



Procurement #: 49000>

CITY OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Department: Sustainability

RFP Title: RESIDENTIAL TRASH & RECYCLING CARTS (3-YEAR CONTRACT WITH TWO 1-YEAR OPTIONS)

Opening Date: 05/05/2025

Addendum #: 2

Issue Date: 04/28/2025

The purpose of this addendum is:

Addendum 2: Pre-Bid Questions and Answers

1. This document includes responses to questions posed during the voluntary April 16, 2025 pre-bid conference and questions received by e-mail before the question deadline.
2. This document includes a Budget Sheet which will ensure bidders include pricing for all requested elements of the RFP in a uniform manner.

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MAYOR BRETT P. SMILEY
CITY OF PROVIDENCE

RESIDENTIAL TRASH & RECYCLING CARTS (3-YEAR CONTRACT WITH TWO 1-YEAR OPTIONS)

Addendum 2: Pre-Bid Questions and Answers

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1. Under the Base Scope of Work are the 12,500 homes in one area or are they spread throughout the city?

The 12,500 households would be in one area.

2. Regarding the literature the city would like to affix to each cart may we suggest using a 26" newspaper bag to protect the literature from the elements and ensure ease of attachment by crews?

The City intends to discuss the best bag/attachment option with the awarded vendor. The City is looking for an approach that (1) protects the literature, (2) ensures ease of attachment to limit delivery time/labor costs, and (3) is conscious of using a bag with a reasonable unit-cost.

3. Regarding "Specifications" 3, A, i, would the City consider adding the language "10% of the cart body weight"? This ensures it is not postindustrial or put the responsibility to achieve the goal on the wheel supplier. In addition, would the City consider adding language that would require proof of true post-consumer recycle? This would also trigger a change in Exhibit 1; item i.

Yes, at least 10% of the cart body weight shall be residential post-consumer recycled plastic. Proof of true post-consumer recyclate shall be provided. This applies to 3, A, I and Exhibit 1, A, i.

4. Regarding “Specifications” section 3, A, viii, is the City willing to accept bids for carts that weigh less than “approximately 34 pounds”?

The weight of the cart is less important than the performance of the cart – including, but not limited to, long-term durability and resistance to wind. Bidders who do not meet the weight specification as requested in the RFP should provide an explanation for why their lighter cart is an appropriate match for the City’s program, especially with regard to durability and resistance to wind. The City is not interested in sacrificing performance and durability for cost savings resulting from reducing overall materials use to make the carts.

5. Regarding “Specifications” section 3, A, xiv, would the city consider removing the more favorable 12” wheel initiative? The most common size is 10” and will help with inventory as most 65-gallon carts only have an option for 10” wheels. The 10” wheels could be used for both sizes of carts. This creates efficiency and allows for new model carts. This would trigger an update to Exhibit 1; item xiv.

For the purpose of this RFP, bidders should provide pricing for carts with 10” wheels and 12” wheels per the pricing sheet included at the end of this addendum.

6. Regarding “Specifications” section 3, A, xx, due to 10% Post Consumer recyclate does the City agree to discuss the color options on award to achieve the goals for gray and blue color distinction?

The City understands that requesting a higher amount of recycled content can limit the range of available cart colors. The City does want a blue recycling cart, but is open to discussions about the shade of blue.

7. Is the City interested in requiring a QR Code that would be used by residents to access services for cart maintenance, hauler website, recycling information, and City sustainability. This QR code MUST be a 4th identifier and be attached to an individual address upon delivery. This is a new standard practice that will help the City decrease customer call volume, improve recycling & communication with

residents. This will also assist the City transition to EPR collection education over the next 10-15 years.

The City welcomes bidders to provide pricing for QR codes, as described, as a separate line item on Exhibit 2: Budget Sheet at the end of this addendum, but this is not a required element of the RFP.

