

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (“RFQ”)
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR DESIGN CONSULTANT(S)
FOR
PRELIMINARY DESIGN THROUGH PS&E**

FOR THE HIDALGO COUNTY TRADE CORRIDOR CONNECTOR

HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

The Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority (“RMA”) is seeking one or more qualified engineering firms, hereinafter referred to as “Consultant(s)”, capable of providing professional services necessary for preliminary design through Plans, Specifications and Estimates (“PS&E”) for the SH365/Trade Corridor Project (the “TCC” or the “Project”). The design package is detailed in the attached “Scope of Services” Exhibit B.

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 2010 -2035 Mobility Transportation Plan:

SH365/Trade Corridor Connector

“Controlled access 2 lane roadway with shoulders from FM 1016 (Conway Avenue) to FM 3072 (Dicker Road), with the exemption of a 1.93 Mile section from FM 494 to the Connection at FM 396 & the Anzalduas International Bridge GSA Facility as identified on the schematic. This project will also consist of passing lanes approximately every four miles and overpasses at; FM 1016 (Conway Avenue), FM 1016 (Military Road), UPRR Crossing, Anzalduas GSA Facility Connector to FM 396, FM 494, SP 115, SH 336, FM 2061, US 281, “I” Road, and FM 3072, and an underpass at McColl Road. Other proposed bridge structures include the IBWC floodway bridge and other drainage ditch bridges.”

OBJECTIVE

The RMA is seeking qualified engineering firms interested in preparing preliminary design through PS&E 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 design work will be made at the sole discretion of the RMA after considering the qualifications and experience of each selected team.

GENERAL TERMS

This Request for Qualifications (“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
- Disqualify any respondent on the basis of any real or apparent conflict of interest

By responding to this proposal, each respondent agrees that any finding by the RMA of any fact in dispute as to this proposal or the responses thereto shall be final and conclusive except as provided herein.

REVISIONS TO RFQ

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 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 design through PS&E on the Project. The Project shall be designed in accordance with TxDOT standards, guidelines, and requirements. A full scope of work is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

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	Sunday, September 26, 2010
Pre-proposal Meeting	Friday, October 8, 2010
Questions on RFQ	Wednesday, October 13, by noon
Proposal Due Date	Friday, October 15, 2010, by 3:00 pm
Respondent Interviews	Tuesday, October 26, 2010, if necessary
Consultant Selection	Tuesday, October 26, 2010
Contract Execution	Monday, November 1, 2010
PS&E Completion	4 th Quarter, 2011

SELECTION PROCESS

Selection of a firm or firms will be based on a two-step process. A committee will review and score qualifications based on the criteria and percentages described below. The top ranking firms (estimated to be three or four firms) will be recommended to the Board of Directors of the RMA.

After interviews with the recommended firms, the Board of Directors will make the final selection of one or more Consultants.

PROPOSAL

It is essential that the Consultant provide an adequate staff of experienced personnel or subconsultants capable of and devoted to the successful accomplishment of work to be performed under this contract. The specific individuals or subconsultants listed in the proposal, including Project Manager, shall be assigned to the key positions and shall not be removed or replaced without the prior written approval of the RMA. Replacement personnel submitted for approval must have at least equal qualifications, experience and expertise as those listed in the proposal.

The proposed team must demonstrate that a Professional Engineer, registered or licensed in Texas, will sign and/or seal the work to be performed on the contract. The proposed Project Manager must be registered in the State of Texas.

For purposes of executing an engineering contract with the RMA, the prime provider (firm) must be registered with the State Board of Professional Engineers and must perform a minimum of 30% of the work.

If a joint venture submits a proposal, the joint venture will be considered the prime. All joint venture parties must be clearly identified and each firm included in the joint venture must be registered with the Texas State Board of Professional Engineers. If a joint venture is selected, all joint venture parties will be required to sign the contract and take 100% responsibility for the contract.

The following criteria apply to both the Consultant and any subconsultant. When specific responses are requested concerning experience, references, equipment, personnel, and quality control, provide responses for the Consultant and any subconsultant.

Each proposal is to include the following information:

Company Experience and Qualifications – 15%:

(Complete for each Consultant and Subconsultant)

Provide detailed information of projects of similar successful and reliable work performed in the past five (5) years on design of expressways. Clearly identify tolling experience and capability to connect to existing tolling systems. This shall include specific information on the dates and type of services provided. Describe how the company is structured and set up to handle this type of project, and how this Project would impact the current and anticipated work load of the company. List three (3) verifiable professional services references with a contact person and phone number.

