

## Official Q&A Responses - STAR Transit Solar PV RFP

- 1. Q: I wanted to find out the goal with the solar array and the offset you are trying to accomplish. Is the solar system meant to offset the entire load or a portion of what STAR is using based on the consumption listed in the report?**

**A:** Please refer to p. 13 of the RFP document, Section 2 Project Specifications. Specifically, Section 2.2 Project List states "All solutions should provide a Solar PV System that provides the highest lifetime electricity savings with an upfront system cost of \$400,000 or less."

- 2. Q. What current utility rate should be used in our solar savings analysis?**

**A:** \$0.18/kWh should be used as the avoided cost per kWh produced by solar. Please see page 11 of the PEA report (file name "220628-Star-Transit-PEAReport.pdf") where it says, "Star Transit has been on a month-to-month Business Plus Flex Plan with Reliant Energy. Due to being month to month subscription, they have different rates for each month. Demand and consumption are on a blended rate. An average of \$0.18/kWh has been calculated for the 27 months."

- 3. To offset future EV consumption it will be necessary to install solar panels on Building 1 as well as on Building 2, but due to the existing problems with the roof of Building 1, it may be necessary to replace the roof of Building 1. Would the [solar PV] Contractor responsible for overseeing [the replacement of the roof on Building 1]?**

**A:** No. Also, please refer to p. 15 of the RFP document, Section 2.3 SITE INFORMATION, where it says "**Summary of Building I – PV suitability:** Building I may not be currently suitable for rooftop PV because the ~22 year-old original roof has had problems already (leaks). STAR Transit prefers not to invest any of the \$400,000 solar PV project budget into pre-solar installation roof repairs, unless Offeror believes that installing solar PV on Building I would be more economically beneficial to STAR overall than installing solar on Building II.

- 4. Q: Are MEP drawings (mechanical, electrical, and plumbing) or other drawings available for either building?**

**A:** Not at the moment. There are no digital files containing MEP or other building drawings. There may be paper drawings on-site. STAR Transit staff is working to locate the drawings and will provide an update ASAP, but you should assume that no drawings will be available before the submission deadline for this RFP.

5. **Q: On p.20 of the RFP, Section 3.4, DBE COMPLIANCE STATEMENT, under item (3) it states, “Supplies are items purchased specifically for this procurement other than the standard manufactured item requested by the invitation for bid/proposal.” If our PV system design proposes a trench, and concrete would be poured into the trench, would that concrete be considered a supply?**

**A:** Yes. For this procurement, concrete would be considered a supply.

6. **Q: Does STAR Transit have a preferred concrete vendor?**

**A:** No, STAR does not have a preferred vendor for concrete.

7. **Q: Does the site have a wireless internet connection (Wi-Fi)? If so, does it reach the garage (Building II)?**

**A:** STAR does have Wi-Fi in Building I, but the Wi-Fi signal does not reach Building II.

8. **Q: Is STAR interested in PV inverters that include an integrated Level 2 EV charger (specifically a SolarEdge product)?**

**A:** No. For this RFP, the proposed PV system design should not include EV charging stations, even if they are integrated into inverters. STAR will be procuring EV chargers under a separate RFP at a later date.

9. **Q: Can you confirm if the existing gas-fired backup generator only feeds electrical panels L1 and L2 and not into MDP (main distribution panel)?**

**A:** STAR Transit cannot answer this question definitively at the moment. The selected contractor would need to vet these details themselves. However, STAR can say that the backup generator only provides backup power for electrical loads in Building I (office), and does not provide any backup power to Building II (garage). Also, the generator is expected to become operational again within the next several weeks (the PEA report noted that the generator was not in service at the time of the PEA report’s publishing).

10. **Would you like us to add a line item to our bid for roof repairs / roof enhancements prior to installing solar PV? For example, we could put additional sealant around exposed fasteners on the metal roof.**

**A:** No. STAR is not aware of any deficiencies in Building II’s roof at this time. If any work needs to be done on either building’s roof prior to installing solar, STAR would prefer to have the roofing contractor that installed the roof do that work.

**11. Q: What is the estimated over-current protection device needed for each EV Charging station?**

**A:** This has not yet been determined, as STAR is planning to procure the EV charging stations in a separate, future RFP.

**12. Q: Does the site have Wi-Fi? If so, does it reach the garage?**

**A:** The site does have Wi-Fi, however, it does not reach the garage. A signal booster could be installed if necessary.