



REQUESTS FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)
IN-TOWN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

Statements Of Qualifications (SOQ) for the following contract will be received by the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham (RPCGB), in the RPCGB Office of the Center for Regional Planning and Design located in Suite 200, 1731 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, Alabama until 12 noon, Local Time, November 23, 2009:

PROJECT MANAGER
for
IN-TOWN TRANSIT PARTNERSHIP DESIGN-BUILD PROJECT
Jefferson County, Alabama
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goals – 15%

An Informational Meeting will be held in the First Floor Conference Room of the Center for Regional Planning and Design, 1731 1st Avenue North, Birmingham, Alabama, 35203 at 1:00 PM, Local Time on Wednesday, November 4, 2009 to discuss the project and the RFQ procurement procedure. Interested submitters, subcontractors, and suppliers are encouraged to attend. However only two (2) people per organization may attend.

The RPCGB is issuing this RFQ to solicit proposals from a professional consultant (Proposer) with extensive knowledge and experience in project management, design, and construction of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) solution for urban mobility. The RPCGB is proceeding with plans for the design and construction of a BRT service between the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex (BJCC), the downtown business and financial district, the Civil Rights District, the medical center district, and the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) medical and educational facilities, as well as establish reliable and timely neighborhood service in the immediate surrounding areas. The project is located in the City of Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama. The project contract period is estimated at 24 months from date of Notice to Proceed with an expected start date of March 2010.

The BRT service will have the following characteristics:

- Enhanced, rubber-tired, low-floor, specially-branded transit vehicles that will be individually powered as either diesel or an alternative fuel source such as compressed natural gas (CNG) or hybrid electric;
- Dedicated, transit-only lanes using distinct pavement markings for most of the project alignment;
- Signal priority for transit;
- Transit stops with 75-foot-long, low-floored platforms; and
- Improved shelters with next vehicle arrival displays at the stops.

- Transit support of streetscaping

A conceptual video of the project in operation and a map showing the neighborhoods, activity centers, and the existing transportation system can be found at <http://www.itp-project.com/>. Additional project details can be found in the full RFQ package.

RFQ Documents must be requested from:

Yvonne Murray
Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Phone: (205) 264-8428
Fax: (205) 328-3304
YMurray@RPCGB.org

The Design-Build procurement process consists of the following two phases:

1. Request for Qualifications that determines the Short-List firms; and
2. Request for Proposals (RFP) from the Short-List firms (pending funding).

Request for Qualifications will be available October 19, 2009. Final selection and award of the contract is expected to occur March, 2010. A draft version of the Request for Proposals will be available on or about January 2010. It is RPCGB's intent to generate a short-list of firms to submit proposals. RPCGB's goal is to have project completion by March 2012.

Depending on the number and the quality of the SOQs received, a decision may be made to request Oral Interviews and/or full proposals from a short list of the responding firms. Staff recommendations are subject to approval by the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham Board of Directors.

Upon opening of submissions, only the names of the Proposers will be made public. Upon the completion of review, evaluation and selection process, all other data will become public, except for trade secret information.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

SOQs must include the following:

- Cover letter that identifies the Proposer and describes their core competencies. Contact information, including a single point of contact and e-mail address shall be listed.
- One to three page summary of the Proposer's understanding of the project and base work plan outline.
- Identification of the Proposer's years of experience, percent time available, and hourly billing rates.
- A description of the knowledge, experience, and results achieved by the Proposer in each of the following areas:
 - Project management services for large scale public facility project planning, design and construction
 - Public project operations, administration, organization and governance

- Public transit project development, construction and finance
- Public-private partnership development of large scale public projects
- State/Federal environmental review process
- Multi-jurisdictional collaboration and project development
- Neighborhood participation and public input
- Minimum of three client references with current contact information, along with client references from local units of government.
- Resume(s) including educational and professional project management experience relevant to this project for all managerial staff and any additionally pertinent staff.
- Identify the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and Small Business Enterprise team members and detail their specific roles.

NOTES

The RPCGB hereby notifies all submitters that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, creed, color, sex, and/or national origin in consideration for an award.

The RPCGB accepts DBE certifications through the Alabama Department of Transportation. The RPCGB will also accept DBE certifications from any other Unified Certification Program (UCP) or DOT recipient from another state that follows the certification procedures in strict conformance with 49 CFR Part 26.

