

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING**

**FOR THE HIDALGO COUNTY TRADE CORRIDOR CONNECTOR
AND INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE TRADE CORRIDOR
OF MILITARY HIGHWAY OVERPASS**

HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

The Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (“RMA”) is seeking one or more qualified environmental firms, hereinafter referred to as “Consultant(s)”, capable of providing professional services necessary for the Trade Corridor Project as referenced above (the “TCC” or the “Project”) described below. The Consultant(s) will provide environmental services related to the preparation of the environmental review and related documents for capacity improvements to the TCC.

The following information is offered as the overall scope of work. The intent of this RFQ is to provide information so that respondents can define the level of expertise, experience, personnel and approach necessary to perform the required services on a timely and professional basis.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The following proposed capacity improvements are included in the Hidalgo County Metropolitan Planning Organization’s Mobility 2030 Plan:

Trade Corridor Connector & International Bridge Trade Corridor of Military Highway Overpass

SH365/Trade Corridor Connector

“Controlled access six lane divided control access toll roadway from FM 1016 (Conway Avenue) to FM 3072 (Dicker Road) with additional passing lanes approximately every four miles, overpasses at FM 1016 (Conway Avenue), FM 1016 (Military Road), UPRR Crossing, Anzalduas GSA Facility Connector to FM 396, over Anzalduas International Bridge, FM 494, SP 115, SH 336, FM 2061, US 281, Military Highway Overpass, “I” Road, and FM 3072, and an underpass at McColl Road. ”

OBJECTIVE

The RMA is seeking qualified environmental firms interested in preparing the environmental documents for the Project. The RMA reserves the right to select one/or more Consultants for the Project. If two Consultants are selected for the Project, project assignments for the preparation of the environmental documents will be made at the sole discretion of the RMA after considering the qualifications and experience of each selected team.

The prime Consultant(s) will be precluded from future design/build or construction-related work for the RMA on the Project for which it provides environmental services.

GENERAL TERMS

This Request for Qualifications and Proposal (“RFQ”) does not commit the RMA to enter into an agreement or to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of this proposal or in subsequent negotiations.

The issuance of this RFQ does not constitute an assurance by the RMA that any contract will actually be entered into by the RMA and expressly reserves the right to:

- Waive any immaterial defect or informality in any response or response procedure
- Reject any and all proposals
- Reissue the RFQ
- Invite additional respondents to the proposal
- Request additional information and data from any or all respondents
- Extend the date for submission of responses
- Supplement, amend, or otherwise modify the RFQ and cancel this request with or without the substitution of another RFQ
- Disqualify any respondent who fails to provide information or data requested herein or who provides inaccurate or misleading information or data

REVISIONS TO RFP

All addenda to this solicitation will be posted on the RMA’s web page (www.lrgvdc.org/RMA/). No notice will be given by mail.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The RMA has adopted a conflict of interest policy which generally requires disclosure by respondents of any business relationships with RMA key personnel, as designated on the Authority’s website. The Conflict of Interest Policy for Consultants, the list of Key Personnel, and the Disclosure Form can be obtained from the RMA website (www.lrgvdc.org/RMA/) or from the Contact Person indicated below. Respondents must adhere to this policy and provide any required disclosures.

By submission of a Proposal, the Consultant agrees to ensure that, at the time of contracting, the Consultant will have no interest, direct or indirect, that would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of Consultant’s obligations under the agreement. The Consultant shall further covenant that, in the performance of the contract, the Consultant shall not employ any person, or subcontract with any entity, having such known interest.

EEO

Respondent, by submission of a proposal, agrees to not discriminate against any worker, employee, application subcontractor or any member of the public because of race, color, gender, age, national origin, or disability, or otherwise commit an unfair employment practice and further agrees to comply with all federal, state, and local equal employment opportunity requirements.

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Prior to negotiating an agreement, the selected Consultant and any subconsultants will be required to submit certified hourly rates and their last year’s financial information and overhead schedule in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FARs).

The RMA will follow a qualifications-based selection process. **No financial information is to be**

provided with the proposal(s).

PROPRIETARY MATERIAL

The RMA assumes no liability for disclosure of proprietary material submitted by respondents. Proposal submittals shall be considered public documents under applicable state law except to the extent portions of the submittals are otherwise protected under applicable law and are clearly marked as confidential.