8. “Evaluation Criteria” section 7 would the City consider adding a score line item that gives favor for manufacturers who will meet the sustainability requirements of 10% Post Consumer Recyclate?

No. Vendors must meet the 10% post-consumer recyclate requirement as this is a term of the grant funding and financing we have secured for the carts. Vendors who do not meet the requirement will be disqualified.

9. Can you please also provide the City’s collection schedule for both trash and recycling for us to provide an accurate A&D and Recovery Plan. Please include service days, route ID, and number of lifts to provide a comprehensive plan.

Trash and recycling collections occur weekly, Monday-Friday, 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Each day a different geographic area of the city receives collections. There are approximately 12,500 households per collection day. The City deploys the following trucks on each weekday.

	ASL Recycling	ASL Trash	ASL Split (Rec & Trash)	Rear-Load Recycle	Rear-Load Trash
Monday	6	6	1	1	1
Tuesday	6	6	1	1	2
Wednesday	6	6	1	1	2
Thursday	7	7	0	1	2
Friday	6	6	0	1	2

Rear-loaders are used for dead ends and one ways.

10. Notice to Vendors Item #6 states that out-of-state corporations shall qualify or register to transact business in the State of Rhode Island. Is this registration something that we can complete if awarded the business, or do we need to have the registration completed prior to submitting our response to the RFP?

Upon award, the awarded vendor must immediately register to transact business in the State of Rhode Island to avoid a delay in project timeline.

- 11. The Standard Terms & Conditions Item #15 refers to confidentiality of personal information. It is common practice for cart manufacturers to subcontract the assembly, delivery, and distribution of the carts to residents. Please confirm that subcontractors having access to a residential address list would not violate this line item from the terms & conditions.**

We do not anticipate this clause being implicated based on the type of data likely to be shared with the awarded vendor. If personally identifiable information is shared with the awarded vendor, the awarded vendor may share it with their subcontractors, but the same confidentiality clause would pass down to the subcontractors.

- 12. We are a WBE business, but are not registered with the state of Rhode Island as such. Can you provide some insight on how to fill out the MBE/WBE Participation Plan form without a Rhode Island certification? Or do we still need to file a Waiver Request Form instead?**

If you are not registered as a WBE/MBE with the State of Rhode Island and you will not subcontract at least 20% of the contract to WBE/MBEs registered in the State of Rhode Island, then you must submit an approved WBE/MBE waiver with your proposal.

- 13. If we do need to fill out the waiver form: None of our subcontractors are certified MBE/WBE with the state of Rhode Island. I tried to access the MBE/WBE directory that's hyperlinked on the Participation Plan form, but it says access is restricted.**

The State of Rhode Island's directory of registered WBE/MBEs can be found here:
<https://dedi.ri.gov/division-units/minority-business-enterprise-compliance-office/mbe-wbe-dbe-acdbe-and-vbe-programs>

- 14. The waiver form also mentions a Subcontractor Disclosure Form but I did not see one provided with the RFP. Is this disclosure form required with our RFP response? If so- can you please provide a copy of it for us to fill out?**

There are no additional MBE/WBE forms than those included as page 10 and 11 of the RFP.

15. Can you provide the type of truck and “arm” gripper the city uses to empty it’s carts?

The City’s hauler is Waste Management. The make of collection trucks is Mack. Trucks are equipped with Hydraulic ASL and Total Lifter rear-loader.

16. Regarding the Base Scope of Work.

- **Is the city requesting A&D for 12,500 households in its initial roll-out?**

The City is requesting A&D for 12,500 households under the Base Scope of Work. Under the Base Scope of Work, the City would only be replacing carts for one route day worth of households instead of replacing carts for all households in the City.

- **Will the vendor remove old/broken carts at the same time, or are these new cart recipients?**

The awarded vendor would remove existing carts at the same time.

17. Regarding “Specifications” 3, A, ix, the City is requesting a minimum wall thickness of the lid of 0.140 inches. Would the city consider accepting a thinner minimum lid wall thickness?