The Proposer is responsible for disclosing all potential organizational conflicts of interest in its SOQ. A potential organizational conflict of interest occurs when consultants and/or subcontractors assisted the RPCGB in the preparations of this RFQ or the RFP document. As required by 23 CFR 636.116, said firms will not be allowed to participate as a Proposer or a member of a Proposer in response to this RFQ/RFP.

The issuance of this RFQ constitutes only an invitation to submit proposals to the RPCGB. It is not to be construed as an official and customary request for bids, but as a means by which the RPCGB can facilitate the acquisition of services. Any proposal or information submitted as provided herein constitutes a suggestion to negotiate and NOT A BID or an offer for a future binding contract.

Nothing in the RFQ shall be construed to imply an obligation of any kind by the RPCGB. The RPCGB reserves the right to determine, in its sole and absolute discretion, whether any aspect of the proposal satisfactorily meets the criteria established in this RFQ, the right to seek clarification from any Proposer(s), the right to negotiate with any Proposer(s) whether or not they submitted a proposal, the right to reject any or all proposals with or without cause, and the right to cancel and/or amend, in part or entirely, the RFQ. The RPCGB reserves the right to accept or reject late responses at its sole discretion.

The RPCGB is not responsible for any costs incurred in connection with this RFQ. Proposer shall bear all costs associated with proposal preparation, submission and attendance at presentation interviews or any other activity associated with this RFQ. Submission of a proposal as provided herein shall neither obligate nor entitle a prospective Proposer to enter into an Agreement with the RPCGB.

It is understood that any proposal received and evaluated by RPCGB can be used as a basis for direct negotiation of the cost and terms of a contract between RPCGB and the particular Proposer submitting such a proposal. RPCGB reserves the right to negotiate pertinent contract terms concurrently with any number of Proposers as it deems in its best interest, whether or not such Proposer that RPCGB reserves the right to accept any proposal, to reject any and all proposals and to waive any irregularities or informalities that RPCGB deems in its best interest.

Evaluation of proposals by staff, technical advisory committees, or by any other group are advisory only, RPCGB may consider or reject such evaluation(s) for any or all proposals, such evaluations are for the sole benefit of RPCGB, and as such, they are not binding upon RPCGB nor may they be relied upon in any way by a Proposer.

A Proposer should submit its proposal in the most favorable terms of costs and programmatic considerations and in a complete and understandable form. RPCGB reserves the right to request additional data, oral discussion, or a presentation in support of the written proposal. RPCGB is not obligated to respond to any proposal submitted nor is it legally bound in any manner whatsoever by the submission of a proposal. It is the intention of RPCGB to enter into a contract with the Proposer with which RPCGB can make the most satisfactory arrangements for its needs. In the event that this RFQ is withdrawn by RPCGB for any reason, including but not limited to, the failure of any of those things or events set forth herein to occur, RPCGB shall have no liability to any Proposers for any costs or expenses incurred in connection with this RFQ or otherwise.

All proposals submitted shall become the property of RPCGB and will not be returned. RPCGB reserves the right to use any or all Proposer ideas presented. Selection or rejection of the proposal does not affect this right.

It is anticipated, but not yet determined, that following development and adoption of the work plan prepared by the consultant, additional RFQs/RFPs will be issued for specific services necessary to fully implement the work plan including, but not limited to, planning, engineering, design, environmental analysis, construction and other services that may be required.

The Work performed under this contract may be funded, in whole or in part, with Federal Aid. Funding is dependent on the final requirements of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). It is the intent of the RPCGB to short-list for this Contract subject to the determination of the detailed requirements of that legislation. However, the RFP phase for the contract will be conditioned upon the availability of ARRA funds and the ability of this contract to meet any special requirements of the bill.

ARRA contains reporting requirements above and beyond normally required reporting. The details of the reporting requirements will be part of the RFP.

When it is in the best interest of the Agency, RPCGB may extend the time and place for the submittal of SOQs from that described above, on not less than two calendar days' notice by certified delivery, facsimile transmission, or by other verifiable electronic means to those who obtained copies of the RFQ.

Any questions regarding this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) should be submitted by email to YMurray@RPCGB.org or by U.S. mail to the address below before 12 noon on Friday, October 30, 2009. Questions will be answered at the informational meeting held November 4, 2009.

Proposals may be sent via e-mail, U.S. mail, or delivery to:

Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham

Attn: Yvonne Murray

1731 1st Avenue North, Suite 200

Birmingham, Alabama 35203

Phone: (205) 264-8428

Fax: (205) 328-3304

YMurray@RPCGB.org