

GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

REQUEST for LETTERS of INTEREST (RFLOI)

LAPP PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

ADDENDUM No.1

January 4, 2024

TITLE: PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

ISSUE DATE: 12/15/2023

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: 1/15/2024

ISSUING AGENCY: GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The purpose of this Addendum is to provide clarifications to the RFLOI documents dated 12/15/2023 for the solicitation referenced above. Firms shall review the addendum work and requirements in detail and incorporate any effects the addendum may have in their letter of interest.

The Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization will not be held liable if a particular firm doesn't receive this addendum. All requirements of the RFLOI remain unchanged excepted as cited herein.

QUESTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

QUESTION 1 Is there an expected budget for this project, over a two-year period?

CLARIFICATION 1 The maximum budgeted amount for this scope of work is \$364,000.00.

QUESTION 2 On RFLOI Pages 1-3, the MPO requires five copies of the proposal and an Electronic copy on a hard drive to be submitted. Please confirm that one PDF submitted as an attachment to an email [to daniel.odom@wpcog.org] is acceptable in lieu of the hard copies.

CLARIFICATION 2 A PDF submitted as an attachment to an email is acceptable.

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THE GREATER HICKORY MPO DESIRES TO ENGAGE PRIVATE CONSULTING FIRMS FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING THE FULL RANGE OF PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SUPPORT REQUIRED FOR THE GREATER HICKORY MPO.

SYNOPSIS

SUBCONSULTANTS ARE NOT PERMITTED UNDER THIS CONTRACT.

This contract shall be reimbursed with Federal-aid funding through the North Carolina Department of Transportation (hereinafter referred to as the Department). The solicitation, selection, and negotiation of a contract shall be conducted in accordance with all Department requirements and guidelines.

The primary firm shall be pre-qualified by the Department to perform ALL of the Discipline Codes listed below for the GREATER HICKORY MPO. Discipline Codes required are:

- 00171 – Public Involvement
- 00141 – Multimodal Transportation Planning

WORK CODES for each primary firm **SHALL** be listed on the respective RS-2 FORMS (see section ‘SUBMISSION ORGANIZATION AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS’).

Electronic LOIs should be submitted in .pdf format using software such as Adobe, CutePDF PDF Writer, Docudesk deskPDF, etc.

LOIs SHALL be received ELECTRONICALLY, BY MAIL, OR HAND DELIVERY no later than 4:00 PM JANUARY 15, 2024

The address for electronic deliveries is: daniel.odom@wpcog.org

The address for mailings is:

Daniel Odom, Transportation Projects Coordinator
Western Piedmont Council of Governments
1880 Second Ave NW,

The address for hand-deliveries is:

Daniel Odom, Transportation Projects Coordinator
Western Piedmont Council of Governments
1880 Second Ave NW,
Hickory, NC, 28601

LOIs received after this deadline will not be considered.

Except as provided below any firm wishing to be considered must be properly registered with the Office of the Secretary of State and with the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors. Any firm proposing to use corporate subsidiaries or subcontractors must include a statement that these companies are properly registered with the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors and/or the NC Board for Licensing of Geologists. The Engineers performing the work and in responsible charge of the work must be registered Professional Engineers in the State of North Carolina and must have a good ethical and professional standing. It will be the responsibility of the selected private firm to verify the registration of any corporate subsidiary or subcontractor prior to submitting a Letter of Interest. Firms which are not providing engineering services need not be registered with the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors. Some of the services being solicited may not require a license. It is the responsibility of each firm to adhere to all laws of the State of North Carolina.

The firm must have the financial ability to undertake the work and assume the liability. The selected firm(s) will be required to furnish proof of Professional Liability insurance coverage in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000.00. The firm(s) must have an adequate accounting system to identify costs chargeable to the project.

SCOPE OF WORK

The GREATER HICKORY MPO is soliciting proposals for the services of a firm/team for the following contract scope of work:

PROPOSED CONTRACT SCOPE: The Greater Hickory MPO desires to engage private consulting firms to provide PROFESSIONAL SERVICES for the purpose of providing MPO staff augmentation services for the full range of Program Management Support required for the Greater Hickory MPO.

Professional Services may include:

1. Guiding the GHMPO in:
 - Providing Local Government Agency's (LGA's) assistance in executing Project Agreements
 - Assisting LGA's in the execution of funding authorizations for Preliminary Engineering, ROW, and Construction
 - Assisting LGA's in soliciting PEF, ROW Services, and CEI Contract Administration Services
 - Assisting LGA's in compliance with NEPA and additional environmental documentation.
 - Assistance in ensuring AASHTO, NCDOT, etc. design standard compliance.

