

CORPUS CHRISTI METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL- June 16, 2008 MAJOR PROJECT IMPACT ANALYSIS

I. Purpose

The Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization is seeking a qualified consultant to conduct a Major Project Impact Analysis. The analysis would provide a comprehensive review and operations analysis of projects that will be of regional significance and identify their individual and collective impact on the rail and road network in the MPO study area of Nueces and San Patricio Counties. Projects such as the La Quinta Container Facility, Joe Fulton Trade Corridor and Robstown intermodal facilities will have connectivity, freight, and hazardous cargo and congestion implications. This project is part of the Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization's FY 2008-2009 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Subtask 5.3.

II. Qualifications Statement Content

Qualification statements must address the following:

A. Firm and Staff Experience

1. Describe your agency's experience in providing the type of service described in the Scope of Work, citing specific examples. Indicate the number of years of experience your firm has had in performing similar services.
2. Provide brief summary of experience of all staff that will be involved with this project.

B. Demonstrated Past Performance Success

1. Provide a list of no more than five current references by project including name of entity work performed for, contact person, title, address, and phone number.
2. At your discretion, enclose a printed or electronic copy or a summary of a completed publicly funded project.

C. Current Workload

1. Provide a list of ongoing projects and those that your firm expects to begin in the next three months.

D. Signature Sheet and Assurances

1. The proposal shall be signed by an authorized official and shall contain a statement to the effect that the proposal is a firm proposal until withdrawn by the submitting organization or individual. The proposal shall provide the name, title, address, and telephone number of the individual(s) with authority to negotiate during the period of proposal evaluation. Verification of authority shall be retained by the MPO in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal Laws and Regulations.
2. The proposal must contain a signed copy of the attached assurances to be evaluated. The consultant acknowledges that all assurances shall be incorporated by reference into any contract entered into by and between the MPO and the consultant.

III. Scope of Work

Consultant will meet with MPO staff to finalize the study details, deliverables, schedule and presentations prior to initiating the study.

Task 1 - Road and Rail Infrastructure in the Region

Task 1.1 - Freight Rail System

The objective of this task is to describe the status of the regional freight-rail system by assembling a clear picture of the current system serving the Nueces and San Patricio area. To ensure that this task considers the latest information from rail service providers, the consultant will interview Class I and short-line operators.

The deliverable will be documentation and a GIS layer in ArcView that illustrates the active and inactive rail right-of-way and sidings in the two-county area.

Task 1.2 - Freight-roadway System

The objective of this task is to describe the status of the regional freight-roadway system by assembling a clear picture of the current network serving the Nueces and San Patricio area. To ensure that this task considers the latest information currently available from TxDOT area engineers, planning staff and the MPO.

Task 2 - Needs and Constraints

Task 2.1 - Needs and Constraints

The objective of this task is to identify the institutional, operational, and infrastructure constraints to the efficient and safe movement of freight over the rail and road system. The consultant will document current and anticipated traffic demand and will investigate two major markets: national freight and import container traffic as well as State and regional freight.

2.1.1 – For the rail network the consultant will:

- Evaluate rail line capacity;
- Identify terminals and evaluate terminal capacity;
- Evaluate storage capacity in terms of cars;
- Evaluate branch line capacity;
- Examine track and signal configuration, speed limits, and grades;
- Evaluate the purpose and need of reduced speed sections;
- Determine the efficiency and effectiveness of mainline intersections and connections (e.g. Odem, Sinton and ;
- Evaluate the capacity and effectiveness of current and proposed access to La Quinta, Joe Fulton Trade Corridor ,the Robstown Trade Processing and Inland Center, and Naval Station Ingleside sight for rail;
- Identify issues that have an impact on public safety and convenience;

2.1.2 - For the road network the consultant will:

- Evaluate current and projected capacity of the major roadways serving the proposed facilities;
- Evaluate current and proposed access to La Quinta, Joe Fulton Trade Corridor, the Robstown Trade Processing and Inland Center, and Naval Station Ingleside sight from existing roadways;
- Evaluate connectivity to the proposed I-69;
- Identify current network design issues that would have a negative impact on the efficient and safe movement of freight in the two-county area.