Experience of Consultant's Project Manager – 15%:

(Complete for each Consultant and subconsultant)

Identify the Project Manager who will be responsible for the execution of work and ensuring that adequate personnel and other resources are made available for these projects, and who is responsible for the quality and timeliness of the Consultant's performance. Include a brief resume indicating Texas professional registration (if applicable), experience, and qualifications as it specifically pertains to this project. Provide the percentage of the project manager's time that will be spent on the project. The 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 key personnel and/or any proposed subconsultant(s) must have experience in performing work of similar magnitude and be familiar and have experience with the design and construction standards and practices of TxDOT. Additionally, the Consultant(s) should describe any experience on projects affiliated with the International Border and Water Commission. Please provide documentation (project names, brief descriptions, and references) to demonstrate experience in design projects. Resumes of the key personnel, limited to two pages per person, are to be included in an appendix.

Project Understanding and Approach – 35%:

(Project Schematic for this project can be found at the HCRMA Website at [www.lrgydc.org/rma] in pdf format)

Provide a scope of work, **on a maximum of ten (10) pages**, of the proposed work that would be involved in this project. Include all items of work that the Consultant feels would be required to accomplish the project as outlined in the attached general scope of services, on time and within budget.

Include a list of all items the Consultant expects the RMA to provide under each work item. For each work item, list the lead Consultant or Subconsultant. Include a tentative Critical Path Diagram (“CPD”) identifying the key tasks and milestones for implementing the project. The CPD is considered a separate document and does not count in the 10 page total.

The maximum sheet size for the CPD shall be 11" x 17". The time line shall be shown by the month. Review times by the RMA and TxDOT and anticipated re-submittals shall be included on the CPD. The CPD shall show a lag time of 2 weeks from submittal date to receipt of comments from the RMA and TxDOT for all submittals. The CPD shall use October 1, 2010 as an estimated notice proceed date for preliminary design. All work scoped in this Consultant agreement is expected to be complete no later than the fourth quarter of 2011.

Location of Work and Communications – 5%:
(Complete for Consultant and each Subconsultant)

List the location where the Consultant and each subconsultant plans to perform each work task. Define how the Consultant plans to coordinate activities that are performed at various locations to provide efficient and cost effective communications and design.

Quality Assurance / Quality Control QA/QC– 10%:
(Complete for Prime-Consultant only)

Describe the Consultant's procedures or programs for assuring quality control (Quality Management Plan). Describe the Consultant's procedures or programs for managing scheduling, as well as time and cost control, on deliverables.

Other Requirements

Ability to Meet Disadvantaged Business Enterprise goal

The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise participation goal is 11.10% [12.20%] of the total contract value. The proposal shall show how the Consultant plans on meeting this goal.

Insurance

The Proposal shall provide a statement asserting that the Consultant, prior to execution of a contract with the RMA, will execute TxDOT's form 1560 Certificate of Insurance verifying the existence of coverage in the amounts and types specified therein.

Debarment

The Proposal shall provide a statement as to whether or not the Consultant has been previously debarred or suspended or otherwise excluded from participation in Federal Assistance Programs under Executive Order 12549.

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 20 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 10:00 am on October 8, 2010 at LRGVDC Transportation Center. 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 RFQ. Any questions concerning this RFQ or the process for procuring the requested services must be submitted in writing (or 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 TCC 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 RFQ is: Blakely Fernandez, RMA Legal Counsel. Questions may be submitted via email to: (email:bfernandez@trpsalaw.com)

Submission Requirements

The proposal shall not exceed 20 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:

Hidalgo County 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

SH365/HIDALGO COUNTY TRADE CORRIDOR CONNECTOR

Project Description

The RMA will develop and construct a controlled access 2 lane roadway with shoulders from FM 1016 (Conway Avenue) to FM 3072 (Dicker Road), with the exemption of a 1.93 Mile section from FM 494 to the Connection at FM 396 & the Anzalduas International Bridge GSA Facility as identified on the schematic. This project will also consist of passing lanes approximately every four miles and overpasses at; FM 1016 (Conway Avenue), FM 1016 (Military Road), UPRR Crossing, Anzalduas GSA Facility Connector to FM 396, FM 494, SP 115, SH 336, FM 2061, US 281, "I" Road, and FM 3072, and an underpass at McColl Road. Other proposed bridge structures include the IBWC floodway bridge and other drainage ditch bridges."

The proposed 13.38 mile project would initially consist of constructing a toll facility that would provide for a rural 56-foot roadway design for two 14-foot-wide travel lanes (with two 4-foot-wide inside shoulders, two 10-foot-wide outside shoulders) divided by a 2-foot single slope concrete barrier, and passing lanes. The project would be constructed as a controlled access facility within a typical width of 300 feet ROW, but varying occasionally to a minimum of 160 feet and a maximum of 400 feet of ROW required at roadway interchanges. The design speed for the TCC will be 60 mph, due to sight restrictions at the horizontal curves; however, on the ultimate 6-lane construction the design speed would be 70 mph.