SERVICES TO BE PERFORMED BY THE CONSULTANT

Services to be performed by the Consultant(s) include environmental surveys, investigations, modeling, documentation, and public engagement and involvement necessary to prepare environmental documents satisfying the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq (“NEPA”) and other applicable laws and regulations.

Engineering support, including typical sections and conceptual designs will be provided by the RMA.

Major deliverables expected from the Consultant(s) include:

- Coordination Plan
- Maintain Comprehensive Administrative Record
- Community Engagement and Involvement Plan
- Need and Purpose Statement
- Environmental Constraints Map
- Public Meeting Reports
- Biological Assessments
- Geologic Assessment
- Archaeological Assessment
- Route Studies & Schematic Design
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- Public Hearing Report
- Final Environmental Impact Statement

The Consultant(s) will be required to maintain a comprehensive Administrative Record from the beginning and throughout the duration of the Project(s).

SCHEDULE

During negotiations with the selected Consultant(s), an overall work schedule is to be agreed upon by RMA and the Consultant(s). Each work authorization will have an associated schedule that will be determined during the negotiation for that element of the work. The tentative schedule listed below is presented to indicate the desired dates:

RFQ Release Date	Tuesday, September 26, 2010
Pre-proposal Meeting	Friday, October 8, 2010, 2:00 pm
Questions on RFQ	Wednesday, October 13, by noon
Proposal Due Date	Friday, October 15, 2010, by 3:00 pm
Respondent Interviews	Thursday, October 28, 2010, if necessary
Consultant Selection	Thursday, October 28, 2010
Contract Execution	Wednesday, November 3, 2010

SELECTION PROCESS

The RMA reserves the right to interview respondents from a “short list” of eligible firms or to select directly from the qualified respondents that submit proposals. Scoring of the proposals will be based on the criteria and percentages below. Final scoring will occur following interviews of short-listed teams (if any interviews are conducted). The scoring will lead to a recommendation to be made to the Board of Directors of the RMA. The Board of Directors will make the final selection of one or more Consultants.

Once selected, the RMA will negotiate with the selected Consultant(s) in an effort to agree to a contract for the requested services at a fair and reasonable price. If those negotiations are unsuccessful, the RMA will formally end the negotiations with the selected Consultant(s) and may begin negotiations with the next highest rated Consultant(s).

PROPOSAL

Each proposal is to include the following information:

Experience of Consultant’s Project Manager – 30%:

(Complete for each Consultant and subconsultant)

The Consultant should identify a project manager, and the project manager must have experience in managing an environmental review process. In particular, the proposal must demonstrate that the project manager has (1) an ability to manage a NEPA process over a corridor of similar length and complexity, including experience with an expedited environmental process; (2) experience with, creative approaches for, required public involvement; (3) the availability to manage this process; and (4) experience managing a recent project of similar length and complexity through final action by the Federal Highway Administration. The Consultant’s project manager must be Texas Department of Transportation (“TxDOT”) Pre-certified in Environmental Document Preparation (as defined by TxDOT’s Working Categories in 2.14.1 published on its website at <http://www.dot.state.tx.us/des/precert/prctfrm.htm>). The Consultant’s Project Manager’s resume must be included as an appendix to the proposal.

Experience of Key Personnel – 20%:

(Complete for each Consultant and Subconsultant)

The Consultant(s) must designate experienced professional and technical staff to competently and efficiently perform the work through its own personnel or subconsultants. The proposal must identify the project team composition, project leadership, key personnel, reporting responsibilities, and address how subconsultants will fit into the management structure. The consultant team must include personnel TxDOT Pre-certified in following categories:

- 1.3.1 - Subarea/Corridor Planning
- 1.4.1 - Land Planning/Engineering
- 2.1.1 - Traffic Noise Analysis
- 2.2.1 - Air Quality Analysis
- 2.3.1 - Wetland Delineation
- 2.4.1 - Nationwide Permit

