p>Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Bureau of Office Services ATTN: William Gipe, Issuing Officer 400 North Street, 5th Floor Harrisburg, PA 17120</p>	Responding Entity	March 21, 2019 10:00 AM

PART I

GENERAL INFORMATION

I-1. Purpose

This Request for Information (“RFI”) provides an opportunity for interested entities (hereinafter “Responding Entities”) to provide input into Pennsylvania’s Highly Automated Work Zone Vehicle operations policy. The purpose of this RFI is to obtain information from Responding Entities to assist The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation’s (PennDOT) understanding of the capabilities of Highly Automated Work Zone Vehicles, and to potentially issue a future procurement.

I-2. Issuing Office

PennDOT’s Bureau of Office Services issued this RFI on behalf of the Commonwealth. The sole point of contact in PennDOT for this RFI shall be the Issuing Officer, William Gipe, PennDOT, Bureau of Office Services, Commonwealth Keystone Building, 400 North Street, 5th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17120-0041, wgipe@pa.gov . Please refer all inquiries to the Issuing Officer. **ANY QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS RFI SHALL BE DIRECTED IN WRITING TO THE ISSUING OFFICE IDENTIFIED IN THIS SECTION I-2; PHONE CALLS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

I-3. Background

Automated vehicle technology holds tremendous potential for improving safety and mobility on Pennsylvania roadways. It is the goal of PennDOT and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission to leverage this technology to improve work zone operations by reducing the exposure of workers. Since the beginning of 2015, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission has experienced over 90 truck mounted attenuator (TMA) crashes along the Pennsylvania Turnpike. In 2017, 18 PennDOT owned attenuators were impacted in work zones.

In October 2018, Governor Tom Wolf signed Act 117 of 2018 into law. Act 117 allows for PennDOT and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission to implement Highly Automated Work Zone Vehicles in active work zones. PennDOT and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission shall, on a periodic basis, authorize these vehicles to be deployed to specific locations.

I-4. Objectives

To assist in the development of Pennsylvania’s Highly Automated Work Zone Vehicle operations policy, and potentially issue a future procurement, PennDOT is seeking to:

- Understand the capabilities and limitations of Highly Automated Work Zone Vehicles;
- Understand the impact to existing operations including potential use cases;
- Identify potential evaluation criteria; and
- Determine necessary information for issuing potential future procurement.

I-5. Addenda to the RFI

If the Issuing Office deems it necessary to revise any part of this RFI before the response date, the Issuing Office will post an addendum to the DGS website at <http://www.emarketplace.state.pa.us>. It is the Responding Entity’s responsibility to periodically check the website for any new information or addenda to the RFI.

I-6. Requirements

Responding Entities may elect to provide a response either by paper or electronically via email.

Electronic responses shall be emailed to PDRFPQuestions@pa.gov no later than the date and time established on the **Calendar of Events**.

Paper responses may be provided but must have a complete and exact copy on a separate Flash Drive in Microsoft Office, Microsoft Office-compatible format, or Adobe Acrobat format. Electronic documents are not to be password protected. Responses must be received no later than the date and time established on the **Calendar of Events**.

I-7. Information Handling

Any information obtained from PennDOT by Responding Entities during the course of this RFI shall be considered confidential and shall not be disseminated nor discussed except as necessary to respond to this RFI or as required by law.

All responses and response deliverables, once submitted to PennDOT, become the property of PennDOT and PennDOT shall have unrestricted authority to reproduce, distribute, and use any submitted report or data designed or developed and delivered to PennDOT as part of the performance of this RFI.

I-8. PennDOT Questions for Response from Responding Entities

Responding Entities should respond to the following questions.

