

## BUSINESS



Agustin Paullier / AFP / Getty Images

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# The new rules of travel have bumps along way

**By Jen Murphy**  
BLOOMBERG NEWS

On May 3, Mike Tanniru reembraced his weekly commute from Keene, N.H., to his company headquarters in Harrison, Ohio. For Tanniru, a general manager of Cincinnati Test Systems, which has been busy performing quality-control tests on ventilators, that normally means driving across state lines and flying two hours from Hartford to Cincinnati. But now, with Delta Air Lines no longer offering his typical direct flight, he's had to add another step: a connection through Philadelphia, Chicago, or Washington, D.C.

"My first trip back, there was no one at the airport and barely anyone on my flight," he says. "Rules weren't yet in place, so flight attendants and most passengers weren't wearing masks."

The situation has been fast-changing. "By the time I flew home five days later, there were noticeably more people flying," Tanniru explains, adding that his flights have been full ever since. Masks have become more commonplace, if not consistently mandated. Road warriors, clearly, are back in the air.

From May 1 to June 7 the number of travelers passing through Transportation Security Administration checkpoints more than doubled, from 171,563 to 441,225. While that's a far cry from the normal volume of 2.6 million daily passengers, it's significant progress, says Scott Solombrino, chief executive officer of the Global Business Travel Association. It shows the air travel industry still has a pulse, despite having flatlined throughout March and April. But for those who are returning to the weekly grind and expecting to find an industry flipped on its head, the new normal looks surprisingly similar to the old one.

An April poll surveying 1,557 of the GBTA's member companies found that 77 percent had canceled all international business trips, while 52 percent had canceled all domestic travel. But a June follow-up poll showed optimism, with 60 percent of the 1,708 respondents reporting that they planned to resume domestic travel within two to three months. International travel looks slower to rebound, with 45 percent of respondents saying they'll resume within six to eight months.

Regardless of when they pack up and head out again, the same poll suggests that business travelers are most wary about cleanliness on the road, whether it's in hotels, airplanes, or airports.

When it comes to unified cleaning standards, hotels are leading the pack. On April 27 the American Hotel & Lodging Association – a 27,000-plus-member group that

includes 10 of the largest hotel companies in the U.S. – released industry-wide guidelines called Safe Stay. They cover everything including which cleaning products should be used where, how to control for social distancing, and what to do in the event of an in-house COVID-19 outbreak.

Airlines have yet to band together this way. Some carriers, including Delta and Southwest Airlines Co., have committed to leaving 40 percent of their seats open to allow for social distance, while United has been publicly criticized for booking full flights (though it's taking the lead in requiring pre-flight health checklists and banning passengers who refuse to wear masks).

And empty middle seats aren't enough to ensure safety, either. Brooke Meek, a fitness studio owner in St. Louis, has recently been crisscrossing the Midwest to conduct final walk-throughs of soon-to-open gyms; on a recent Southwest flight, she says, "the gentleman across from me sat down, took his mask off, and was never told to put it back on." What's more, she says, "flight attendants would remove [their own masks] to speak to you."

One consistency: Every time she deplaned, Meek spotted masked and gloved cleaning crews.

"I was really impressed until I reached into the seat pocket on my final flight and found a Chick-fil-A sandwich wrapper," she says. "I wondered: If they missed this, what else did they miss?"

London-based real estate investor Andy Smith can empathize. A regular on British Airways' flights between London and Amsterdam, he says masks are a poorly enforced recommendation, at best, for both passengers and crew. And although boarding may be orderly, Smith says, travelers still rush off the plane and touch other people's overhead bags.

## Airport woes

Airports are equally unpredictable. Most have installed social distancing markers to remind travelers to give each other space, but Smith says baggage and arrival halls are as crowded as ever. At some airports, like Denver International, masks are now being sold in vending machines alongside packs of sanitizing wipes. The Colorado hub has also disabled air hand dryers in restrooms to reduce the spread of germs – a good reminder not to use them anywhere else.

