U.S. Department of Transportation

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number 693JJ324NF00008

"*Exploratory Advanced Research (EAR) Program*"

Amendment #2

Dated 05/20/2024

This amendment to NOFO 693JJ324NF00008 is to post the Questions & Answers for the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) webinar from May 8, 2024:

NOFO 693JJ323NF00008 May 8, 2024, Webinar Question and Answers

Except for the statutes and regulations cited, the contents of this document do not have the force and effort of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide information regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

1. Question: Are you interested in GPS tracks from pedestrians? For boosting the privacy and amount of GPS tracks, would you be interested in realistic, simulated GPS tracks from pedestrians for any location in the U.S?

   Answer: GPS data is within scope. The intent of Track A research is to provide naturalistic data.

2. Question: Could data modalities such as eye tracking or heart rate be included?

   Answer: Yes, data modalities may include physiological data given the intent is to collect naturalistic behavior.

3. Question: Are entities outside the U.S. eligible for awards?

   Answer: Yes

4. Question: What volume of data is FHWA expecting?

   Answer: The volume should reflect the size of the awards. Data diversity is more important than volume.

5. Question: What is the total funding for the program that will be used for awards?

   Answer: The NOFO indicates that FHWA anticipates making awards totaling around $2,000,000.

6. Question: Question: What is the maximum federal budget we can apply for? $250,000 or $200,000? Is the Federal max per award is $250,000 .Is the 20 percent match of the project total (FHWA plus Cost share) or the FHWA amount ($50,000)?

   Answer: The notice is for awards up to $250,000 in federal funding. Federal funding of $250,000 would require match funding of $50,000 (20 percent) or more so a total budget of $300,000.

7. Question: Would Track A and B be awarded at the same time? Is the Period of performance for both the same?

   Answer: FHWA intends to make awards for both tracks in fiscal year 2024. It is possible that the period of performance of Track B projects would reflect timing of data collections that will not be complete by the start of the award.

8. Question: Do you have a specific requirement for the modality of data that will be distributed? Say, if the original modality is camera, do you expect the videos to be shared, or you encourage data that derived information from the videos and can be shared. (As part of Track A).

   Answer: The intent is for other researchers to have access to useful pedestrian behavior data. As part of the balance between privacy and data access, there may be broader access to derived data than the originally collected video.

9. Question: The data collection is only for pedestrian or other micro-mobility users.

   Answer: For this request, pedestrians. Pedestrian data may include pedestrians with mobility limitations that require use of assistive devices including motorized wheelchairs of scooters.

10. Question: Could you clarify partnership with the people who will be part of the collection? What sort of entities do you mean for example?

    Answer: The idea would be to work with stakeholders that represent targeted groups of pedestrians.

11. Question: Could you talk a bit more about the "partnership aspect" of the merit review process? Do we need to show partnerships with potential consumers of the data (e.g., researchers who may end up using the collected data) or partnership with the target population and the city/county/state where data collection will happen?

    Answer: For Track A FHWA is seeking researchers to partner with groups that represent targeted pedestrian populations. For Track B, partnerships may include data consumers.

12. Question: Can one proposer go after the two tracks (Track A and Track B) together?

    Answer: Yes. One person may submit a proposal in Track A and a separate proposal in Track B. FHWA will be considering the proposals separately so a proposal in Tack B should not depend on award of a proposal in Track A.

13. Question: With the limited amount of funding for each proposal, are you weighting more on uniqueness or geographic diversity?

    Answer: FHWA is seeking diversity of locations and road types.

14. Question: Is the FHWA scan study available to proposers?

    Answer: The FHWA scanning activities are not in a published document. Following are references that FHWA considered in scoping the notice.

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