Task 2.2 - List of Capacity Improvement Projects

The objective of this task is to create a list of rail and roadway capacity, efficiency and safety improvement projects that will serve major freight traffic generators such as La Quinta, Joe Fulton Trade Corridor, the Robstown Trade Processing and Inland Center, and Naval Station Ingleside. The list will provide a starting point for assembling and organizing options for 5 and 15-year staged strategic plans. The list of capacity improvement projects will be developed in consultation with other agencies planning public private investment such as the TxDOT, the MPO, rail districts, the port and other key stakeholders.

The deliverable will be documentation and a GIS layer in ArcView that illustrates the needs, constraints and potential projects in the two-county area.

Task 3 - Strategies and Improvements

Task 3.1 - Freight Rail

The objective of this task is to identify operation strategies and improvements to increase rail system capacity that will serve major freight traffic generators such as La Quinta, Joe Fulton Trade Corridor, the Robstown Trade Processing and Inland Center, Naval Station Ingleside and other Port of Corpus Christi (POCC) facilities. As traffic approaches capacity, operations may need to be streamlined to minimize any potential loss of mobility. This task will look at the current and expected operating practices of the individual freight railroads, terminals, and ports, but will also look at the cumulative system-level effects of operating practices. To identify operations strategies and improvements to increase rail system capacity, the consultant will help the MPO understand how the railroads, ports, and regional authorities might develop and implement operations strategies.

The consultant will determine current operating practices using data from prior studies, field observations, and interviews with local terminal and port management and railroad control centers managers (BNSF in Fort Worth, KCS in Kansas City and UP in Omaha), to determine the current utilization rate of the infrastructure using the capacity data generated by Task 2. This will include an examination of interchange operations efficiencies at the POCC.

The consultant will explore operations strategies that could improve the utilization rate without increasing infrastructure investment. Examples might include revising interchange practices between short-line and main-line railroads; operating only full-length 7,200-foot trains where they can be accommodated; considering joint operations, having the short-line railroads pre-block traffic into longer train lengths for the trunk carrier and delivering directly to a major terminal, etc.

The consultant will explore capital investments - by the railroads, ports, and the public sector - that would improve operations and the exploitation rate. Examples might include expanding port on-dock intermodal tracks to allow direct arrival and departure of trains, reducing the need for staging tracks and allowing them to turn more trains in a given 24-hour period; adding sidings for storage in transit, using the sidings to meter out trains once they clear congested terminals and before entering the next terminal; adding and lengthening sidings

The deliverable will be documentation and a possible GIS layer in ArcView that illustrates the recommended operational changes and potential projects in the two-county area

Task 3.2 - Roadway

The objective of this task is to identify operation strategies and improvements to increase the road network capacity that will serve major freight traffic generators such as La Quinta, Joe Fulton Trade Corridor, the Robstown Trade Processing and Inland Center, and Naval Station Ingleside. As traffic approaches capacity, operations may need to be streamlined to minimize any potential loss of mobility. This task will identify possible operations strategies and design considerations that may increase system capacity, improve safety and reduce the impact on air quality. This task must consider the proposed I-69 and possible Southside Mobility Corridor. The consultant will help the MPO understand how the railroads, ports, and regional authorities might develop and implement these operations strategies.

The deliverable will be documentation and a possible GIS layer in ArcView that illustrates the recommended operational changes and potential projects in the two-county area.

Task 4 – Funding Opportunities for Rail Improvements

The objective of this task is to identify public or private national or state initiatives and funding opportunities for rail improvement projects. This will be accomplished through a high-level scan. The deliverable will be a technical memorandum identifying initiatives and funding opportunities for regional rail improvement projects

IV. Proposal Content

1) Qualifications Statement

- Provide the information requested in Qualifications Statement Content.

2) Project Approach

- Using the scope of work provided above, detail the scope of services to be provided. Relevant additions or deletions to the Scope of Work may be submitted with an explanation as to why the addition or deletion is recommended.
- Provide a timeline for completion of the tasks and the total project.

