

ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT



STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 9/10/2025

Staff Report No. 25-111a

TO: AC Transit Board of Directors
FROM: Salvador Llamas, General Manager/Chief Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Contract for Cloud-Based Enterprise Datawarehouse Implementation

ACTION ITEM

AGENDA PLANNING REQUEST: ☐

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Consider authorizing the General Manager to execute a contract with Quisitive, LLC to implement an Enterprise Datawarehouse in Microsoft Azure Cloud under the California Multiple Award Schedule (CMAS) rates in an amount not to exceed \$394,585.

Staff Contact:
Ahsan Baig, Chief Information Officer

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE:

Goal - Safe and Secure Operations
Initiative - Infrastructure Modernization

The Enterprise Datawarehouse implementation in the Microsoft Azure cloud is a strategic initiative designed to modernize the District's data platform by transitioning to a unified, cloud-based environment. This transformation will replace fragmented, one-to-one system connections with a scalable, automated framework, significantly enhancing system reliability, operational efficiency, and data governance. Through seamless system integration, workflow automation, and centralized data management, the project will optimize resource utilization, improve staff productivity, and facilitate real-time, validated data insights.

This initiative is aligned with the District's long-term sustainability and innovation objectives, establishing a foundation for advanced analytics, data-driven decision making, and future-ready infrastructure. A detailed scope of work is developed between AC Transit and Quisitive, LLC outlining the professional services provided including the milestones and deliverables.

BUDGETARY/FISCAL IMPACT:

The total cost for the Enterprise Datawarehouse implementation in the Microsoft Azure cloud Project is \$394,585, fully funded in the current Capital Budget ("ZEB Data Platform" project).

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

In April 2025, staff presented a proposal to implement a Microsoft Azure-based Enterprise Data Warehouse in

partnership with Quisitive, LLC. At that time, the Board directed staff to engage with union leadership to address grievances before proceeding. Since then, the Innovation & Technology team, in coordination with the Labor Relations Department, has had multiple discussions with union representatives and members. These conversations reaffirmed the original project approach:

- The project will be executed in close collaboration with internal AC Transit staff.
- External consultants will focus on training, mentoring, and transferring knowledge to internal teams.
- The long-term goal is to develop robust in-house capabilities for managing and enhancing the cloud environment.

Labor Relations has continued discussions to address concerns raised by the AFSCME Union. Staff will maintain active engagement with union leadership and members throughout this process to address concerns and provide clarity on the project's scope, goals, and collaborative approach.

The planned implementation includes deployment of data ingestion pipelines, cloud governance tools, technical documentation, and comprehensive staff training. Implementation will be phased, with continuous engagement of internal stakeholders to ensure ownership, skill development, and operational sustainability.

The implementation of the Enterprise Data Warehouse in the Microsoft Azure Cloud is a pivotal infrastructure modernization project. It is designed to transition the District from a legacy database platform, characterized by isolated, one-to-one system connections, to a unified and scalable modern data warehouse platform. The current database platform necessitates manual data transfers and frequently results in data quality issues, thereby consuming excessive staff time for validation and testing. This modernization effort aims to centralize data integration, enable seamless interoperability across systems, and enhance the efficiency of transit data management and analysis. By automating data collection and validation processes, the project will not only improve data reliability and quality assurance but also enhance reporting capabilities. Furthermore, the platform will support comprehensive data cataloging, cybersecurity, and governance, aligning with the District's goals for sustainability and service reliability.

This phase of the implementation includes professional services for:

- 1) Developing a cloud adoption framework
- 2) Deploying data ingestion pipelines
- 3) Implementing governance tools (such as Microsoft Purview)
- 4) Technical documentation
- 5) Training and knowledge transfer to staff

These infrastructure enhancements will optimize the data management while ensuring scalability and adaptability for future operational needs.

Staff recommends awarding the contract to Quisitive, LLC under California Multiple Award Schedule (CMAS) rates, ensuring competitive pricing and alignment with the District's fiscal objectives. This investment is a strategic infrastructure enhancement that will support centralized data integration, cloud migration, and governance improvements. The project is expected to reduce inefficiencies, eliminate redundant processes, and enhance operational reliability, leading to long-term cost savings.

There are no ongoing or multi-year budgetary commitments tied to this phase of the project; however, future enhancements or expansions may be considered for in-house implementation where feasible and appropriate.

The California Multiple Award Schedules (CMAS), offered by the California Department of General Services (CA DGS), offers a wide variety of commodity, non-IT Services, and information technology products and services at prices which have been assessed to be fair, reasonable, and competitive. The CMAS Program creates a pool of suppliers from which agencies like AC Transit may solicit offers. When utilized correctly, CMAS streamlines the procurement process.

Following a competitive procurement process, Quisitive, LLC was selected based on its proven expertise in cloud integration and data governance, offering the best value for the District's objectives under California Multiple Award Schedule (CMAS) rates. The contract term for this project is one year and Staff anticipates project completion within this time frame.

ADVANTAGES/DISADVANTAGES:

Advantages: The Enterprise Datawarehouse implementation in the Microsoft Azure cloud Project will implement a unified, scalable platform designed to enhance operational efficiency and data-driven decision-making by streamlining data integration, governance, and interoperability. This initiative will strengthen data management frameworks, support predictive analytics capabilities, and optimize resource utilization while mitigating inefficiencies and eliminating redundant processes.

Disadvantages: No significant disadvantages have been identified.

ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS:

Issue a solicitation for the Commercial Off The Shelf (COTS) Software: The District could elect to solicit an enterprise COTS software platform and go through a formal Request For Proposals; however, this would result in significant cost increase, delayed data collection, timely support, preventing data tracking and transit data management at AC Transit.

Take no action: Continue using the legacy database platform with manual data ingestion processes and data validation. Continued use of the legacy database will hamper the District's ability to provide accurate and reliable information in a timely manner. This design is not scalable and unable to manage real-time operational needs, potentially impacting service reliability and rider satisfaction.

PRIOR RELEVANT BOARD ACTION/POLICIES:

1. Board Policy No. 465 - Procurement Policy
2. SR 22-142 Data Governance Program
3. SR 24-335 Major IT Projects Update
4. SR 25-161 Data Governance Plan

ATTACHMENTS:

None

Prepared by:

Tas Jalali, Manager, Department of Innovation & Technology
Dr. Manjit Sooch, Director of Innovation & Technology

In Collaboration with:

Mike Carvalho, Manager, Department of Innovation & Technology
Michael Silk, Assistant Director of Procurement and Materials
Leonard Bellow, Labor Relations Manager, Human Resource Management

Approved/Reviewed by:

Phillip Halley, Program Manager, Compliance & Diversity-Contracts
Fred Walls, Director of Procurement & Materials Management
Aimee L. Steele, General Counsel/Chief Legal Officer
Chris Andrichak, Chief Financial Officer
James Arcellana, Executive Director, Human Resources