

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA) for
Bus Operating License at the George Washington Bridge Bus Station
January 17, 2018**

INTRODUCTION

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is currently accepting applications for a license to operate at the George Washington Bridge Bus Station (GWBBS) located at 4211 Broadway in Manhattan, New York. The renovated GWBBS opened in May 2017 after undergoing significant upgrades, including new bus gates, a climate-controlled passenger pavilion, new elevators and escalators, new retail spaces, and a digital passenger information system. More information about the GWBBS is available at <http://www.panynj.gov/bus-terminals/george-washington-bridge-bus-station-restoration.html>.

All applications received will be evaluated on pre-established criteria which will assess service and market characteristics, firm experience and safety record, and operations and customer service attributes. The most highly ranked application(s) will be offered a standard Port Authority license agreement and assigned gate space at the bus station, assuming all other Port Authority requirements are met. If your company is not awarded a license at this time, your company will remain on our list of interested carriers for one year. If any additional space becomes available, the interested carriers on the list at that time will be contacted.

Interested applicants are welcome to submit questions about the facility or the RFA process by close-of-business February 2, 2018. A response to all questions will be shared with carriers that provide us with written notice of interest prior to February 9, 2018. Interested applicants are also welcome to set up a site visit with Port Authority staff.

Applications may be sent either electronically via e-mail or hard copy via U.S. mail. Signed applications must be received by the Port Authority by **February 16, 2018**. Please send applications to:

Raimy Cheyne
The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Tunnels Bridges & Terminals Department
4 World Trade Center, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10007
rcheyne@panynj.gov

Please direct any questions to Raimy Cheyne at (212) 435-2187 or rcheyne@panynj.gov.

FACILITY INFORMATION

Please visit the Port Authority's website at <http://www.panynj.gov/bus-terminals/george-washington-bridge-bus-station-restoration.html> for photographs and floor plans of the George Washington Bridge Bus Station.

Overview and Facility Layout

The GWBBS opened in 1963 and was designed by Dr. Pier Luigi Nervi, a noted Italian engineer-architect who designed the 1960 Olympic Stadium in Rome and other world-renowned structures. The bus station, with its unique roof comprised of triangular concrete sections, received the Concrete Industry Board's 1963 award for best conception, originality and applicability of concrete in design and construction. Approximately 16,000 passengers use the station on a typical weekday

The station reopened in May 2016 after undergoing significant renovations. The new station includes a climate-controlled waiting area with seating for 125 customers, ticket sales, public restrooms, and is fully accessible by both elevators and escalators. A digital passenger information system displays bus departure times and gates throughout the facility. The project includes 120,000 square feet of retail space including anchor tenants such as Marshalls, Fine Fare Supermarket, and Blink Fitness as well as a number of smaller retailers.

The bus gates and passenger concourse are located on the upper level of the facility. The bus platform area contains 21 saw-tooth bus gates, 16 sized for standard buses and 5 smaller gates for minibus operators. The ground level contains escalators and elevators leading from the street to the bus level, along with passenger-oriented retail and larger neighborhood-oriented stores. The lower level provides connection to the subway and additional retail space.

Location and Connections

The GWBBS is located at 4211 Broadway in Manhattan, New York. The station is built over the Trans-Manhattan Expressway (Interstate 95) between 178th and 179th Streets and Fort Washington and Wadsworth Avenues and features direct bus ramps on and off the upper level of the George Washington Bridge. There is also a turnaround on the GWB ramps just outside the bus station which can be used by buses if necessary.

The station has a direct underground connection with the 175th Street stop on the A subway line, which runs express and takes approximately 25 minutes to reach Midtown Manhattan. There are ten MTA NYCT bus routes with stops near the GWBBS, including the M4 to Penn Station, M5 to South Ferry, M98 to East Midtown, M100 to East Harlem, and seven bus routes that serve locations throughout the Bronx (the Bx 3, 7, 11, 13, 35, and 36).

The GWBBS is currently served by five bus carriers: Coach USA (Rockland & Shortline), Greyhound Lines, New Jersey Transit, Saddle River Tours (AmeriBus), and Spanish Transportation (Express Service), which collectively run approximately 1,000 buses on the average weekday. Existing bus service provides connections to locations throughout northern New Jersey, including Englewood, Fort Lee, Hackensack, Jersey City, Paramus, Passaic, and

Paterson, as well as to multiple locations in Rockland County, New York, and long-distance service to Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.