1. Describe your organization's level of interest and relationship with Highly Automated Work Zone Vehicles.
2. How does your organization determine if a roadway is suitable for a Highly Automated Work Zone Vehicle (e.g., geographical constraints, sight distance, weather and roadway conditions)?
3. Are there any limitations on how fast a Highly Automated Work Zone Vehicle may travel?
4. What operations can be assisted by Highly Automated Work Zone Vehicles (e.g., line painting, sweeping or mowing)?
5. Does your organization require Highly Automated Work Zone Vehicles to have connectivity with other vehicles or devices?
 - a. If so, please briefly describe the connection.
6. How should an agency monitor the performance of a Highly Automated Work Zone Vehicle?
7. What metric(s) should Pennsylvania consider using to evaluate the success of a Highly Automated Work Zone Vehicle?
8. Do you have SOPs for activation of AV systems when on-site?
9. How does your system handle horizontal and vertical curves with limited sight distance?
 - a. Does it adjust distance to protect before curves?
10. What redundant safety systems does your system have, including, but not limited to, braking?
11. What communication systems are used, and are there any safeguards for loss of communication?
12. Are there other states Pennsylvania should review when developing Highly Automated Work Zone Vehicles?

I-9. Response Instructions

Responding Entities shall submit a response to this RFI. Responding Entities may submit additional information that they determine to be relevant.

The issuance of this RFI does not constitute a commitment from PennDOT to issue a future procurement. Submission of a response to this RFI does not guarantee that a Responding Entity will be selected for any subsequent competitive procurement, nor does it preclude any Responding Entity from responding to future procurement opportunities except as prohibited by law. Please note that Responding Entities should seek the advice of counsel, as necessary, and be cognizant of the State Adverse Interest Act, which prohibits recommending the making of a contract and participation in that subsequent contract. 71 P.S. §§ 776.1-776.8.

This RFI shall not constitute nor should it be construed as a solicitation or as an obligation on the part of PennDOT to issue a procurement or award a contract. The Commonwealth shall not pay for the preparation of any response or information submitted to the Commonwealth or for the Commonwealth's use of such information. The Commonwealth may, in its sole discretion, use information provided in response to this RFI; however, the Commonwealth is not obligated to use any information received in response to this RFI.

To the extent that information provided in response to this RFI may be considered as divulging a Responding Entity's intellectual property including copyrights and trade secrets or confidential proprietary information ("CPI"), the following shall apply:

- A. Confidential Information. CPI or trade secrets are not necessarily required to be submitted to PennDOT. However, information pertaining to emerging technologies, whether existing intellectual property including trade secrets or CPI, may be beneficial to PennDOT's and the Commonwealth's decision making as its personnel proceed with deliberations for future courses of action. A Responding Entity shall not label entire responses as confidential or proprietary or trade secret protected. Any Responding Entity which determines that it will divulge such information as part of its response should: 1) submit the signed written statement described in Subsection C. below; 2) note the parameters of any CPI or intellectual property (including trade secrets) in its response; and 3) provide a redacted version of its response, which removes only the CPI and trade secrets, for required public disclosure purposes.
- B. Commonwealth Use. All material submitted with the response shall be considered the property of the Commonwealth and may be returned only at the Issuing Office's option. The Commonwealth, including PennDOT, shall have the right to use any or all ideas and concepts that are presented in any response, unless a Responding Entity, as part of its response, affirmatively notes any and all objections in its response regarding confidential information or trade secrets. Notwithstanding any proprietary or copyright notices contained on the face of responses, the Commonwealth shall have the non-exclusive right to reproduce and to distribute responses internally and to comply with public record or other disclosure requirements under the provisions of any Commonwealth or United States statute or regulation, or rule or order of any court of competent jurisdiction.
- C. Public Disclosure. All responses are potentially subject to disclosure in response to a request for public records made under the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law, 65 P.S. §§ 67.101, et seq. If a proposal submission contains CPI, information protected by intellectual property rights or trade secrets, a signed written statement to this effect shall be provided with the submission in accordance with 65 P.S. § 67.707(b) for the information to be considered exempt under 65 P.S. § 67.708(b)(11) from public records requests under the Right-to-Know Law.

In addition to Sections 707(b) and 708(b)(11) of the Right-to-Know Law, records protected by a privilege, federal or state law or regulations or judicial order or decree are exempt from the presumption that a record in PennDOT's possession is a "public record." 65 P.S. §§ 67.305 and 67.102. Furthermore, in the event of a conflict between the Right-to-Know Law, 65 P.S. set forth at § 67.3101.1 and the Pennsylvania Uniform Trade Secret Act (PUTSA) set forth at 12 Pa. C.S. §§ 5301 through 5308, PUTSA will control.