# Request for Information (RFI) No. 0000532398

# AI Video Analytics for Forbidden Objects, Unattended Items, Unsafe Behaviors

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**Pre RFI Conference: December 8th, 2025, at 1PM Eastern Time**

via Teleconference

**Vendor Questions Due: December 11, 2025**

Email Questions to Howard.Hall@mtahq.org

**RFI Response Due: December 29, 2025**

Email Response to Howard.Hall@mtahq.org

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Metropolitan Transportation Authority
State of New York

December 4, 2025

**Re: Request for Information (RFI) No. 0000532398**
**AI Video Analytics for Forbidden Objects, Unattended Items, Unsafe Behaviors**

Prospective Proposers:

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) is seeking information from qualified vendors, technology providers, and system integrators for the development of Proof of Value for a scalable technology solution based on real-time analysis of video feeds from the cameras installed on public transit vehicles, specifically subway cars and buses. The system will leverage advanced computer vision and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to enhance passenger safety and operational awareness.

The purpose of the system is:

- Forbidden Object Detection: Identification of weapons, firearms, or other hazardous materials and objects in the public transportation environment,
- Recognizing and monitoring unattended items: detection of luggage, packages, or objects left behind for extended periods that may pose security risks.
- Anticipate, detect, and analyze incidents and unusual or unsafe behaviors such as, for example, high-density surges, potential stampede risks and other actions based on the analysis of behavioral patterns.
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This RFI is issued by the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), the largest public transit agency in North America, serving the New York City metropolitan area. The MTA is committed to ensuring the safety, security, and comfort of its passengers and staff through the adoption of innovative technologies and data-driven solutions.

The responses to this RFI will help the MTA assess the feasibility, scalability, and cost-effectiveness of proposed solutions, and may be used to shape a future Request for Proposal (RFP).

This RFI is for informational purposes only and does not constitute a solicitation or a commitment to issue formal implementation agreement. No contract will be awarded as a result of this RFI. Its purpose is to gather insights from vendors on available capabilities, methodologies, and approaches for an AI-based solution.

**Background and Context**

The New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) is North America's largest public transportation network, serving a population of over 15 million people across New York City, Long Island, southeastern New York State, and Connecticut. The MTA operates the New York City Transit (NYCT) system, which includes subways and buses, as well as regional railroads and bridges and tunnels.

In response to safety concerns and the need for proactive threat detection, the MTA is exploring the use of intelligent analytics and AI technologies to enhance situational awareness and passenger safety. The goal is to implement a system that will enable a proactive safety approach by leveraging AI-driven technologies that can:

- Detect and predict unsafe or anomalous behaviors,
- Identify prohibited or dangerous objects,
- Recognize unattended items that may pose a security risk.

With more than 15,000 cameras deployed across approximately 472 subway stations, current monitoring practices remain manual, reactive, and resource intensive. The objective of this initiative is to develop a system to evolve this infrastructure into a proactive, intelligence-driven ecosystem capable of flagging behavior, risk assessment, and incident response

While this initiative is grounded in advanced video analytics and AI technologies, the MTA recognizes that effective safety and security outcomes depend not only on the capabilities of the system but also on a deep understanding of human behavior in public transit environments. As such, this effort should be guided by insights from subject matter experts (SMEs) in behavioral science and psychology.

The certified SMEs will play a significant role in defining what constitutes “unusual” or “unsafe” conditions and behavior, interpreting context-sensitive actions, and ensuring that the system’s detection logic aligns with real-world social dynamics. The goal is to avoid false positives, reduce bias, and ensure that alerts are meaningful and actionable.

The MTA seeks solutions that are not only technologically robust but also designed in collaboration with behavioral experts to ensure that the system reflects a nuanced, ethical, and human-centered approach to safety.

- **Information Requested**
    - Vendor’s experience with large-scale video analytics
    - Capabilities in behavior detection using AI/ML
    - Experience working with public safety or transit systems
    - Approach to integrating structured and unstructured data
    - Experience with behavioral science-informed heuristics Governance and lifecycle management of AI models