Bus Parking and Staging

There is a bus parking and staging area connected to the bus gate area that operators use for staging and short layovers. Space in the parking/staging area is available to carriers licensed to operate at the GWBBS for an additional fee.

Passenger Information System

The facility contains a digital passenger information system which displays gate and schedule information for departing buses. There are departure boards located in the passenger concourse, at the Broadway entrance, and on the bus concourse. In addition, each gate has digital screens which display information about the next bus scheduled to depart from that gate, including carrier, route, departure time, and a list of stops the bus will make. Carriers must provide up-to-date bus schedules in General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) format so that their schedule information can be displayed on the digital information screens.

Safety and Security

The Port Authority of NY & NJ maintains a robust and effective security program at all of its facilities, including the GWBBS, where the Port Authority Police Department, facility security management, and operations staff coordinate on a daily basis to ensure the security and safety of our customers. The GWBBS is patrolled 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by highly trained and professional police officers, with an on-site police desk for public assistance. To complement the police force, all employees working in the GWBBS also receive security awareness training.

In addition to the extensive operational security resources, the facility is equipped with state-of-the-art security technology, including closed circuit television (CCTV) systems and access control measures for all areas not accessible to the public. A multi-layered risk-based security approach ensures that we meet the security challenges in an evolving threat landscape, while still ensuring we meet our core transportation mission.

Management and Staffing

The facility is open for bus operations from 5:00am to 1:00am daily. The Port Authority staffs the GWBBS with an on-site, 24/7 watch engineer responsible for facility maintenance, as well as the police presence described in the previous section. The GWBBS is managed in conjunction with the George Washington Bridge, and shared management, operations, and administrative staff are based at the GWB Administration Building immediately across the bridge, in Fort Lee, NJ. The GWBBS is cleaned regularly by a contract cleaning service.

NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTERISTICS

The GWBBS is located in the Washington Heights neighborhood of northern Manhattan. Broadway is the main commercial corridor of the neighborhood, containing many small businesses as well as national chains. Businesses located in close proximity to the GWBBS include coffee shops (Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks), casual eateries (pizzerias, delicatessens, Subway, McDonalds, etc.), pharmacies (Rite Aid, Duane Reade, local pharmacies), banks (Citibank, Atlantic Bank, Apple Bank), dry cleaners, gyms, and more. The GWBBS itself contains 120,000 square feet of retail space and will house anchor tenants Marshalls, Fine Fare Supermarket, and Blink Fitness as well as a number of smaller retailers.

Major employers in the area include New York-Presbyterian Hospital and the Columbia University Medical Center, located along Broadway between 165th and 168th Streets. Other institutions in the area include Yeshiva University and Boricua College. The neighborhood is approximately 71% Latino and is a center of Dominican culture in New York. Washington Heights is viewed as an affordable alternative to other Manhattan neighborhoods, and has attracted an increasing number of students and young professionals in recent years.

With easy proximity to residents of Manhattan, the Bronx, Yonkers, Westchester and Rockland counties in New York, and Bergen County in New Jersey, the area is a convenient starting or transfer point for trips to points north and west of New York City, offering a less congested alternative to traveling through Midtown Manhattan.

REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

Bus Restrictions

- Maximum bus size: Length, 45 feet; Width, 102 inches; Height, 14 feet.
 - Note that while the facility can accommodate buses up to 14' high, the maximum clearance on Fort Washington Avenue underneath the GWBBS is 13' 1".
- Maximum gross loaded weight: 48,000 pounds avoirdupois
- Buses fueled by compressed natural gas (CNG) cannot be accommodated at the GWBBS at this time.

Minimum Insurance Requirements

- Commercial General Liability: \$2,000,000 per occurrence
- Automobile Liability: \$5,000,000 per occurrence

RATES AND FEES

All fees are subject to annual escalation. Prices listed are as of 2018.

Short Haul

Gate fees: \$5,495.64/year

Departure fees: \$2.59/departure

Long Haul

Gate fees: \$15,377.28/year

Departure fees: \$47.31/departure