Seasoned road warriors already knew to book the first flight of the day to avoid delays; now those early departures offer the best odds at cleanliness, too, according to Brian Kelly, founder of the Points Guy. That's because planes are more likely to be thoroughly disinfected

overnight than during a quick midday turnaround.

## Taxis, rise-sharing

Checking seat assignments has also taken on increased importance, says Kelly, pointing to frequent aircraft changes. He recommends confirming all details 24 hours before departure, so you're not scrambling to respond to last-minute schedule changes (which have become common).

He adds that a window seat near the front of the plane offers minimal exposure to other passengers and their germs; travelers are more likely to stay put when they're blocked from the aisle, and sitting toward the front means you won't have to traverse the entire cabin to get on and off the flight.

Also, consider packing your own meals. Most airport restaurants remain closed, and the one or two that are operational are likely to have packed lines.

Another area burdened by long lines are Uber and Lyft stands. If getting a car was a two-minute affair in pre-pandemic times, Tanniru says it now takes him 15-plus minutes to find a ride; at normally busy airports like New York's JFK, however, the regular taxi stand has been showing waits of just a minute. Availability of taxis depends largely on the city: Tanniru said he has not seen any on his travels, while Smith said London's black cabs lines are long.

A good way to circumvent waiting and improve your odds at a cleaner ride is to book ahead with a black-car service, says Michael Steiner, executive vice president of travel management company Ovation. "Car companies (including traditional cabs) can maintain direct oversight of cleanliness standards, but ride-shares – you're trusting an individual," he says, adding that he expects this to become a new corporate norm.

And don't forget about quarantine rules, which are difficult to troubleshoot. When greenlighting travel, companies will need to do their homework and assume the potential expense of self-quarantines or rerouted itineraries to get employees home safely. With state and nationwide restrictions changing from week to week, that can add up, says Mike McGarity, vice president for global risk services at emergency response provider Global Guardian.

A wide array of large companies, from Goldman Sachs and UBS to Google and Apple, are still strongly urging employees to defer all nonessential travel. So what is essential? It's not clearly defined. Medical workers are considered essential, as are companies such as Tanniru's that test leaks in ventilators. For others, like Meek, the decision to travel is highly subjective.



## Legal Notices

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### Legal Bids & Proposals Legal Bids & Proposals Legal Bids & Proposals

#### REQUEST FOR SUBCONTRACTOR/VENDOR PROPOSALS

University of Houston – Roy G. Cullen Building  
University of Houston

Tellepsen is the CM@Risk for the University of Houston System – Roy G. Cullen Building. The project is located at the University of Houston Main Campus. The Roy Cullen building was built in 1939. This package is the 50% CD GMP Core Building Renovations.

Tellepsen Builders, L.P., as Construction Manager-at-Risk for the University of Houston System, in accordance with Texas Government Code 2269, will receive proposals from all qualified subcontractors and vendor trades for the project described above.

**Proposals are due on Tuesday, July 14, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. local time.** Please submit your proposal to [bidmaker@tellepsen.com](mailto:bidmaker@tellepsen.com), fax to 281-931-4468 or mail/deliver to Tellepsen Builders, L.P. at 777 Benmar, Suite 400, Houston, Texas 77060.

#### LATE PROPOSALS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.

**A Non-Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2020, @ 9:30 A.M. at UH Central Campus, General Services Building (GSB), 4211 Elgin St, Houston, TX 77002, Room, GSB 201. This will be a virtual meeting, details to be determined and issued as addendum.**

**All document review questions are due by 5:00 PM, Thursday, June 25, 2020.** Please direct any questions to Rod Bowers at (281) 272-4905, or [rbowers@tellepsen.com](mailto:rbowers@tellepsen.com)

It is the policy of University of Houston and Tellepsen Builders, L.P., to seek the involvement of Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) in its construction projects. The University of Houston and Tellepsen Builders, L.P., recognize probable subcontracting opportunities for Historically Underutilized Businesses in the proposal package. **HUB subcontracting plan (HSP) and certification forms, as required by the package documents, shall accompany each proposal that is submitted. Proposals submitted without all required information, and in the order and manner specified, may result in the proposal being considered non-responsive.**

The University of Houston System, the owner, reserves the right to waive any informality and/or to reject any or all proposals.