- Assistance in all aspects of Construction Procurement.
 - Assistance in all aspects of Construction Contract Administration as outlined in the NCDOT's Local Programs Management Handbook.
 - Assistance in navigating Federal and State policies.
2. Creating and instructing a Project Management curriculum that increases GHMPO capacity to aid LGAs in LAPP management (MPO Approval to Closeout).
 3. Creation of uniform guidelines and guideline materials for Supplemental Funding Applications.
 4. Assist GHMPO in offering biannual training to LGA's on LAPP management.
 - Assist with additional training upon request by LGA.

PROPOSED CONTRACT TIME: The Professional Services Agreement will have a duration of two (2) years and Greater Hickory MPO reserves the option to extend the duration an additional two (2) years.

PROPOSED CONTRACT PAYMENT TYPE: PROPOSED CONTRACT PAYMENT TYPE - COST-PLUS.

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

All LOIs are limited to FIFTEEN (15) pages or less (RS-2 forms are not included in the page count) inclusive of the cover sheet, and shall be typed on 8-1/2" x 11" sheets, single-spaced, one-sided.

Fold out pages are not allowed. In order to reduce costs and to facilitate recycling; binders, dividers, tabs, etc. are prohibited. One staple in the upper left-hand corner is preferred.

LOIs containing more than FIFTEEN (15) pages will not be considered.

FIVE (5) total copies of the LOI should be submitted as well as a thumb drive for electronic access.

Firms submitting LOIs are encouraged to carefully check them for conformance to the requirements stated above. If LOIs do not meet ALL of these requirements they will be disqualified. No exception will be granted.

SELECTION PROCESS

Following is a general description of the selection process:

- The LGA's Selection Committee will review all qualifying LOI submittals.

- For Limited Services Contracts, the LGA's Selection Committee MAY, at the LGA's discretion, choose any number of firms to provide the services being solicited.
- For Project-Specific Contracts, the LGA's Selection Committee MAY, at the LGA's discretion, shortlist a minimum of three (3) firms to be interviewed. IF APPLICABLE, dates of shortlisting and dates for interviews are shown in the section SUBMISSION SCHEDULE AND KEY DATES at the end of this RFLOI.
- In order to be considered for selection, consultants must submit a complete response to this RFLOI prior to the specified deadlines. Failure to submit all information in a timely manner will result in disqualification.

TITLE VI NONDISCRIMINATION NOTIFICATION

The LGA in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all RESPONDENTS that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit LETTERS of INTEREST (LOIs) in response to this ADVERTISEMENT and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

SMALL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE FIRM (SPSF) PARTICIPATION

The Department encourages the use of Small Professional Services Firms (SPSF). Small businesses determined to be eligible for participation in the SPSF program are those meeting size standards defined by Small Business Administration (SBA) regulations, 13 CFR Part 121 in Sector 54 under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). The SPSF program is a race, ethnicity, and gender neutral program designed to increase the availability of contracting opportunities for small businesses on federal, state or locally funded contracts. SPSF participation is not contingent upon the funding source.

The Firm, at the time the Letter of Interest is submitted, shall submit a listing of all known SPSF firms that will participate in the performance of the identified work. The participation shall be submitted on the Department's Subconsultant Form RS-2. RS-2 forms may be accessed on the Department's website at [NCDOT Connect Guidelines & Forms](#).

The SPSF must be qualified with the Department to perform the work for which they are listed.

PREQUALIFICATION

The Department maintains on file the qualifications and key personnel for each approved discipline, as well as any required samples of work. Each year on the anniversary date of the company, the firm shall renew their prequalified disciplines. If your firm has not renewed its application as required by your anniversary date or if your firm is not currently prequalified, please

submit an application to the Department **prior to submittal of your LOI**. An application may be accessed on the Department's website at [Prequalifying Private Consulting Firms](#) -- Learn how to become Prequalified as a Private Consulting Firm with NCDOT. Having this data on file with the Department eliminates the need to resubmit this data with each letter of interest.

Professional Services Contracts are race and gender neutral and do not contain goals. However, the Respondent is encouraged to give every opportunity to allow Disadvantaged, Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (DBE/MBE/WBE) subconsultant utilization on all LOIs, contracts and supplemental agreements. The Firm, subconsultant and subfirm shall not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, age, disability or sex in the performance of this contract.

DIRECTORY OF FIRMS AND DEPARTMENT ENDORSEMENT

Real-time information about firms doing business with the Department, and information regarding their prequalifications and certifications, is available in the Directory of Transportation Firms. The Directory can be accessed on the Department's website at [Directory of Firms](#) -- Complete listing of certified and prequalified firms.