The thickness of the lid is less important than the performance of the lid, especially relating to long-term durability. Bidders who do not meet the specification as requested in the RFP should provide an explanation for why their thinner lid is an appropriate match for the City’s program, especially with regard to durability. The City is not interested in sacrificing durability for cost savings resulting from reducing the amount of resin used to make the carts or lids.

18. Regarding “Specifications” 3, A, ix, the City is requesting carts have a nominal wall thickness of 0.165 inches throughout the body and a minimum wall thickness of 0.185 inches in the critical wear points (i.e. cart bottom, handle and lift mechanism). Would the City consider thinner minimum wall thicknesses throughout the body or at critical wear points?

The thickness of the cart is less important than the performance of the cart, especially relating to long-term durability. Bidders who do not meet the specification as requested in the RFP should provide an explanation for why their thinner lid is an appropriate match for the City's program, especially with regard to durability. The City is not interested in sacrificing durability for cost savings resulting from reducing the amount of resin used to make the carts.

19. Would the city consider adding specifications to address technology that would facilitate the management of the containers in the field?

In the original RFP, the City requested that carts include RFID tags, barcodes, and serial numbers that are cross referenced and tied to individual households so that cart management software could be added in the future. The City is now requesting that vendors provide pricing for cart management software as an Add Alternate pricing option. The management software should be cloud-based, with an internet browser interface and an account specific customizable dashboard. The software should enable the City to manage cart inventories and warranties, as well as service requests/work orders for repairs, deliveries and pickups. The software should include a mobile application compatible with Android and iOS smart devices that enables account data to be updated in the field and synched with the cloud-based software in real time. The mobile app should provide optimized routes based on work-order addresses and provide turn-by-turn directions. The software must be capable of providing customized reporting and have the ability to generate recurring automatic reports.

At this time, the City does not intend to outfit its collection fleet with RFID scanners and hardware. As such, the goals, at this time, do not include monitoring contamination, set out rates, or locating missing carts. This could change in the future, if the City chooses to invest in the necessary hardware for its collection fleet, so the software should be able to be expanded to accommodate those goals at a later date.

20. Regarding "Budget", 6, E, iii, the City requests a unit price for new and replacement carts ordered following the initial order's delivery (including freight). The unit price shall hold firm for the duration of the contract term and contract option years, except that the price may be adjusted based on semi-annual variances to the price of resin.

We respectfully request that the city allow bidders to propose price adjustments for resin and freight according to industry standard indices and procedures, with transparent documentation of indices and calculations of new pricing submitted to the city.

Freight costs and resin costs may both be adjusted semi-annually based on documented industry standard indices.

21. Does the city have a specific format for price breakdowns?

Use Exhibit 2 at the end of this addendum.

22. Does the city have a firm date on which the project timeline should be completed?

The project timeline should be completed within 2 weeks of the start date for the Base Scope of Work and within 6 weeks of the start date for Add Alternate 1.

23. Can the city delete the requirement for the Bar Codes and/or make the bar code an optional feature if a bidder needs the bar code for its own systems?

All bidders should incorporate barcodes into their bids.

24. Regarding “Specifications” 3, A, I, the City requests carts must be manufactured from first-quality high-density polyethylene (HDPE) provided by a well-established resin manufacturer. We respectfully request the acceptance of Advanced Rotational Molding resin and Medium Density Polyethylene (MDPE).

The City will consider bids using this method of cart manufacturing, but reserves the right to reject the bid if, in its sole discretion, it determines the method and materials result in an inferior cart. Bidders who do not meet the specification as requested in the RFP should provide an explanation for why their manufacturing approach is an appropriate match for the City’s program, especially with regard to durability. The City is not interested in sacrificing durability for cost savings resulting from reducing the amount or type of resin used to make the carts or lids.

