

REQUEST FOR QUOTE

RTA Tech Center & QLINE

Snow and Ice Management and Removal Services

(RFQ 2026-011)

The Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan (RTA) seeks quotes from qualified vendors to provide seasonal snow and ice management services for QLINE stations and platforms; the dedicated transit lane; and the RTA Tech Center office entrances, walkways, and parking lot.

RTA intends to issue a purchase order for these services to the lowest-cost, responsible, and responsive vendor who offers the most competitive pricing and meets all required qualifications, reliability standards, and safety compliance requirements.

RFQ Title: RTA Tech Center & QLINE Snow and Ice Management and Removal Services

Agency Name: Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan

Address: 1001 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1400, Detroit, MI 48226

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RFQ Timeline:

Request for Quote Published on Bidnet: **Wednesday, October 14, 2026**

Quote Submission Deadline: **Wednesday, October 28, 2026 5:00 p.m. EDT**

Award /Notification: **Monday, November 2, 2026**

Responses that are late or incomplete will not be accepted.

I. Background

The RTA owns and operates the QLINE, a fleet of streetcars on 3.3 miles of Woodward Avenue in Detroit, with twelve (12) stops serving neighborhoods such as New Center, North End, Midtown, and Downtown Detroit. A portion of the QLINE route has a dedicated southbound lane near Little Caesars Arena, from Temple to the I-75 service drive. For the rest of the route, the QLINE shares the road with traffic.

RTA Tech Center

The RTA QLINE operates from the Tech Center located at 7520 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI 48202. This facility has thirteen (13) parking spaces, sidewalks, and two building entryways.

QLINE Streetcar Network

The streetcar network consists of six (6) streetcars, with approximately five (5) streetcars typically in active service at any given time, and twenty (20) station stops, with four (4) serving both directions, each of which must be cleared of snow and ice.

QLINE Station Locations

Vendor will provide snow removal service at all QLINE stations and platforms

- Congress Street Station
- Campus Martius Station NB
- Campus Martius Station SB
- Grand Circus Station NB
- Grand Circus Station SB
- Montcalm Station NB
- Montcalm Station SB
- Adelaide Street Station NB
- Sproat Street Station SB
- Mack Avenue/MLK Boulevard NB
- Mack Avenue/MLK Boulevard SB
- Canfield Street Station NB
- Canfield Street Station SB
- Warren Avenue Station NB
- Warren Avenue Station SB
- Ferry Street Station NB
- Ferry Street Station SB

- Amsterdam Street Station NB/SB
- Baltimore Street Station NB/SB
- Grand Boulevard Station NB/SB
- Lathrop Platform (at QLINE Tech Center)

II. Vendor Qualifications

The minimum qualifications are intended to ensure fair, open, and transparent competition among Detroit-based and regional service vendors.

- Capability and capacity to provide all labor, supervision, equipment, materials, and incidentals necessary to remove snow and ice hazards.
- Experience working in active urban corridors, public rights-of-way, municipal environments, and near vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- Ability to respond to routine, priority, and emergency service requests within the response time requirements stated in the Scope of Services below.
- By submitting a quote in response to this RFQ, the vendor agrees to comply with all of the RTA's Purchase Order Terms and Conditions as attached to this Request for Quote as Appendix A and linked at the RTA website. Failure to comply with these terms and conditions is grounds for rejecting a vendor's quote as non-responsive.

III. Scope of Services

The main objective of these snow removal services is to keep the RTA Tech Center and QLINE stations, and their surrounding areas, snow- and ice-free for patrons using RTA QLINE transportation services. A snow removal plan, quality control plan, and staffing plan must be submitted with bidder responses to address these specifications. The QLINE Maintenance of Way Manager will review and revise these plans with the awarded vendor, and once approved by RTA, the final version of these plans shall be incorporated into the Purchase Order.

Required Service Areas

A. QLINE Stations

- All twenty (20) stations and the Lothrop platform
- Must be cleared prior to the start of morning service (7:30 AM EST) and monitored throughout the day
- De-icing is required before storms or when temperatures risk ice buildup

B. Dedicated Transit Lane (southbound at Temple to the I-75 Service Drive)

- Snow removal and plowing
- De-icing as needed
- The switch south of the Sproat station must remain free of ice and snow; ice melt/salt may not be applied in this area.