Drawings and specifications are available via invitation through SmartBidNet and can be viewed in the Tellepsen Builders office located at 777 Benmar, Suite 400 Houston, Texas 77060.

Contact Mercedes Lopez at 281-272-4939, or [mlopez@tellepsen.com](mailto:mlopez@tellepsen.com) for bid invite for this project.

**Sealed Proposal Solicitation #OM03-21**  
**Houston-Galveston Area Council**  
**Cooperative Purchasing Program**  
**Office Management Software Solutions**  
Pre-Proposal Conference: 07/02/20 @ 9 am  
Response Deadline: 09/08/20 @ 1pm  
Public Opening: 09/08/20 @ 2pm  
3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX.  
Per ADA, reasonable accommodation provided with 24 hour prior notice.  
832-681-2604 or [www.hgacbuy.org](http://www.hgacbuy.org) for info.

The Chambers County Commissioners Court is seeking Proposals (RFP) for qualified firms to provide standby contracts to employ pre-, active, and post-emergency preparedness, response and supplies and services for County Departments and Cities who are signatory to the County's Emergency Management Plan. These firms may be activated to provide qualified personnel to provide such services as: Emergency and Non-Emergency Food Services for a duration of three (3) – five (5) years. Chambers County will make selections based on qualifications, capabilities, costs and experience. For a copy of the RFP, please contact George Barrera, Purchasing Agent, (409) 267-2448 or email to [gbarrera@chamberstx.gov](mailto:gbarrera@chamberstx.gov)

RFP needs to be MAILED to: Chambers County Purchasing Department, P.O. Box 1380, Anahuac, TX 77514-1380 (409) 267-2448

**RFP'S DUE: 2:00 PM, Thursday July 9th, 2020**

#### INVITATION TO BID

The Bridge Over Troubled Waters (TBOTW) is soliciting sealed bids for The Children's Center at The Bridge Over Troubled Waters, located on Fairmont Parkway between existing facility for TBOTW and Destiny Village. The scope of work consists of but is not limited to: a 2-story 25,000 sf building.

TBOTW will receive sealed bids for the proposed work until 2:00pm Tuesday July 14, 2020 at Texas-IBI Group office, 455 E Medical Center Blvd, #500 Webster TX 77598 at which time and place all bids will be opened. For bids to be considered, responsible contractors must attend a mandatory Pre-Proposal and job-site walk at 10:00am Tuesday, June 30, 2020 located at TBOTW 3811 Allen Genoa, Pasadena TX 77504.

Contract documents, including specifications, will be available online, Monday, June 22, at [www.activebiggroup.texas.com](http://www.activebiggroup.texas.com). Bids shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee in the form of a money order, cashier's check, certified check or bank draft payable to the Sponsor, U.S. Government bonds, or a satisfactory bid bond executed by the bidder and acceptable sureties in an amount equal to five (5%) of the highest bid. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days after bid opening.

All bidders will be required to certify that they are not on the federal Consolidated List of Debarred, Suspended and Negligible Contractors. The contract documents required to accompany all bids (Certifications, bid bond, form of bid, etc.) shall be in an envelope which shall be clearly labeled with the words "Contract Bid Documents" and show the project identifications, name of bidder, name of project and date and time of opening.

All labor is required to be paid at a rate not less than the greater of the current Federal Davis-Bacon Prevailing wage or the State of Texas Prevailing Wage Determination (published with bid documents).

Contracts awarded under these contract documents in excess of \$150,000 shall be required to post a performance bond or equivalent security and a Payment bond for contracts over \$25,000. The successful bidder will be required to furnish evidence of Worker's Compensation and Liability Insurance in the favor and amount as required by these contract documents.

The successful bidder will be required to comply with all nondiscrimination laws and regulations pursuant to the provisions of these contract documents.