25. Regarding “Specifications” 3, A, ii, the City states the plastic resin must be enhanced with color pigment and ultraviolet inhibitor, which must be used at a rate of no less than 2% by weight. We respectfully request that the city require the carts

to include color pigment and ultraviolet inhibitor at levels that protect carts so that they last for the warranty period of the cart.

For the purpose of this RFP, bidders should submit proposals based on the specification as written.

26. Will the city please remove the phrase “pest resistant” from this specification?

No.

27. Regarding “Specifications” 3, A, xii, the City state the cart lid shall be securely attached to the carts without the use of metal hinges, brackets/bolts and/or screws, metal bars, PVC, plastic glued connections, or any hidden bars. Our all-plastic lid hinge is secured by tamper resistant rustproof steel Torx fasteners. Will the city please allow this lid attachment design?

The City will consider bids using these fasteners, but reserves the right to reject the bid if, in its sole discretion, it determines the method and materials result in an inferior cart. Bidders who do not meet the specification as requested in the RFP should provide an explanation for why their approach is an appropriate match for the City’s program, especially with regard to durability.

28. Regarding “Specifications” 3, A, xxi, The serial number must be in a position that will permit unobstructed visibility while the containers are nested or stacked.

A standard location of serial numbers is the front of the cart where the handle is located to lift the lid. This location is visible from both approach angles and can be read from a truck cab. However, when carts are stacked and nested serial numbers will not be visible. Will the city please remove this requirement?

No.

29. Is an IML required for both trash and recycling carts?

For the purpose of this RFP, please assume that both trash and recycling carts will have in-mold labels.

30. Regarding “Specifications,” 3, B, iii, The City requests RFID antenna dimensions of 3.741 in x 0.302 in. Our tags have been a standard for many years on millions of carts with success. They are housed within the handle of cart bodies away from elements and cart contents. The read range is quite adequate to pick up an individual cart without the additional distance for read range which can cause the RFID reader to pick up nearby cart tags rather than the one intended. Will the city accept an antenna with dimensions 2.76 inches X .55 inches?

The City will consider bids using these dimensions, but reserves the right to reject the bid if, in its sole discretion, it determines the method result in inferior results. Bidders who do not meet the specification as requested in the RFP should provide an explanation for why their approach is an appropriate match for the City’s program.

31. Standard industry cart warranties include part for part replacements for defective parts (Example: lid replaced for broken lid, body replaced for broken body, wheel replaced for broken wheel, attachments replaced per each for broken attachments per each). We seek to satisfy our customers with our 12-year warranty on the cart body and 10-year warranty on all other cart parts. We ask the city to amend this warranty requirement to part-for-part replacements.

No.

32. We respectfully request that this timeframe for replacements be amended to forty-five (45) to sixty (60) days.

No.

33. We respectfully request the ability to determine response to claims, and incorporation of discussing any non-coverage/issues with the City, and in the event the Contractor and the City do not reach agreement, the matter will be referred to binding arbitration. These requests reflect standard industry practice.

No.

34. Page 9- Exhibit 1: Confirmation of Specifications: C. Warranty, Returns, & Reclaim Program Specifications: ii. Product Returns: The City may elect to return to the awarded bidder any unused item within sixty (60) business days of receipt and acceptance of that item by the City if the item is determined to be defective by the

City. Items will be returned with all original documentation. The awarded bidder must supply a pre-authorized return receipt for returned items upon request. All return costs for defective items returned pursuant to this section will be borne by the awarded bidder.

Standard Warranties do not require the defective parts to be shipped back to the manufacturer, if this is required by the manufacturer on a case-by-case basis expenses for shipping defective parts back will be paid. Will the city please strike this requirement from the warranty specifications?

No.

35. We respectfully request that the City remove the requirement for the vendor to recycle carts or provide a reclaim program. Instead we request to suggest local recyclers and assistance to arrange for pickup of carts from this program. Any profits or losses can be arranged directly with recyclers.