V. Proposal Submission

Proposals should be received before but no later than 5:00 p.m. CST, July 14, 2008. The proposal package should be labeled, "Major Project Impact Analysis". A minimum of four (4) printed and one (1) electronic copy should be enclosed and addressed to:

Technical Advisory Committee
Corpus Christi Metropolitan Planning Organization
5151 Flynn Parkway, Suite 404
Corpus Christi, TX 78411

VI. Evaluation Criteria

The Corpus Christi MPO Technical Advisory Committee will evaluate proposals. Each proposal will be evaluated according to the following factors:

- A. Firm and staff experience and technical competence relative to the task requirements
 1. Experience of the prime consultant(s) and sub-consultant(s)
 2. Experience of the project manager
 3. Experience of other assigned individuals
 4. Experience with projects similar to the proposed scope of work
- B. Project Approach
 1. Understanding of federal requirements and regulations
 2. Respondent's proposed methodology and approach
 3. General organization and clarity of the proposal

VII. Selection Procedure

A panel composed of MPO Technical Advisory Committee members will review the proposals make a recommendation to the Technical Advisory Committee on July 17, 2008. The Technical Advisory Committee will make a recommendation to the Transportation Policy Committee of the firm selected to provide this study. The MPO reserves the right to request additional data or oral discussions and presentations in support of the written proposal. Contracts shall be awarded based on the basis of what is in the best interest of the MPO, content and

other information requested in the RFP. The MPO will notify proposal applicants of their contract award status no later than August 7, 2008.

VIII. Contract Duration

A notice to proceed will be issued on or before August 7, 2008. The MPO requires that the consultant submit monthly progress reports. The project final draft should be completed by January 2009.

IX. Reports and Presentations

The Consultant will be required to prepare and submit a complete written report containing all findings. Ten (10) copies of the final report shall be submitted to the MPO along with an electronic version (Word or PDF file). A presentation to the Technical Advisory Committee may be requested after submittal of the final report.

X. Budget

The source of funding for the study is Federal and State funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and TxDOT and the project is subject to the availability of funds. The 2008-2009 Unified Planning Work Program as amended indicates an amount not to exceed \$130,000 for this subtask and is pending approval of the FHWA and FTA.

ASSURANCES for Federally Funded Projects

Debarment/Suspension

The MPO policy committee and fiscal agent are prohibited from making any award or permitting any award to any party which is debarred or suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in federal assistance programs under Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension.

The MPO policy committee and fiscal agent shall require any party to a subcontract or purchase order awarded under this contract as specified in Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 29 (Debarment and Suspension) to certify its eligibility to receive federal funds and, when requested by the department, to furnish a copy of the certification.

Equal Employment Opportunity

The MPO policy committee and fiscal agent agree to comply with Executive Order 11246 entitled "Equal Employment Opportunity" as amended by Executive Order 11375 and as supplemented in Department of Labor Regulations (41CFR 60).

Article 21. Nondiscrimination

During the performance of this contract, the MPO policy committee and fiscal agent, its assigns and successors in interest, agree as follows:

1. **Compliance with Regulations:** The MPO policy committee and fiscal agent shall comply with the regulations relative to nondiscrimination in federally assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 21 and Title 26, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 710.405(b), as they may be amended from time to time (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations), which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract.
2. **Nondiscrimination:** The MPO policy committee and fiscal agent, with regard to the work performed by it during the contract, shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including procurement of materials and leases of equipment. The MPO policy committee and fiscal agent shall not participate either directly or indirectly in the discrimination prohibited by Section 21.5 and Part 710.405(b) or the Regulations, including employment practices when the contract covers a program set forth in Appendix B of the Regulations.
3. **Solicitations for Subcontracts, Including Procurement of Materials and Equipment:** In all solicitations either by competitive bidding or negotiation made by the MPO policy committee or fiscal agent for work to be performed under a subcontract, including procurement of materials or leases of equipment, each potential subcontractor or supplier shall be notified by the MPO policy committee or fiscal agent obligations under this contract and the Regulations relative to nondiscrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.
4. **Information and Reports:** The MPO policy committee and fiscal agent shall provide all information and reports required by the Regulations, or directives issued pursuant thereto, and shall permit access to its books, records, accounts, other sources of information, and its facilities as may be determined by the department or the U.S. Department of Transportation to be pertinent to ascertain compliance with such

regulations or directives. Where any information required of the MPO policy committee or fiscal agent is in the exclusive possession of another who fails or refuses to furnish this information, the MPO policy committee or fiscal agent shall so certify to the department or the U.S. Department of Transportation as appropriate, and shall set forth what efforts it had made to obtain the information.