- 2.6.1 - Protected Species Determination (Habitat)
- 2.6.2 - Impact Evaluation Assessments
- 2.6.3 - Biological Surveys
- 2.7.1 - §4(f) (Title 23, United States Code of Federal Regulations §771.135) and/or §6(f) (Title 49, United States Code § 303) Evaluations
- 2.8.1 - Surveys, Research and Documentation of Historic Buildings, Structures, and Objects
- 2.9.1 - Historic Architecture
- 2.10.1 - Archeological Surveys, Documentation, Excavations, Testing Reports and Data Recovery Plans
- 2.11.1 - Historical and Archival Research
- 2.12.1 - Socio-Economic and Environmental Justice Analyses
- 2.13.1 - Hazardous Materials Initial Site Assessment
- 2.14.1 - Environmental Document Preparation
- 3.3.1 - Route Studies and Schematic Design – Complex Highways

The key personnel and any proposed subconsultant(s) must have experience in performing work of similar magnitude, and must provide documentation (project names, brief descriptions, and references) to demonstrate experience in completing these studies, including expedited completion of the environmental process. Resumes of the key personnel, limited to two pages per person, are to be included in an appendix.

Knowledge of Local and Regional Setting – 20%:

The Consultant(s) must demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the local and regional community environment. This should include a proposal to address community issues related to project development efforts in Hidalgo County. Proposals should also demonstrate the Consultant’s approach to the public information process and describe creative ways to engage the public and surrounding communities. The proposal must also include a draft community and involvement plan as an appendix to the proposal.

Understanding and Approach (Scope of Work) – 20%:

In its proposal, the Consultant must:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the local transportation system, federal and state planning requirements, and NEPA requirements and guidelines.
2. Communicate a clear, logical, and legally defensible approach to the work. The approach should outline the process, quality assurance, and management controls to be employed to ensure successful implementation of the recommended approach.
3. Demonstrate the prime firm’s experience with an expedited NEPA process conforming to current federal laws.
4. Communicate a clear and reasonable plan for expediting the NEPA process to successfully meet the schedule described above. The plan must identify specific tools and strategies for advancing the Project and include provisions for schedule recovery should delays occur and discuss how the Consultant will build off of the preliminary work prepared by the RMA.

Ability to Meet Disadvantaged Business Enterprise goal – 10%:

The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise participation goal is 11.1% of the total contract value. The proposal shall show how the Consultant plans on meeting this goal.

Other Requirements

Conflicts of Interest

Respondents must disclose conflicts of interest by identifying each and every matter in which the respondent has, within the past three calendar years, represented any entity or individual with an interest adverse to the RMA or the Texas Department of Transportation, or to the State of Texas or any of its boards, agencies, commissions, universities, elected or appointed officials, or Hidalgo County. Provide a list of governmental entities located in Hidalgo County which services have been provided in past 3 calendar years. Briefly describe the services provided for each governmental entity in an appendix to the response. The appendix will not be considered part of the 15 page limit. The Conflict of Interest Policy for Consultants, the list of Key Personnel, and the Disclosure Form can be obtained from the RMA website (www.lrgvdc.org/RMA/) or from the Contact Person indicated below.

Pre-proposal Meeting

A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the LRGVDC Transportation Center, 510 S. Pleasantview Drive Weslaco, Texas 78596, on Friday, October 8 at 2:00 p.m. While attendance is not mandatory, it is strongly suggested that potential respondents attend.

Respondents are responsible for monitoring the RMA website (www.lrgvdc.org/RMA/) for updates and information concerning this RFQP. Any questions concerning this RFQP or the process for procuring the requested services must be submitted in writing via email to the contact person designated below not later than noon, C.T., Wednesday, October 13, 2010 and answers will be posted on the RMA website. The RMA reserves the right to summarize questions, combine similar questions, decline to answer questions, or to modify the content of questions to protect the identity of the requestor or as is otherwise deemed to be in the best interest of the RMA.

Following the pre-proposal meeting, interested parties will be prohibited from any other contact with RMA Board Members and staff (except the Contact Person) regarding the solicitation prior to the submittal deadline. Violation of this prohibition is grounds for disqualification from participation in this procurement. The Contact Person for all inquiries concerning this RFQP is: Blakely Fernandez, RMA Legal Counsel. Questions may be submitted via email to: (email:bfernandez@trpsalaw.com)

Submission Requirements

The proposal shall not exceed 15 pages (double sided counts as two pages, 12 point font on 8 ½ x 11 paper), exclusive of appendices and key personnel resumes.

