# *Proposed Sole Source Purchases – Document 2024-03*

- ## *Remix Transit Planning and Scheduling Platform Licenses; transportation planning software has unique functionality and features.*

The Mid-Region Council of Governments intends to make a purchase for which it believes there is no competition. This will be a "Sole Source" purchase made in accordance with State of New Mexico 13-1-126 NMSA 1978.The purpose of this notice is to attempt to identify possible alternatives.

### How to Comment/Respond
Any potential vendor who does not agree that this product or service is available only from the intended source must contact this office within thirty (30) calendar days from the date posted.

Your response must be in writing and a description of the product or service you are offering as an equivalent must be included.

Please send your response, via e-mail by sending an email to ppino@mrcog-nm.gov.  Please reference the Document Number of the Sole Source/Emergency Procurement you have interest in.

| To: | Conni Vigil, Administrative & Finance Director<br>Phillip Pino, Purchasing Officer |
|---|---|
| From: | Elizabeth Carter, Operations Review & Policy Compliance Manager |
| Date: | June 25, 2024 |
| Re: | Sole Source Justification - Remix Transit Planning and Scheduling Platform Licenses |

RMRTD operations and management staff is tasked reviewing and modifying existing routes and designing new routes to include cost estimates in accordance with RMRTD's Five (5) Year Short Range Plan. Transit scheduling is a multi-dimensional process requiring a number of steps. First, a planner develops a timetable that identifies how many trips will be operated and what times those trips will depart designated time-points. When this step is complete the buses are assigned to different trips and this process is called "blocking" and may undergo two or three reiterations before the timetable is complete. Once the blocking has been completed, a run cut is created which arranges the blocks to create "runs" or driver shifts, and then a detailed instructions sheet called a "paddle" is developed to instruct the driver. Once the run cuts are complete, drivers "bid" on the runs selecting which shifts they want to work. This process is further complicated because the scheduling process is not only constrained by available resources (drivers and buses) but must also conform to connecting services, which for RMRTD, this would include the Rail Runner, Albuquerque Transit and Socorro Transit.

The process now involves RMRTD staff developing timetables by hand and making informed but frequently and inaccurate attempts at blocking vehicle assignments. Blocking by hand is very difficult and RMRTD's currently technology is not able to optimize the schedules. A timetable currently takes a single staff member about 20-35 hours to produce. The timetables and the driver schedules are created by hand in Excel, and frequently results in errors which are often difficult to catch even after multiple reviews by staff.

The Remix web-based route planning platform will allow an agile way to visually sketch transit scenarios, design new routes, modify existing routes, estimate costs and allow for rapid evaluation and comparison. This tool will also bring in geospatial data to make better decisions about routes and provide a more effective method to conduct Title VI Transit Service Equity Analyses. The technology enables iterative sketching to see the impact of multiple planning options in a faster more efficient way saving valuable time for RMRTD staff.

The Remix web-based scheduling platform will allow staff to produce schedules more effectively and efficiently. The software allows for a seamless transition between planning and scheduling, resulting in better service for riders and improved shifts for drivers. The software optimizes scheduling and thereby reduces the resources needed to run the system. Accurate schedules and run cuts can be produced in minutes rather than hours. The program can review timetables as they are built, accounting for and correcting errors as it works. Blocks can easily be changed with a drag and drop function. This function makes aligning service simple, pressing the most hours of operation out of a single vehicle.

Remix's easy-to-use software would allow RMRTD to change its schedules more frequently to account for peak seasons, anticipated traffic congestion and/or provide more efficient service. RMRTD would be able to create schedules for special events quickly and easily.

The Remix program would also directly create RMRTD's General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) allowing for easier updates to Google Maps and the National Transportation Atlas Database for the Federal Transit Administration's National Transit Map. Uploading GTFS data is now a multi-step process completed by a contractor.

Remix allows users to receive access to an easy-to-use online platform without the worry of maintenance, hosting, or software updates. Whereas transit planning often requires a time-intensive, multi-step process with many tools, Remix enables staff to understand the impact of many planning options immediately in a visual, easy to use format and saving valuable time and money, while overseeing immediate changes and their impacts of multiple planning options in a faster, more efficient way. This tool will help make better decisions about routes and provide a more effective method to conduct a Title VI Transit Service Equity Analysis. With Remix, the RMRTD staff can quickly and easily map the proposed routes and see the estimated costs and potential demographic impact in real time as well as develop driver schedules in minutes. The acquisition of this product will support us in route and stop modifications and system design. Remix calculates revenue time, frequency, route mileage, and layover time as the route is being drawn or modified. In addition, operating costs are being calculated in real-time. This allows RMRTD staff to make route comparisons quickly and easily. The Metropolitan Planning Organization staff also can use Remix for demographic information to the block level for the long-range transportation plan.

Remix is the only web-based transit planning and scheduling software platform that provides the below into a single-integrated platform for transit planning:

- Rapid route design
- Import/analysis/modification of existing transit routes
- Demographic analysis
- Operating cost-calculations
- Travel time-visualizations
- Title VI analysis
- Additionally, users are able to export changes and proposal into Microsoft Excel, Google Earth, shapefiles, GTFS and PNG files. Users can share changes to other users, the public and the Board for review and comment

Remix's cloud-based software is delivered through a Software as a Service (SaaS) model where users receive access to an easy-to-use platform without the worry of maintenance, hosting, or software updates. The software is maintained by Remix which will continue to be enhanced over time. No other software offers this functionality all in one tool.

Additional information from Remix Technologies, LLC is proprietary and confidential as supplied by Remix, for this purpose, their Unique Functionality and Features cannot be published.

My request is to sign a three (3) year agreement to use the software for route transit planning and scheduling This is a three (3) year contract for a total contract value of $72,000 (2024 @ $23,500; 2025 @ $24,000 and 2026 @ 24,000 per year respectively).