

State of Vermont**Department of Public Service**

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2024 Mobile Drive Test

The following document contains the questions received by the Department regarding the 2024 Drive Test Requests for Proposal, RFP. The Department responses can be found below in red. As a reminder, the closure date for all proposals is **August 9th, 2024, at 4:30pm**. For more information, including the details of the RFP, can be accessed at the following link: [Vermont Business Registry and Bid System - Bid Details](#)

Questions & Responses:

Please clarify if Bidder will purchase mobile devices on behalf of Vermont PSD or will Vermont PSD directly procure devices from service provider.

You can opt to bid one, or both operating systems (android and IOS). In your response, please price out the Android and iPhone mobiles separately and include a line item on the cost of the phones and the sim cards. The Department does not have a preference on the models. You can also opt to not bid on procuring handsets and the department will perform that function.

As a separate bid option, can the bidder also provide pricing to include drive testing services or does Vermont PSD plan on using their own drivers?

The department is open to bids which include drive testing services as a line item.

Will Vermont PSD procure SIM cards and plans for each device or is Bidder required to provide SIM cards with unlimited data plans? Some Operators may throttle data after certain usage so multiple SIM cards may be needed in this case. This may also be true for pos paid SIMs

The department is open to responses which include acquiring the handsets as a line item. The Department is also open to procuring the devices and service plans outside of scope of the contract.

“Automated/remote start/stop for all handsets would be preferred. (such as a separate control/monitor device)” - Does Bidder require to provide resource to remotely monitor/troubleshoot/assist drivers in real-time while drive test is being performed?”

This is preferred, not required.

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""For the tests of Firstnet service, the application must also record, for each test, whether Band class 14 is employed for the test."" Should the Firstnet device be locked to Band 14 of keep the device in floating mode without locking any bands?"

The department does not want to lock FirstNet to band 14.

Do upload and download tests need to be Speedtest only or can the Bidder propose other protocols such as FTP or HTTP?

The department is open to all responses that meet the requirements of the RFP.

How many drivers will be deployed to perform the drive test?

The department is open to all responses that meet the requirements of the RFP.

Can we assume the State would like to pursue current flagship devices?

The department is open to all responses that meet the requirements of the RFP.

Is data analysis required after data collection and post processing?

Please see Attachment A section 3) Post-testing Data Processing on post processing requirements of the RFP.

Do we need to use both android and iPhone mobiles for each carrier or bidder can opt for one? Should mobiles be the latest models available in the market?

You can opt to bid one, or both. In your response, please price out the Android and iPhone mobiles separately and include a line item on the cost of the phones and the sim cards. The Department does not have a preference on the models. You can also opt to not bid on procuring handsets and the department will perform that function.

Should we consider any update of provided hardware or software during the whole duration of the project? if yes, should we consider the upgrade cost in our pricing, or it can be accommodated with a change request.

The Department does not anticipate updating the hardware of the mobile devices during the duration of the project.

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DISH is a new 5G carrier in US multiple states, we should not consider that in our drive or it's not there in VT?

The Department would like the following carriers to be apart of the mobile drive test; AT&T, Verizon Wireless, T-Mobile, USCellular, and FirstNet.

As per RFP, project will be for a period of 24 Months with an option to renew for up to two additional 3-month periods, will there be any pause/gap during this period which we need to know or we need to keep resources continuously?

The pricing shall include the first 12-month period and then the cost for each possible 3-month extension, up to 12 months of extension.

The requirement includes to provide the KPIs (attempt, success failure of call, DL/UL speed, latency, jitter etc) for voice and data?

The KPIs are for voice and data as appropriate. Voice calls need to record success or failure while data tests should include data related KPIs.

Do we need to drive only the areas with population or all roads (as in RFP)? The areas will be divided into Grids/hexcells (e.g. each grid box is 1kmx1km)to make it easier for PSD to process and build the KPIs on.

The Department would be able to provide a route list and areas of interest. The Department is seeking weekly updates on progress once the project begins. The ultimate goal of the project is to map service on all Vermont roads.

For each Grid, do we need to do any static test i.e. stop in each grid do the speed test and then move to next grid (all will be managed by a DT software script sequence)?

This RFP is seeking input on the best methodology to perform this testing. The previous drive test results were achieved while the vehicle was moving.

Will we get any road or map area to be driven or we will arrange it?

The Department would be able to provide a route list and areas of interest. The ultimate goal of the project is to map service on all Vermont roads.

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The field drive timing will be flexible, or we have fix schedule? Can we work on weekends?

The department is open to all responses that meet the requirements of the RFP.

Can you please confirm if the initial pricing request is for a 12-month engagement plus quarterly extensions or 3-month engagement with quarterly extensions or something else?

Yes, the pricing shall include the first 12-month period and then the cost for each additional quarter up to four full quarters.

Based on the RFP, we are assuming two test kits with five phones per kit (ATT, VZ, T-MO, USCellular, FirstNet.) Your 2022 drive test did not include US Cellular but did include VTel. Just confirming this time you want US Cellular but no VTel?

Yes, please exclude VTel and include USCellular.

Is there a requirement or interest to include a public-facing Speedtest option to allow for residents to participate in this testing? And if so, how would you envision test data from those tests be incorporated into deliverables? Assuming there is interest in a Speedtest option for Vermont resident participation, would there also be interest in the ability for residents who take a Speedtest to answer survey questions (about their mobile provider, etc.) to allow for qualitative data collection?

The department is open to partnering with both public and private entities to achieve the most robust results for the project. The department is not opposed to additional information being requested from public partners as long as such information in used to improve the accuracy of the results.

Does the state of Vermont PSD anticipate acquiring phones and SIMs for each required mobile provider assuming you move forward with the plan to drive-test using your own resources?

The department is open to responses which include acquiring the handsets as a line item. The Department is also open to procuring the devices and service plans outside of scope of the contract.

Whether Ookla or Vermont PSD the drive-test resources, FirstNet and US Cellular SIMs will need to be provided by the state of Vermont because they are available only to first responders/government agencies and regional respectively. Is this a reasonable expectation?

The department shall work with FirstNet to acquire the required SIMS and account for the project.

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In the scenario where you hire an outside provider to do a turnkey drive test project, can we assume 6500 miles for the drive-test?

The total number of miles driven to date is roughly 9000. These were not all driven in the same drive test. The department has not yet identified and aggregated miles on the suggested drive test areas. The department is open to turnkey bids which account for the unknown total number of miles to be driven.

How do you envision / intend to use the various deliverables? Will they be posted on a state website? Would you like to share them with the FCC and the specific Mobile Service Providers, etc?

The Department's intention is to build upon the previous mobile tests and create a compressive map of coverage. The map will be publicly available.

Would you be open to alternative data testing methodologies such as HTTP based Download and Upload to capture throughput insights?

The department is open to all responses that meet the requirements of the RFP.