

**To: Board of Directors**  
**From: Leanne P. Redden, Executive Director**



**Regional  
Transportation  
Authority**

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Suite 1650  
Chicago, IL 60604  
312-913-3200  
[RTAChicago.org](http://RTAChicago.org)

**Date: July 8, 2020**

**Re: Ordinance authorizing a contract for subscription aerial photography**

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### **Action Requested**

The proposed ordinance authorizes the Executive Director to enter into a two-year contract with NearMap for a subscription to seamless, high-resolution aerial photography for GIS mapping and other spatial-related applications, that we can also make publicly available, at a cost not to exceed \$459,950. One hundred percent of the contract will be funded by the RTA.

### **Background**

The RTA and the Service Boards utilize aerial photography extensively to assist with daily responsibilities. Imagery is used for GIS and other mapping applications such as base maps, routing, spatial accuracy confirmation, temporal changes in land-use, capital construction, field data collection and infrastructure maintenance. Additionally, it is used on the RTAMS (RTA Mapping and Statistics) website and other interactive maps. Specific current and future applications of aerial photography are described in the following paragraphs.

**RTA** uses photography for planning activities, as well as construction and customer service including:

- Capital Program Monitoring – To view construction progress throughout the year at project locations. These recently completed examples were viewed using the existing aerial photography:
  - Pace - I-90 / Barrington Rd. Park & Ride
  - CTA - 95th St. CTA Station
  - Metra - Geneva station parking
- RTAMS – As a background layer to publicly-facing maps, which is not possible now but will be with the new contract:
  - Interactive Main Map
  - Asset specific maps
- Interagency Signage – As a tool for managing the signs and communicating with partner agencies about construction plan, including:
  - Story Map installation plans
  - Sign location management
  - Mobile field data collection
- Local Planning Program – To view changes in development patterns and transit-supportive elements throughout the region to inform our programs such as:

- Access to Transit projects – before / after (ie: Rolling Meadows - Golf Rd.)
- Community Planning Story Maps
- GIS Mapping Uses – As a background layer to internal maps used for analysis and mapping including:
  - Desktop mapping
  - Update legacy GIS data layers for increased accuracy
- ADA Travel Training – As a tool for travel trainers to view travel paths before and with customers:
  - Calculate crossing widths at intersections
  - Identify sidewalks / ADA truncated domes
  - Calculate walking distances to bus stops
  - Identify shelters and other transit related amenities

**Pace** will use photography for planning as well construction purposes, including:

- Desktop mapping
- Specific routing / re-routing / detours
- Mobile field data collection applications
- Field infrastructure inspections

**Metra** uses the photography for planning, data collection, and construction purposes, including:

- Desktop mapping
- Parking lot counts
- Mobile field data collection applications
- Field infrastructure inspections
- Use with architectural plans.

### **Description**

The contract will allow the RTA, Metra and Pace to have unlimited access to online seamless high-resolution aerial photography for in-house mapping applications. The contract will also allow the RTA to make this photography visible to the public and other partners on RTA websites.

This aerial photography is updated more frequently (several times each year), collected more thoroughly (across the entire RTA region with each update), and provided at a significantly higher resolution (3 inch pixel resolution) than other freely available mapping services.

Currently, RTA and Metra have different negotiated costs and usage while Pace does not have ongoing access to aerial photography and is anticipating the approval of this contract. The RTA's current contract does not allow us to make this data available to the public on our interactive websites.

This contract will provide the three agencies with unlimited access and data transfer per month and a turnkey system for viewing the imagery. Additionally, the contract allows for RTA to use the product for public internet mapping uses, such as [www.rtachicago.org](http://www.rtachicago.org) and [www.RTAMS.org](http://www.RTAMS.org). The

quality and public accessibility of this information will make it possible for the RTA to make additional information available about the status of the Rebuild Illinois capital program.

The current and future contract costs and licensing allowances are described in the following table.

Agency	Current License	Current Restrictions	Current Annual Cost	Future License	Future Restrictions	Future Annual Cost
<b>RTA</b>	Limited Use	Only allowed 2g data transfer per month (limited to approx. 10 users)	\$10,000	Unlimited – Includes public internet use on RTAChicago.org and RTAMS.org	None	Internal/non-public license cost: \$220,000/yr.  Enabling access on public-facing/external sites: \$9,975/yr.
<b>Metra</b>	Unlimited	None (70+ users consuming 12g-22g per mo.)	\$50,000			
<b>Pace</b>	None	N/A access now (50 estimated users interested)	N/A			
<b>Total Annual Limited Access Today</b>			<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>Total Annual Unlimited Access Future</b>		<b>\$229,975.00</b>

Nearmap was the lowest bidder in this procurement. One other bid was received at \$1,640,000.

RTA considered other agencies’ contacts as a part of the independent cost estimate for this project. The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) also holds a contract for aerial photography. Their license includes unlimited internal staff access and data transfer to aerial photography for \$50,000 each year also from NearMap. CMAP does not have ability to use the imagery on public websites.

**Financial Impact**

The total cost of the proposed two-year contract is not-to-exceed \$459,950. One hundred percent of the contract will be funded using RTA funds. The first year of RTA funding was approved as part of the RTA's 2020 budget. Funding for subsequent years is subject to annual budget appropriations by the RTA Board.

Prepared by: Capital Programming and Planning

LPR/JL/JHH/BT  
Attachments

**ORDINANCE NO.**

**WHEREAS**, one of the strategies outlined in *Invest in Transit*, the 2018-2023 Regional Transit Strategic Plan, is to collect and share more transit-related data;

**WHEREAS**, the RTA and its partner agencies utilize aerial photography extensively to assist with daily responsibilities that include mapping, field data collection and infrastructure management;

**WHEREAS**, Metra and Pace have expressed the need for similar information such that a joint purchase made by the RTA on behalf of the three agencies is an efficient use of resources;

**WHEREAS**, after a complete bidding process, the RTA has found that NearMap was the most responsive and responsible lowest bidder; and

**WHEREAS**, NearMap has submitted the Authority's Vendor/Contractor Certification that discloses the names of the principals and any contracted lobbyists, certifies that entering into this contract will not create a prohibited conflict of interest, and certifies that the firm and its principals have not been debarred or suspended from participating in public contracts and have not been convicted of procurement-related offenses. The firm has agreed to update the Certifications should any of the information change during the contract period.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY that:**

1. The Executive Director of the Authority is hereby authorized to enter into a 2-year contract with NearMap for seamless high-resolution aerial photography at a cost not to exceed \$459,000. One hundred percent of the contract will be funded by the RTA.
2. The Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed to take such actions as the Executive Director deems necessary or appropriate to implement, administer and enforce this ordinance and said contract.