

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Public Inquiry on Changes Associated
with the Delivering for America Plan

Docket No. PI2023-4

CHAIRMAN'S INFORMATION REQUEST NO. 7

(Issued December 20, 2023)

As part of its Delivering for America (DFA) Plan, the Postal Service recently announced several initiatives involving changes to its processing and delivery network, some of which may implicate statutory provisions related to Postal Service costs, service performance, or changes in the nature of service.¹

To clarify information related to these initiatives and the Postal Service's material filed in response to requests for information about the initiatives,² the Postal Service is requested to provide a written response to the following questions. The responses should be provided as soon as they are developed, but no later than January 2, 2024.

¹ See Notice and Order Initiating Public Inquiry Associated with the Delivering for America Plan, April 20, 2023 (Order No. 6488); see also United States Postal Service, Delivering for America: Our Vision and Ten-Year Plan to Achieve Financial Sustainability and Service Excellence, March 23, 2021, available at https://about.usps.com/what/strategic-plans/delivering-for-america/assets/USPS_Delivering-For-America.pdf (DFA Plan).

² See Responses of the United States Postal Service to Questions 1-5 of Chairman's Information Request No. 1, July 19, 2023 (Response to CHIR No. 1); Responses of the United States Postal Service to Questions 1-6 of Chairman's Information Request No. 2, August 22, 2023; Responses of the United States Postal Service to Questions 1-5 of Chairman's Information Request No. 3, September 12, 2023; Responses of the United States Postal Service to Questions 1-4 of Chairman's Information Request No. 4, October 23, 2023 (Response to CHIR No. 4); Responses of the United States Postal Service to Questions 1-12 of Chairman's Information Request No. 5, December 4, 2023 (Response to CHIR No. 5).

1. For each scheduled transportation trip between mail processing facilities, please provide the information requested in subparts a. through j. If any of the requested information is not available for a trip or a group of trips, please explain.
 - a. Route ID
 - b. Whether trip is a Highway Contract Route (HCR) trip or a Postal Vehicle Services (PVS) trip
 - c. Facility ID and the names of the origin and destination facilities for each trip, including any applicable stops during this trip
 - d. Trip Miles
 - e. Trip Number as recorded in the Transportation Contract Support System (TCSS) database³
 - f. Trip Purpose (*i.e.*, mail class(es) carried on each trip)⁴
 - g. Annual Trip Frequency as recorded in the TCSS⁵
 - h. Rate per Mile
 - i. Annual Cost
 - j. Average percent utilization of available vehicle capacity for the trip, as recorded in the Transportation Information Management Evaluation System (TIMES)⁶

³ See, e.g., Docket No. N2012-1, Library Reference USPS-LR-N2012-1/11, December 5, 2011, Excel file "Transportation Spreadsheets LR.xls," tab "Plant to Plant Trips" (Plant to Plant Trips), column "C;" see also Docket No. N2012-1, Library Reference USPS-LR-N2012-1/11, December 5, 2011, N2012-1 LR11 Preface, at 1 (N2012-1 LR11 Preface).

⁴ See Plant to Plant Trips, column "K."

⁵ See Plant to Plant Trips, column "D."

⁶ See, e.g., N2012-1 LR11 Preface at 2.