TBOTW reserves the right to postpone, accept or reject any all bids as TBOTW deems in its own best interest, subject to the terms and provisions of the contract documents.

For any additional information please contact The Bridge Over Troubled Waters 713-472-0753 or Texas-IBI Group 281-286-6605

Publish Date: Sunday, 21 June 2020 and Sunday, 28 June 2020

### Notice to Creditors Notice to Creditors Notice to Creditors

#### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Original Letters Testamentary for the **Estate of Edward F. Charlesworth, Deceased**, were issued on **June 1, 2020**, under Docket No. 20-CPR-034235, in the County Court at Law No. Four (4) of Fort Bend County, Texas to: **Joan M. Charlesworth**, Independent Executor. The residence of **Joan M. Charlesworth** is in Fort Bend County, Texas, and her address is c/o **NICOLE E. PIERCE, COVELER & PEELER, P.C., 820 Gessner, Suite 1710, Houston, Texas 77024**.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and manner prescribed by law.

**DATED** this the 16th day of June, 2020.

/s/

Nicole E. Pierce  
**COVELER & PEELER, P.C.**  
Two Memorial City Plaza  
820 Gessner, Suite 1710  
Houston, Texas 77024  
Telephone: (713) 984-8222  
Facsimile: (713) 984-0670

**ATTORNEY FOR THE ESTATE OF EDWARD F. CHARLESWORTH, DECEASED**

### Legals/Public Notices Legals/Public Notices Legals/Public Notices

#### REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS

**2020 Matzke Road: Site Improvement Package**  
**CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS ISD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Cypress-Fairbanks ISD Proposal No. 20-04-5471R-RFP**

The Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District will accept Base Competitive Sealed Proposals until 2:00 P.M. on Thursday, July 16, 2020 at the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Facilities and Construction Office, 11430-B Perry Road, Houston, Texas 77064 for the 2020 Matzke Road: Site Improvement Package project. A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. at the above location. Proposal Evaluation Criteria are published in the "Instructions to Offerors" section of the proposal documents. Plans and specifications will be released after Monday, June 22, 2020, and are available to general contractors from the following address upon deposit of \$150.00 per set and submittal of a fully executed Contractor's Qualification Statement, AIA Document A305 to: PBK Architects, Inc., 11 Greenway Plaza, 22nd Floor, Houston, Texas 77046, 713-965-0608. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all proposals.

Cello Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless is proposing to construct A small cell monopole communication towers in the vicinity of Houston, Harris County, TX. The heights and locations for the proposed installations are as follows: 41.1-foot tower located at the approx. vicinity of the 16608 2/3 Park Row Drive, 77084, Lat: [29.47 21.894]. Long: [-95.40 17.0184]. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Tyler, [t.hufnal@trileaf.com](mailto:t.hufnal@trileaf.com), 2550 S IH 35, Suite 200, Austin, Texas 78704, 512-519-9388.



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### Legal Bids & Proposals

#### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) is planning to issue the procurement documents listed in this advertisement.

**RFP No. 4020000169:** Audit Tracking Software. Solicitation will be available on or about 06/18/2020.

**RFQ No. 4020000167:** IH-10 Inner Katy Bus Rapid Transit Engineering Consultant Services. Solicitation will be available on or about 06/25/2020. Prospective bidders/proposers can view and download these solicitations by visiting METRO's website at <https://www.ridemetroapp.org/procurement/>

If you are unable to download the documents or are having difficulty, please contact METRO Plan and Bid Room at (713) 739-4881.

#### NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) is planning to issue the procurement documents listed in this advertisement.

**IFB No. 4020000143:** Purchase of Rail Line Pedestrian Collapsible Poles. Solicitation will be available on or about 6/16/2020. Prospective bidders/proposers can view and download these solicitations by visiting METRO's website at <https://www.ridemetroapp.org/procurement/>

If you are unable to download the documents or are having difficulty, please contact METRO Plan and Bid Room at (713) 739-4881.



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