C. Additional Areas Along QLINE Alignment

- Potential plowing of parking spaces and other areas along the alignment

D. RTA Tech Center

- Walkways and Entrances: Shoveling, salting, and de-icing
- Parking Lot: Plowing, salting, and de-icing

Snow Removal Requirements

Snow removal and ice control services on all pedestrian and vehicle surfaces located on RTA property, as well as property RTA is legally required to maintain, such as perimeter city sidewalks, are included as a requirement of this specification. Vehicle surfaces include, but are not limited to, sidewalks, on-street parking spaces, streets, transit lanes, and driveways. Pedestrian surfaces include but are not limited to sidewalks, walkways, ramps, crosswalks, and QLINE platform areas. RTA's QLINE facilities are continuously relied upon by the elderly and disabled for safe, reliable transportation. Snow removal services are expected to be at the highest level of service provided in the industry. Please note that RTA uses security cameras at all QLINE streetcar stations to monitor passenger areas for safety, including identifying dangerous conditions caused by snow and ice and monitoring vendor performance.

A. On-Call Availability: The vendor shall provide 24/7 on-call snow removal services during major snow events that create hazardous conditions for QLINE patrons and downtown pedestrians.

B. Ice Control Material: All surfaces must be treated with an anti-icing material prior to the start of any event that could potentially cause ice to build on pedestrian

or vehicle surfaces. Ice control material must then be reapplied as needed after shoveling or plowing to ensure the surfaces are acceptably maintained. The bidder's quote must specify the recommended ice control material. All ice control material must be approved by the RTA Maintenance of Way Manager prior to use. The vendor shall use best industry practices and common sense when applying ice control materials. At a minimum, all ice control material must be applied at the supplier's listed application rates. The Maintenance of Way Manager will approve any proposed ice melt material and application rate at award.

- C. Pedestrian Surfaces:** Anti-icing material shall be applied to pedestrian surfaces prior to the start of a snow or ice event. Snow must be removed from pedestrian surfaces as soon as accumulation begins. Ice control material shall be applied after snow removal to ensure an acceptable, clear, ice-free surface is maintained. Snow removal from pedestrian surfaces will continue during the storm to ensure acceptable, ADA-compliant conditions are always experienced.
- D. QLINE Alignment (Track):** **Snow may NOT be stored on QLINE streetcar rail tracks.** Snow that is pushed into the "deep" or unembedded (unpaved) track area must not rise above the top of the rail. No snow may be pushed into the track area if the track area is embedded (i.e. paved with concrete). Snow may be stored in designated areas away from the station platforms. Snow shall not be stored on platforms except for temporary snow storage locations pre-approved by RTA. Upon award, the QLINE Maintenance of Way Manager will walk the stations with the vendor to identify acceptable snow storage locations.
- E. QLINE Dedicated Traffic Lanes:** Anti-icing material shall be applied to RTA dedicated transit lane surfaces prior to the start of a snow or ice event. Vendor shall use their best efforts to prevent packed snow/ice from accumulating in RTA traffic lanes and apply ice melting materials and/or scrape areas of accumulation as quickly as possible to remove snow from the dedicate lane. **Snow may not be plowed into the switch at Sproat, and anti-icing material may not be applied to or near the switch.**
- F. Vehicle Surfaces:** Anti-icing material shall be applied to all vehicle surfaces prior to the start of a snow or ice event. Vehicle surfaces include, but are not limited to, driveways, access lanes, parking lots, and on-street parking spaces.

G. Snow Removal/Hauling (Off-site): Snow removal and hauling from various contracted locations (platforms, street parking areas, etc.) along the alignment may be required during heavy accumulations. Snow removal and hauling from contracted locations will be performed on demand on a reimbursable basis only with prior approval from RTA. The vendor's quote must include fully burdened pricing for removing and transporting snow to off-site location(s) procured by the vendor. RTA will not identify or contract with any off-site snow storage vendor. At RTA locations with available on-site snow storage areas, the vendor shall include in the base bid the cost for moving this snow on-site as needed. Moving snow to on-site snow storage is expected at no additional cost to RTA.

H. Appropriately Sized Equipment: Walk-behind snow blowers or other mechanical devices or hand shoveling may be necessary wherever vehicular equipment is prohibited or cannot adequately perform the snow removal tasks. Snow brushes are the preferred method of removal when conditions allow. Snow brushes clean the surface of snow much better than shovels or blowers and can reduce the amount of ice melt material required.

Snow Removal Performance Standard

The vendor is legally responsible for ensuring that all areas are free of any dangerous condition caused by an accumulation of snow or ice of one (1) inch or more. The vendor shall place special emphasis to ensure that pedestrian and vehicle surfaces are in acceptable condition prior to the 7:30 a.m. start of streetcar service.

The vendor is required to ensure Acceptable Conditions are always present and that no dangerous conditions exist (including all off-peak hours, weekends, and RTA-recognized holidays). The vendor shall have adequate equipment and personnel to prepare all surfaces receiving less than 8" accumulation in non-blizzard conditions within three (3) hours.