No.

36. City of Providence Standard Terms & Conditions: #5 states “Invoices submitted to the City shall be payable sixty (60) days from the time of receipt by the City. Invoices shall include support documentation necessary to evidence completion of the work being invoiced.” Will the city amend this specification to payable thirty (30) days from the time of invoice date.

No.

37. We respectfully request that the city amend the indemnity language to the following:

- 1. Except for an Indemnified Parties’ negligent or more culpable acts or omissions hereunder, to the fullest extent permitted by law, you shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the City, its employees, officers, agents, and assigns (collectively “Indemnified Parties”) from and against any and all third-party claims, damages, losses, allegations, demands, actions, causes of action, suits, obligations, fines, penalties, judgments, liabilities, costs and expenses, including but not limited to attorneys’ fees, of any nature whatsoever to the extent arising out of, in connection with, or resulting from the performance of the work provided in the Agreement; provided, however, that you shall not be liable for an Indemnified Parties’ or its employees’ claims under any Workers’ Compensation Act, Employee Disability Act, or other Employee Benefits Act.*

No.

38. Does the city require the cart delivery crews to unload the carts or will the city plan on handling the cart unloading and staging before the crew's arrival?

The awarded vendor shall be responsible for all aspects of cart delivery.

39. Should we plan to provide a forklift for unloading, or will you have one on site for crews to use during the project timeframe?

The awarded vendor shall be responsible for all aspects of cart delivery.

40. Is there a final deadline for completing all deliveries?

The project timeline should be completed within 2 weeks of the start date for the Base Scope of Work and within 6 weeks of the start date for Add Alternate 1.

41. Would the city allow RFID scanning in lieu of barcode scanning since it captures the same data (RFID tag number & serial number) as the barcode does?

All bidders should incorporate barcodes into their bids.

42. For the base scope of work of subscription-based deliveries to 12,500 households, will deliveries be spread throughout the city or concentrated in certain areas or routes?

The Base Scope of Work would be concentrated to certain areas or routes.

43. Will deliveries be made to single-family homes, multi-family units, or group collection areas (e.g., mobile home parks)?

Deliveries will be made to single-family homes and multi-family homes with six units or fewer.

44. Will there be deliveries to commercial accounts (e.g., businesses, schools, libraries, Town buildings)?

No.

45. If commercial cart deliveries are required, how many carts will be delivered to each commercial account, and for each stream?

N/A

46. Could the City please specify the type and quantity of literature materials that are to be attached to the carts (example: 1 brochure, 2 magnets, 1 flyer)?

Two 8.5x11 papers, one 8.5x5.5 post card

47. Will the City require the delivery crews to pre-stuff the literature into plastic bags or will the city provide pre-stuffed literature bags/packets?

The literature will be provided to the awarded vendor pre-stuffed.

48. How are the literature materials expected to be attached to the carts during delivery (tucked in between the cart lid and cart body or hanging/tying/zip-tying a pre-stuffed bag to the cart handle)?

The City is open to best-practice recommendations from the awarded vendor based on their experience. The City will require the packets to be more securely attached than simply tucking the top of the bag between the lid and body.

49. Are crews required to apply stickers to the carts? If yes, please specify the size, quantity per cart, and type (e.g., roll, sheets, peel).

No.

50. Will there be any deliveries to alleyways? If yes, how many accounts in the city have alleyway service?

Providence has many narrow roads, many of which are further narrowed by on-street parking. The awarded vendor should have experience delivering carts in an urban setting.

51. Will addresses (street/unit number only) need to be written on the cart lids with a paint pen?

No.

52. Are there any backyard or pull-up service accounts that require the delivery crews to pull the carts up to the residents driveway? If yes, how many accounts require driveway or pull-up service?

No.

53. Will the City be providing a staging yard for the carts/delivery crews to work out of? If so, what is the address of the staging yard?

