# Request for Expressions of Interest

# Consulting Services – Firms Selection

**Implementing Agency: Ministry of Transport and Communications**

**Country: Republic of North Macedonia**

**Project: Local Roads Connectivity Project**

**Loan No.: 9034-MK**

**Assignment Title: Technical assistance for study for diagnosis and identification of investment opportunities for inter-municipal public transport in North Macedonia**

**Reference No.: LRCP-9034-MK-CS-CQS-** **A.1.2.5**

**Issued on: June 3, 2024**

The Republic of North Macedonia has received financing from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development – World Bank in the form of a loan towards the costs of the Local Roads Connectivity Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

North Macedonia is a landlocked country at the heart of the Balkans, characterized by mountainous terrain intersected by valleys and lowlands. It is a transit region on two of the ten Pan-European transport corridors, Corridor VIII and Corridor X. Its proximity to the European Union (EU) potentially provides the country access to a large export market of 650 million customers. According to the last census of 2021, the population is 1.836.713, of which around 28 percent live in the capital, Skopje, 38 percent reside in rural areas, and the remaining share live in smaller urban centers.

Governance of the 9,000 km local road network is fully decentralized to municipalities, most of which have limited capacity to manage and preserve road assets. Local roads consist of a mixture of rural roads connecting villages and towns and streets within urban areas and villages. The local road networks suffer from a lack of systematic planning, neglected maintenance, and insufficient funding. The poor quality of municipal infrastructure is a significant factor preventing people from regularly accessing social and educational services and employment opportunities outside their immediate communities.

Intermunicipal public transport aims to achieve improvement in the overall quality of mobility and focuses on people and inhabited areas; the purpose is to improve transport system efficiency, reduce the impact of rapid motorization, ensure accessible transport options to reach job centers, education, and other opportunities, and bring closer the economic equity and opportunities between large and small cities.

Currently, many municipalities do not have inter-municipal line passenger transport that would connect them with other municipalities, and the citizens are facing big problems in their daily functioning.

All legal entities that perform inter-municipal passenger transportation and/or manage bus stations are privately owned. However, the informal (illegal) transportation of passengers contributes to reducing the number of passengers transported by licensed operators. This way, the lines' profitability is reduced, so the operators stop maintaining the licenses to perform these lines.

The objectives of the assignment are as follows:

- Provide a rapid analysis of inter-municipal public transport in North Macedonia and develop a situational diagnosis of the service involving the six points mentioned in the former section.

- Assist and appraise in identifying a pipeline of projects suitable for potential finance to improve inter-municipal public transport.

The services will include the following tasks:

- Task 1: Mobilization and Inception Report (within one month of contract award)

- Task 2: Diagnosis of inter-municipal public transport (within four (4) months of contract award)

- Task 3: Identification of investment opportunities-proposals (within six (6) months of contract award)

- Task 4: Appraisal (within seven (7) months of contract award)

- Task 5: Completion and Final Report (one month before end of contract)

The consultant is required to complete the assignment within **8 (Eight) months** from the contract award/signing date.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment can be found at the following websites: <https://www.e-nabavki.gov.mk> and <http://mtc.gov.mk/javniOglasi>.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants (a firm or a group of firms) should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

Required qualifications:

The Consultant shall be a firm or a group of firms with the following qualifications:

* Proven general experience and verifiable track-record working on providing Consultancy services or technical assistance in the area of public transportation within the past ten (10) years (inter-municipal/inter-city policy advice in Europe or the WBs region will be considered as an asset);
* Proven specific expertise in assignment with at least three (3) public transport related project references successfully completed within the last ten (10) years in Europe region. Experience in WB6 countries would be considered as an asset.
* Proven experience in transport-related data analysis, transport operation and/or facilities planning and evaluation within the last ten (10) years. Experience in Europe and/or WB6 countries would be considered as an asset.
* Demonstrated ability in formulating and articulating policies and advising high-level government officials would be considered as an asset.

The credibility of mentioned general experience shall be presented in a list of project references for provided Consultancy services or technical assistance in the area of public transportation within the past ten (10) years and accompanied by certificates of orderly fulfilment of the contracts verified by other party from such contracts. The credibility of the mentioned specific experience shall be presented in a list of at least three (3) similar\* public transport-related project references completed within the last ten (10) years and accompanied by certificates of orderly fulfilment of the contracts verified by other party from such contracts.

Key Experts will not be evaluated at this stage. Consultants are required to confirm the availability of qualified key experts according to the positions and respective qualifications for each as listed in the TOR.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” dated July 2016, revised November 2017, and August 2018 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

A Consultant will be selected by the Consultant’s Qualification-based Selection. (CQS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations, throughout Open International Competitive Procurement.

The eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) can obtain further information from the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the Ministry of Transport and Communication, Attn: Ms. Vlasta Ruzinovska, Ms. Natasha Stojanovska and/or Mr. Slavko Micevski, e-mail: vlasta.ruzinovska@piu.mtc.gov.mk; natasha.stojanovska@piu.mtc.gov.mk; slavko.micevski@piu.mtc.gov.mk; during office hours from 09:30 to 15:30.

The Terms of References in English language may be obtained by interested eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) from the website of the national electronic system for procurement: “ЕСЈН-Заеми/Донации/Грантови-Огласи од меѓународни институции” ([**https://www.e-nabavki.gov.mk**](https://webmail.t.mk/cp/ps/Mail/ExternalURLProxy?d=t.mk&u=tejumi&url=https://www.e-nabavki.gov.mk&urlHash=-1.1261282751824486E-304#_blank)) and from the website of the Ministry of Transport and Communications: [**http://mtc.gov.mk/javniOglasi**](http://mtc.gov.mk/javniOglasi);

The eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) must submit their Expression of Interest **only by e-mail** to the all below-listed e-mail addresses (as readable PDF files in the English language), **on or before July 3, 2024, 15:30 p.m.** Receipt of each Expression of Interest will be immediately confirmed.

## Ministry for Transport and Communications - Project Implementation Unit

## Attn: Ms. Vlasta Ruzinovska, Ms. Natasha Stojanovska and/or Mr. Slavko Micevski – procurement officers

## Street “Crvena Skopska Opstina”, Nr. 4, 1000 Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia

Tel: + 389 (0)2 3145 531; + 389 (0)75 494977

Web site addresses <http://mtc.gov.mk/javniOglasi>; [https://www.e-nabavki.gov.mk](https://webmail.t.mk/cp/ps/Mail/ExternalURLProxy?d=t.mk&u=tejumi&url=https://www.e-nabavki.gov.mk&urlHash=-1.1261282751824486E-304#_blank).

## E-mail addresses (obligatory):

**vlasta.ruzinovska@piu.mtc.gov.mk****;** **natasha.stojanovska@piu.mtc.gov.mk****;** **slavko.micevski@piu.mtc.gov.mk****;** **harita.pandovska@piu.mtc.gov.mk****;** **procurement.piu.mtc@gmail.com****.**