An Acceptable Condition (surface) is defined as follows:

- The surfaces are free of snow, melting snow, and ice, and dry; or if wet, there is low probability for additional snowfall or of freezing to occur within the next 12 hours.
- Pedestrian walks, crosswalks, boarding platforms, and drive-through lanes have been shoveled or plowed, ice melt chemicals have been applied, and slip hazards are not present.

Snow Removal Plan

A Snow Removal Plan must be submitted with the bidder's response. All plans will be incorporated into the purchase order and become part of the vendor's performance standard. When the vendor's plan conflicts with the Scope of Services, the Scope of Services will always take precedence. For a plan to be altered during the period of performance, the vendor must submit the requested adjustment to the RTA QLINE Maintenance of Way Manager and General Manager for review. If the RTA QLINE General Manager approves the modification, it will then be forwarded to the RTA Procurement and Contracts Manager for final review and approval to ensure pedestrian and vehicular safety. The Purchase Order will be modified to reflect the revised plan(s).

A final version of this Plan will need to be pre-approved by RTA and should include, at a minimum, the following:

- A. Detailed information on how the vendor plans to service several locations simultaneously to adequately prepare and maintain facilities entirely free of snow, ice, and pooling water prior to the start of morning QLINE Service (7:30 AM EST) and monitored throughout the day.
- B. Detailed information on anti-icing and de-icing services and equipment that will be used.
- C. Detailed information on the snow removal equipment proposed to be used in the detailed specifications for each site.
- D. Detailed information on personnel dedicated to snow removal operations to service several locations simultaneously and consecutively.
- E. Detailed information on how the vendor proposes to conduct quality control during snow or ice events and effectively monitor conditions during snowstorms, ice storms, etc.
- F. Detailed information on the personnel and equipment that will be utilized during a significant snowfall event, as determined by the National Weather Service winter weather alert thresholds, and a description of the plan of attack for a blizzard or winter storm event and the conditions we can expect at our facilities to service several locations simultaneously and consecutively. During blizzard conditions, 42" paths on walkways and sidewalks in station areas will be acceptable for a limited time. However, platforms should be clear of snow to the

maximum extent possible during blizzard conditions to ensure safe operations near moving trains.

IV. General Requirements

- A. Primary Point of Contact:** The Vendor shall designate a primary point of contact responsible for receiving service requests, emergency notifications, operational changes, technical inquiries, and customer service complaints from RTA. Changes to the designated contact personnel shall be communicated promptly in writing to RTA.
- B. Trained Personnel:** The Vendor shall supply a sufficient number of properly trained and qualified employees to perform all required services in a timely and professional manner. Personnel shall possess all required licenses, certifications, and training. The Vendor shall remain responsible for the performance, conduct, and supervision of employees and subcontractors (if applicable).
- C. Unacceptable Conditions Remediation:** Upon verbal or written notification, the Vendor shall respond and remedy any unacceptable condition within (1) one hour after receipt of notification that such condition exists. It is the vendor's responsibility to monitor email and voicemail to ensure response times follow contract specifications. Correction of an unacceptable condition shall not be billable. A quality control inspection form shall be completed to include photographs or video and submitted to RTA via electronic means (email, vendor's reporting app, etc.) to properly document that the condition has been corrected. All communication shall be conducted via a single vendor email address and a single primary phone number.
- D. Reporting Damage:** Report any damage or safety hazards to the QLINE Maintenance of Way Manager immediately upon discovery via telephone; if the Maintenance of Way Manager is unavailable, the vendor shall leave a detailed message describing the incident.
- E. Reporting Vandalism:** While administering services on RTA property, the Vendor's employees should report any vandalism or suspicious activity to their supervisor and/or the appropriate police department. The Vendor Supervisor should then

notify the QLINE Maintenance of Way Manager as soon as possible and give detailed information regarding the activity.

- F. Vendor Management Availability:** Vendor management personnel shall meet with RTA QLINE management when requested to discuss issues relating to snow removal services. Vendor's supervisory personnel shall be available during regular working hours to meet RTA supervisory personnel at the RTA site to resolve problems that have not been satisfactorily dealt with by telephone.
- G. Communications Requirements:** The Vendor shall be able to always send and receive e-mail communications with photos/video to and from designated RTA personnel.
- H. Licensing and Permits:** While no licensing or permit requirements are known to exist at this time, the Vendor shall be responsible for acquiring and maintaining all required authorizations, including authorizations for traffic control, etc., in the event it becomes necessary.
- I. Use of Subcontractors:** Any and all subcontractors utilized to perform authorized work shall be subject to RTA review and approval. The awarded vendor shall remain fully responsible for the supervision, performance, quality, and safety of all subcontractor activities.
- J. Equipment and Vehicle Requirements:** The Vendor is responsible for providing, without additional reimbursement, all labor, communication equipment, vehicles, equipment, machinery, power tools, and hand tools required to perform the work, including all gas/oil, tires, etc. for machinery and vehicles, and other resources necessary to perform the work unless specifically provided by RTA. Equipment furnished by the Vendor shall be maintained in safe operating condition.
- K. Performance of Authorized Work:** The Vendor shall not perform work beyond the scope of services authorized by RTA without prior written approval. All work performed shall be authorized by RTA through approved work orders, task authorizations, emergency dispatches, or other approved mechanisms.
- L. Safety Management and Compliance:** The Vendor shall maintain a comprehensive safety program including personal protective equipment (PPE), job hazard analyses (JHA), lockout/tagout procedures, fall protection, traffic