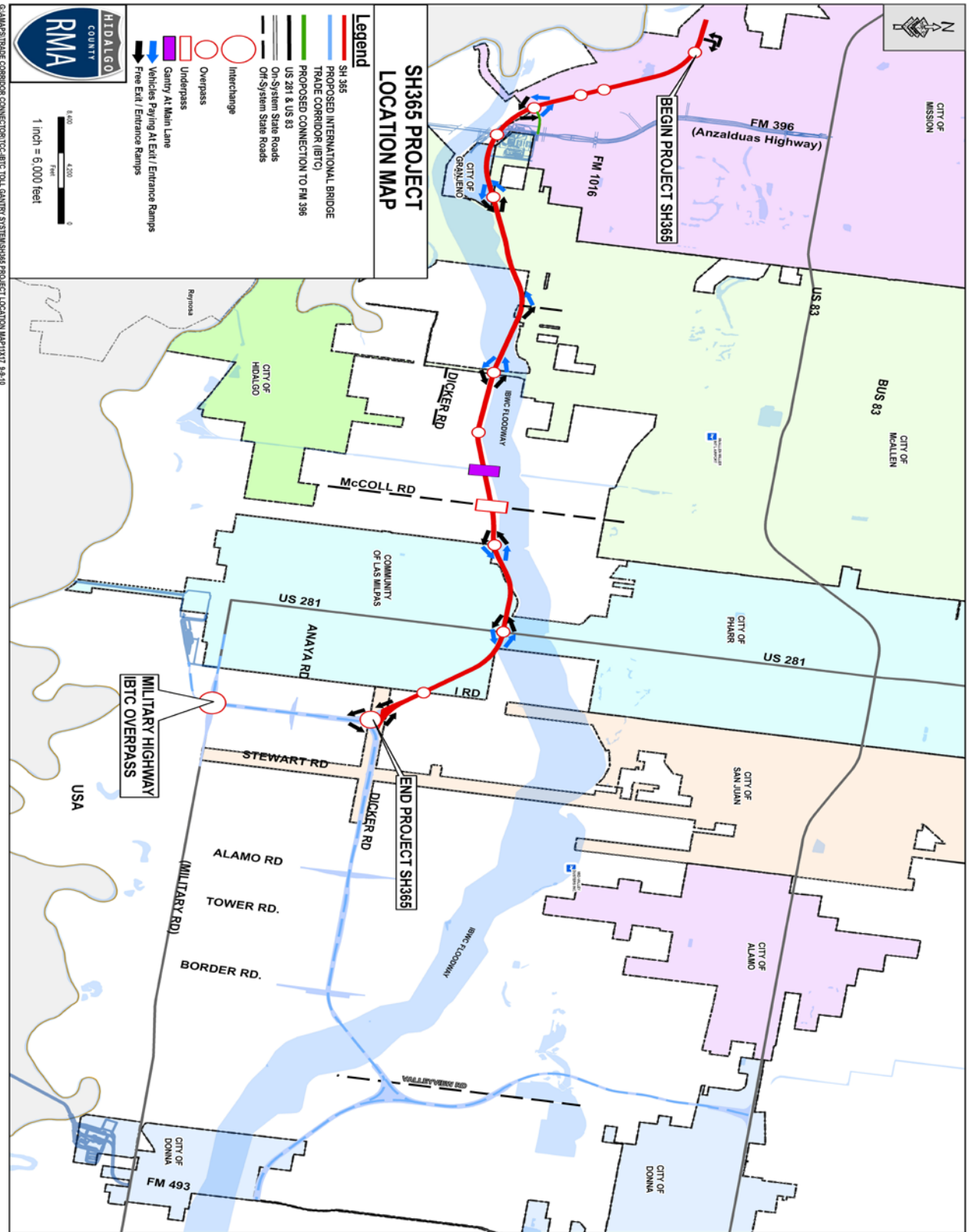
To be considered, the firm submitting the proposal shall submit one (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposal. All proposals must be received by 3:00 p.m., C.T., Friday, October 15, 2010, by physical delivery at the following address:

Regional Mobility Authority
510 S. Pleasantview Drive
Weslaco, Texas 78596

Attn: Flor E. Koll, Transportation Planner

Proposals will not be accepted by fax or electronic mail. Proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope or package with the project name and the Consultant's name and address clearly indicated on the envelope or package. Late proposals will not be considered and will be returned to the Consultant.

EXHIBIT A
PROJECT MAP



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