5. **Sanctions for Noncompliance:** In the event of MPO policy committee or fiscal agent noncompliance with the nondiscrimination provisions of this contract the department shall impose such contract sanctions as it or the U.S. Department of Transportation may determine to be appropriate, including but not limited to:
 - * withholding of payments to the MPO policy committee or fiscal agent under the contract until the MPO policy committee and fiscal agent comply, and/or
 - * cancellation, termination, or suspension of the contract in whole or in part
6. **Incorporation of Provisions:** The MPO policy committee and fiscal agent shall include the provisions of paragraphs 1 through 6 in every subcontract, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment, unless exempt by the Regulations or directives issued pursuant thereto. The MPO policy committee and fiscal agent shall take such action with respect to any subcontract or procurement as the department may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance; provided, however, in that event, an MPO policy committee or fiscal agent may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability

The MPO policy committee and fiscal agent agree that no otherwise qualified disabled person shall, solely by reason of his disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subject to discrimination under the project. The MPO policy committee and fiscal agent shall insure that all fixed facility construction or alteration and all new equipment included in the project comply with applicable regulations regarding Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Programs and Activities Receiving or Benefiting from Federal Financial Assistance, set forth at 49 CFR Part 27, and any amendments thereto.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Requirements

It is the policy of the U.S. Department of Transportation that Minority Business Enterprises as defined in 49 CFR 26, shall have the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts financed in whole or in part with Federal funds. Consequently the Minority Business Enterprise requirements of 49 CFR 26, apply to this contract as follows.

- * The MPO policy committee and fiscal agent agree to insure that Minority Business Enterprises as defined in 49 CFR 26, have the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts and subcontracts financed in whole or in part with Federal funds. In this regard, the MPO policy committee and fiscal agent shall take all necessary and reasonable steps in accordance with 49 CFR 26, to insure that Minority Business Enterprise have the maximum opportunity to compete for and perform contracts.
- * The MPO policy committee and fiscal agent and any subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the award and performance of contracts funded in whole or in part with federal funds.

These requirements shall be physically included in any subcontract.

Failure to carry out the requirements set forth above shall constitute a breach of contract and, after notification of the department, may result in termination of the contract by the department or such remedy as the department deems appropriate.

Control of Drug Use

The MPO policy committee and fiscal agent agree to comply with the terms of the Federal Transit Administration regulation, "Control of Drug Use in Mass Transportation Operations," set forth at 49 CFR Part 653.

Restrictions on Lobbying

Pursuant to Section 319 of Public Law 101-121, which generally prohibits recipients of Federal Funds from using those monies for lobbying purposes, the MPO policy committee and fiscal agent shall comply with the Special Provision "New Restrictions on Lobbying."

Distribution of Products

The MPO policy committee and fiscal agent will provide a number of copies to be specified by the department of all information, reports, proposals, brochures, summaries, written conclusions, graphic presentations, and similar materials developed by the MPO policy committee, fiscal agent and staff and financed in whole or in part as provided herein. All reports published by the MPO policy committee shall contain a prominent credit reference to the department by stating:

Prepared in cooperation with the US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration and the Texas Department of Transportation.

Upon completion or termination of this contract, all documents prepared by the MPO policy committee, or furnished to the MPO policy committee, fiscal agent and staff by the department shall be delivered to the department. All such documents, photographs, calculations, programs, and other data prepared or used under this contract may be used by the department without restriction or limitation of further use.

Consultant acknowledges all of the assurances set forth by the Corpus Christi MPO and will comply with all requirements.

Authorized Signature

_____ Name

_____ Title

_____ Date