control measures, and protection of passengers, motorists, pedestrians, and adjacent property.

The Vendor shall comply with all applicable federal, State, and local safety requirements, including OSHA, MIOSHA, applicable Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirements, RTA safety policies, Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) requirements, and site-specific operational procedures. Vendor personnel shall successfully complete any safety orientation or training required by RTA prior to performing work on QLINE-owned or -managed property.

V. Price Quote Requirements and Submission

RTA seeks a vendor to provide seasonal snow removal services. Because snow removal services cannot be accurately predicted in advance, proposers shall submit pricing for fixed-price snow removal services (at per-occurrence, per-month, and per-season rates) and separate pricing for on-demand removal of snow to off-site location(s). Proposed pricing shall include all direct and indirect costs necessary to perform the services described in this RFQ, including labor, supervision, tools, equipment, overhead, profit, travel, and administrative services. After the initial purchase order, pricing for each subsequent purchase order may be adjusted based on CPI-U for the preceding 12 months, not to exceed five percent (5%) per year.

RTA does not guarantee any minimum volume of seasonal snow removal work. Work will be performed only with RTA authorization.

All price quotes must be submitted via Bidnet Direct no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, October 28, 2026. The RTA will not accept any price quotes submitted after that deadline. The RTA will not extend the submission deadline due to technical issues or outages. The RTA recommends that bidders submit their quotes at least one business day prior to the deadline.

To be considered for this opportunity, all price quotes must include fully-burdened fixed pricing as described on page 11, and:

- Name of Project Manager or primary point of contact
- Organization overview and relevant experience
- Snow Removal Plan, including response time commitment
- Staffing plan and availability
- Safety plan or description of safety practices

- Equipment and resources available for the work
- Subcontractor list, if applicable
- Insurance and certifications

Price Quote Requirements:

Fixed Pricing for Snow / Ice Management Services (All-Inclusive)

Fixed Price per Snow / Ice Event Occurrence	\$
Fixed Monthly Price - November through April	\$
Fixed Seasonal Price – November through April	\$

After the initial purchase order, pricing for each subsequent purchase order may be adjusted based on CPI-U for the preceding 12 months, not to exceed five percent (5%) per year.

Flat Fee for On-Demand Snow Removal / Hauling to Off-site Storage

The bidder's proposed per-truckload flat fee for on-demand removal and hauling of snow must be all-inclusive. This rate shall remain fixed for the first year and is adjustable thereafter based on CPI-U for the preceding 12 months, not to exceed five percent (5%) per year, and must include, but is not limited to, the following:

- **Equipment & Labor:** All operator wages, heavy machinery (e.g., front loaders, skid steers), and dump truck usage required for loading and transport. Specify truck size and capacity
- **Mobilization:** All costs associated with bringing heavy equipment to and from the site.
- **Disposal & Tipping Fees:** All commercial gate, disposal, or tipping fees charged by the off-site snow storage or melting facility.
- **Operational Costs:** All fuel, fuel surcharges, travel time, and traffic delays to and from the disposal site.
- **Cleanup:** Scraping and clearing of the immediate loading area after trucks depart.

VI. Evaluation

All pricing quotes submitted via Bidnet Direct by the deadline that meet the requirements of this RFQ will be evaluated by RTA. Any proposal deemed to be non-responsive to the specifications or other requirements of this RFQ, including instructions governing submission and format, will be disqualified, unless the RTA determines, at its sole discretion, that the noncompliance is not substantial. The RTA reserves the right to request additional information to amplify, clarify, or support pricing quotes.

VII. Purchase Order

RTA will issue one or more purchase order(s) to the lowest-cost responsive and responsible vendor(s). The initial term of this purchase order will be one year, with the option to renew for up to four (4) additional one (1)-year terms. A separate and distinct purchase order will be issued for each term. Each purchase order will include a “not to exceed” amount which represents the maximum amount payable to the vendor for the applicable term.

The RTA’s Purchase Order Terms and Conditions are attached to this Request for Quote as Appendix A.