The listing of an individual firm in the Department's directory shall not be construed as an endorsement of the firm.

SELECTION CRITERIA

All prequalified firms who submit responsive letters of interest will be considered.

In selecting a firm/team, the selection committee will take into consideration qualification information including such factors as:

1. **40%** = Demonstrated experience in performing similar work for another North Carolina Municipality/MPO's/NCDOT.
2. **30%** = Project Manager and Key Staff Experience – The team's experience and staff qualifications to perform the type of work required.
3. **30%** = Technical Approach: The team's understanding of, and approach to accomplish objectives of the scope, including their envisioned scope for the work and any innovative ideas/ approaches.

After reviewing qualifications, if firms are equal on the evaluation review, then those qualified firms with proposed SPSF participation will be given priority consideration.

SUBMISSION ORGANIZATION AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

The LOI should be addressed to **Daniel Odom, Transportation Projects Coordinator** and must include the name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the prime consultant's contact person for this RFLOI.

The LOI must also include the information outlined below:

Chapter 1 - [Introduction](#)

The Introduction should demonstrate the consultant's overall qualifications to fulfill the requirements of the scope of work and should contain the following elements of information:

- Expression of firm's interest in the work;
- Statement of whether firm is on register;
- Date of most recent private engineering firm qualification;
- Statement regarding firm's(') possible conflict of interest for the work; and
- Summation of information contained in the letter of interest.

Chapter 2 - Team Qualifications

This chapter should elaborate on the general information presented in the introduction, to establish the credentials and experience of the consultant to undertake this type of effort. The following must be included:

1. Identify recent, similar projects the firm, acting as the prime contractor, has conducted which demonstrates its ability to conduct and manage the project. Provide a synopsis of each project and include the date completed, and contact person.
2. If subconsultants are involved, provide corresponding information describing their qualifications as requested in bullet number 1 above.

Chapter 3 - Team Experience

This chapter must provide the names, classifications, and location of the firm's North Carolina employees and resources to be assigned to the advertised work; and the professional credentials and experience of the persons assigned to the project, along with any unique qualifications of key personnel. Although standard personnel resumes may be included, identify pertinent team experience to be applied to this project. Specifically, the Department is interested in the experience, expertise, and total quality of the consultant's proposed team. If principals of the firm will not be actively involved in the study/contract/project, do not list them. The submittal shall clearly indicate the Consultant's Project Manager, other key Team Members and his/her qualifications for the proposed work. Also, include the team's organization chart for the Project / Plan. A Capacity Chart / Graph (available work force) should also be included. Any other pertinent information should also be listed in this section.

Note: If a project team or subconsultant encounters personnel changes, or any other changes of significance dealing with the company, NCDOT should be notified immediately.

Chapter 4 - Technical Approach

The consultant shall provide information on its understanding of, and approach to accomplish, this project, including their envisioned scope for the work and any innovative ideas/approaches, and a schedule to achieve the dates outlined in this RFLOI (if any project-specific dates are outlined below).

APPENDICES-

CONSULTANT CERTIFICATION Form RS-2

Completed Form RS-2 forms SHALL be submitted with the firm's letter of interest. This section is limited to the number of pages required to provide the requested information.

Submit Form RS-2 forms for the following:

- **Prime Consultant firm**

- Prime Consultant Form RS-2 Rev 1/14/08; and
- In the event the firm has no subconsultant, it is required that this be indicated on the Subconsultant Form RS-2 by entering the word “None” or the number “ZERO” and signing the form.

Complete and sign each Form RS-2 (instructions are listed on the form).

The required forms are available on the Department’s website at:

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/business/consultants/Pages/Guidelines-Forms.aspx>

[Prime Consultant Form RS-2](#)

[Subconsultant Form RS-2](#)

All submissions, correspondence, and questions concerning this RFLOI should be directed to **Daniel Odom** at daniel.odom@wpcog.org

IF APPLICABLE, questions may be submitted electronically only, to the contact above. Responses will be issued in the form of an addendum available to all interested parties. Interested parties should also send a request, by email only, to the person listed above to be placed on a public correspondence list to ensure future updates regarding the RFLOI or other Project information can be conveyed. Questions must be submitted to the person listed above no later than **December 29, 2023**. The last addendum will be issued no later than **January 5, 2024**.

SUBMISSION SCHEDULE AND KEY DATES

RFLOI Release – **Dec 15, 2023**

Deadline for Questions – **Dec 29, 2023**

Issue Final Addendum – **Jan 5, 2024**

Deadline for LOI Submission – **Jan 15, 2024**

Firm Selection and Notification ** - **Mid to Late January 2024**

** Notification will **ONLY** be sent to selected firms.