Space will be made available at the DPW's headquarters at 20 Ernest Street, Providence, RI 02905

54. Is the staging yard paved, dirt, or gravel?

The staging yard is paved.

55. Are there restrooms available in the yard? Would the city be able to supply portalets?

The staging yard is currently served by port-o-potties which will be available to the A&D team.

56. Do you anticipate there to be any leftover carts at the end of the project? What is the anticipated quantity of carts to be leftover?

For the purpose of this RFP, bidders should assume all carts under each scenario are to be delivered.

57. Should leftover carts be assembled and stored in the staging yard?

For the purpose of this RFP, bidders should assume all carts under each scenario are to be delivered.

58. Will any leftover carts need to be transported to a different location for storage? If so, what is the address of the transport location?

No.

59. What are the days and hours crews can deliver/remove carts and work in the staging yard?

The City will do its best to accommodate the needs of the A&D team during the staging and delivery period of the project.

60. Is weekend work allowed (Saturdays and Sundays)?

The City will do its best to accommodate the needs of the A&D team during the staging and delivery period of the project.

61. Could you provide the delivery/removal address listing in Excel or route maps at this time?

No.

62. For the cart exchanges, what days and hours do the collection trucks run?

See response to question 9.

63. How many total collection routes are there for each cart stream each day?

See response to question 9.

64. What is the average number of homes on each route for collection service?

See response to question 9.

65. Does the city intend to recycle all the carts that are removed or do crews need to plan to sort out any good carts that should be kept?

For the purpose of this RFP, assume all carts will be recycled.

66. Does the city plan to do any outreach to notify residents to leave their old carts out until they can be removed? If so, what type of outreach will be done?

Carts-are-coming mailers, press release, press availability, & social media.

67. Does the city have specific guidelines for how delivery and removal crews should conduct the cart exchanges? If so, please advise.

No.

68. Is there an accurate accounting of the existing carts regarding how many are at each address – for example, some carts may have gone missing, some households may have requested additional carts since the program started.

The City has tracked cart replacements and additions over time and can provide that information to the awarded bidder.

69. What is the intended roll out date for carts?

We hope to enter an agreement with a vendor by June 30, 2025, and roll carts out beginning on September 15, 2025.

70. What are the City's goals for replacing carts?

Need to replace carts because existing carts are deteriorating rapidly. We need durable carts that perform for the period of the warranty. We are also looking to standardize carts and increase in recycling cart size to address existing recycling concerns. Delivery will also require attaching a cart welcome packet in a plastic bag.

71. What type of plastic are current carts and are the injection molded or rotational molded?

Rehrig 65 and 95 gallon carts. HDPE Injection Molded.

Addendum Acknowledgement

Authorized Representative Name: _____

Authorized Representative Title: _____

Authorized Representative Signature: _____

Exhibit 2: Budget Sheet

Provide a bid price for scope of work *2a Base Scope of Work* and *2b Add Alternate 1*.

Scope	10" Wheels	12" Wheels
Base Scope of Work		
Add Alternate 1		

Provide financing terms as requested in 2a and 2b.

Scope	10" Wheels	12" Wheels
Base Scope of Work		
Add Alternate 1		

Provide a unit price for new and replacement carts ordered following the initial order's delivery (including freight). The unit price shall hold firm for the duration of the contract term and contract option years, except that the price may be adjusted based on semi-annual variances to the price of resin and freight. Upward price adjustments are optional; downward price adjustments are mandatory. Vendor shall state the minimum quantity of carts required to get the quoted unit-price.

Scope	Cost	Minimum Units
Unit Price for Ongoing Orders		

Technology/Software

Scope	Cost
Cart Mngmt Software (annual for 3 accounts)	
Customer Facing QR Codes on Lids	

Provide replacement-part unit prices (including freight) for each component of the cart. State whether the unit is individual or case quantity and state minimum order quantities if applicable. Use a separate sheet.