2. For each scheduled transportation trip between a mail processing facility (e.g., processing and distribution center, regional processing and distribution centers, local processing centers) and a delivery facility (e.g., destination delivery unit, sorting and delivery center (S&DC)), please provide the information requested in subparts a. through i. If any of the requested information is not available for a trip or a group of trips, please explain.
 - a. Route ID
 - b. Whether a trip is an HCR or PVS trip
 - c. Facility ID and the names of the origin and destination facilities for the trip, including any applicable stops during this trip
 - d. Trip Miles
 - e. Trip Number as recorded in the TCSS database
 - f. Annual trip frequency, as recorded in the TCSS database
 - g. Rate per Mile
 - h. Annual Cost
 - i. Average percent utilization of available vehicle capacity for the trip, as recorded in the TIMES
3. Please refer to Response to CHIR No. 1, question 1, which states: “[t]he Postal Service is systematically assessing this network to identify locations where it makes sense to take underutilized and eroding existing facilities to create ... S&DCs ...” Please provide the criteria used to identify the facilities for conversion to S&DCs. In the response, please include any relevant workpapers with the underlying analysis. If such workpapers are not available, please explain.
4. Please refer to Library Reference USPS-LR-PI-2023-4-NP4, October 23, 2023, Excel file “SDC-RPDC-LPC+Summary+NONPUBLIC.xlsx,” tab “Current S&DCs”

(Current S&DCs tab) provided in Response to CHIR No. 4, question 1. For each facility in the Current S&DCs tab that has had their carrier routes removed, please provide the information requested in subparts a. through c.

- a. Please provide descriptions of functions remaining at each facility and include a list of corresponding Labor Distribution Codes.
 - b. Please explain how each facility has been repurposed after the removal of carrier routes. If the facility has not been repurposed, please explain. In the response, please include an estimate of how much additional square footage is currently unutilized for each facility, due to the transfer of delivery functions to S&DCs.
 - c. For each facility, please provide the number of carriers and clerks that have relocated or terminated upon removal of carrier routes and the number of clerks and carriers remaining at the facility.
5. Please refer to Response to CHIR No. 1, question 1, which states that S&DCs will serve as “[t]ransfer Hubs for smaller Delivery Units that could not be logically consolidated and for Post Offices within a particular area, both for mail and packages going to smaller Delivery Units for delivery, and for mail and packages that have been entered at Post Offices.”
- a. Please discuss all criteria used, including financial considerations, to determine which S&DCs will serve as transfer hubs.
 - b. For those S&DCs listed in the Current S&DCs tab, please identify which facilities also serve as transfer hubs.
 - c. For any S&DCs that serve as transfer hubs and are not listed in the Current S&DCs tab please provide the following information:
 - i. Facility ID
 - ii. Finance number

- iii. Surface Visibility Site ID (if different from the Facility ID)
 - iv. Geographical coordinates identifying the location of each facility (longitude and latitude)
 - v. Facility physical address including the 5-digit ZIP Code
6. The Postal Service explains that the logistics career insourcing initiative converts HCR transportation to PVS transportation and that the Postal Service “engages in modeling ... which is also used to support HCR to PVS conversion decisions.” Response to CHIR No. 5, question 5.
- a. Please provide workpapers and analysis detailing the referenced modeling and discuss other considerations that are used to support HCR to PVS conversion decisions. If no workpapers or analysis are available, please explain.
 - b. Please provide estimates of transportation cost savings projected for the logistics career insourcing initiative. In the response, please explain how converting HCR transportation to PVS transportation will contribute to cost savings. If no cost savings have been identified, please explain.
 - c. Please provide a list of HCR route IDs that are being considered for conversion from HCR transportation to PVS transportation.
7. Please refer to OIG Report No. 20-144-R20⁷ and OIG Report No. RISC-WP-22-002⁸ that identify and discuss the truck driver employment shortage. Please confirm that the Postal Service has accounted for this shortage and has continued implementing the recommendations identified in the reports. If

⁷ United States Postal Service, Office of Inspector General, Report No. 20-144-R20, Transportation Network Optimization and Service Performance, June 5, 2020, at 19 (OIG Report No. 20-144-R20).

⁸ United States Postal Service, Office of Inspector General, Report No. RISC-WP-22-002, The Truck Driver Shortage: Implications for the Postal Service, March 7, 2022, at 1-2 (OIG Report No. RISC-WP-22-002).

confirmed, please describe how the Postal Service has addressed this shortage and include any relevant workpapers or analysis with your response. If not confirmed or partially confirmed, please explain.

By the Chairman.

Michael Kubayanda