

**From:** [City of Ocala - Contracting Officer](#)  
**To:** [Tom Duncan](#); [Michelle Brooker](#); [Patricia Lewis](#); [Shayatta J. Roberts](#); [Daphne Robinson](#); [Ashley Presley](#)  
**Subject:** Your policy exception has been approved.  
**Date:** Thursday, September 19, 2024 4:28:22 PM

Your policy exception has been **approved**.

**Approval Comments: drobinson@ocalafl.org**

As a political subdivision of the state of Florida and public transit agency, the City of Ocala's SunTran program is authorized to make purchases subject to the terms and conditions of Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Public Transit Office's Transit Research Inspection Procurement Services ("TRIPS") Contract No. TRIPS-21-APTS for intelligent transportation systems/technology solutions for public transit agencies. On March 15, 2022, FDOT issued its Intent to Award Contract No. 21-APTS to Avail Technologies for the delivery of these systems, which includes a provision which allows the contractor (Avail Technologies) to submit to eligible users a firm fixed price for each of the first full five years of ongoing support and maintenance services. The quote provided does not expressly mention the TRIPS contract. To the extent that FTA funds will be utilized to pay for these services, please ensure that the agreement also incorporates the required federalized terms. PLEASE HAVE THE VENDOR UPDATE TO REFLECT THIS INFORMATION. You may proceed with your purchase. PLEASE ESTABLISH A MUNIS CONTRACT NUMBER WITH AN EXPIRATION DATE WHICH MATCHES THE CONTRACT. PLEASE ENSURE A COPY OF THIS EXCEPTION APPROVAL AND THE CORRESPONDING TRIPS CONTRACT ARE ATTACHED. SHOULD AGGREGATE EXPENDITURES FOR THE CONTRACT TERM EXCEED \$50,000, THIS CONTRACT WILL NEED TO BE TAKEN TO COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.



### Procurement/Contract/P-Card Exception

Select exception type:

Contract

Reason for contract exception:

Direct Purchase off Governmental Contract (Goods Only)

The Avail Technologies renewal for Information Technology Systems (ITS) Maintenance and Support is an integral part of the full ITS hardware and software platform used in all of SunTran's public transit fleet. This total system provides live bus tracking, automatic passenger counting, fare collection, automated stop announcements as well as a host of other GPS and technology-based data collection systems that provide a mechanism for The City of Ocala/SunTran to meet Federal and State reporting requirements associated with

**Enter a brief description of your exception request:**

funding. The Avail hardware and software consist of proprietary systems that are not transferrable to other vendors providing ITS services. A change in vendor will result in the mandatory replacement of hardware, software and fees related to implementing a new vendor resulting in an estimated cost in excess of \$400,000. SunTran has had a successful partnership with Avail Technologies and it is in our best interest to continue the agreement for an additional three years.

The Avail Technologies contract has been competitively sourced via the TRIPS Contract TRIPS-21-APTS and is fully compliant with the Federal procurement guidelines.

**Attach all documents related to the exception that can assist the Contracting Officer's decision.**

[APTS-21- software services RFP\\_ 4-16-21.pdf](#)  
[APTS-21-S-ATI contract.pdf](#)  
[APTS-21-S-ATI order form\\_LS\\_8-10-22.pdf](#)  
[Ocala\\_Support Warranty & License \(SWL\) Renewal\\_Rev.pdf](#)  
[APTS-Award Docs.pdf](#)

**Department**

(SUN) SUNTRAN

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**Who authorized requesting this exception?**

Tom Duncan