Proposed grade separation structure(s) required will consist of a floodway highwater-bridge, overpasses, underpasses (only at McColl) and drainage canal bridges. Some of these structures will have retaining walls and some sloped riprap headers. Typical overpasses connecting to major roads will have proposed access ramps and a small portion of frontage road is being developed in the vicinity west of the Anzalduas GSA Facility. Two railroad bridge structures are anticipated to be developed on the west end of the project. Drainage culverts, irrigation siphons and standpipes are anticipated throughout the project.

The RMA will complete schematics, obtain environmental clearance, and acquire right of way for the ultimate six-lane divided controlled access roadway.

EXHIBIT A-1

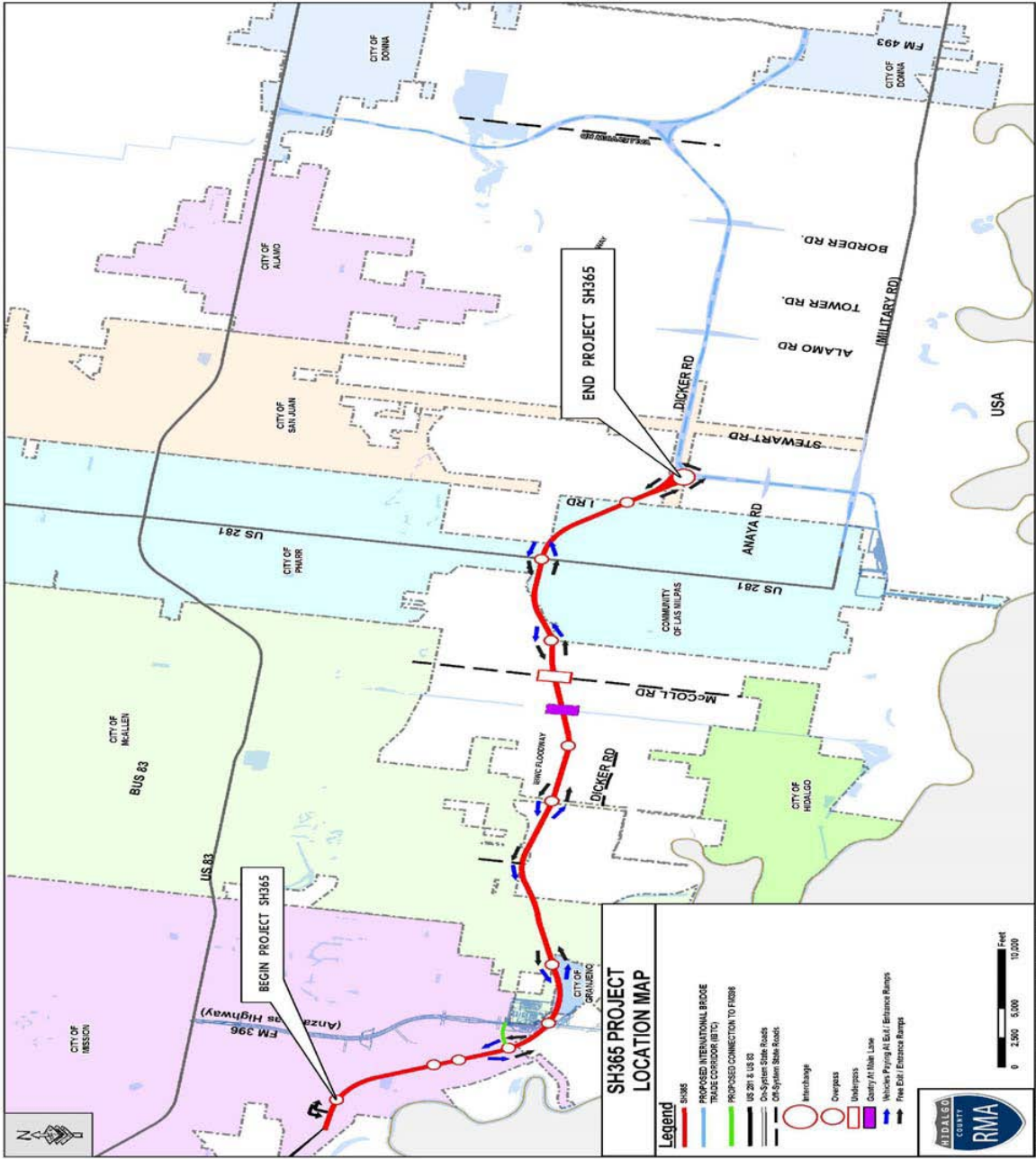


EXHIBIT A-2

See RMA Website for Project Schematics

EXHIBIT B

Services to be Performed by the Consultant

SCOPE OF SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

Services to be performed by the Consultant(s) include design through PS&E on the project. TxDOT will review and approve PS&E submissions. If TxDOT determines that the complete PS&E are unacceptable, the Consultant shall correct design documents to TxDOT's satisfaction.

Standards:

The engineering plans shall be developed in accordance with the latest version of TxDOT's / AASHTO Manuals. Access to the facility shall be in compliance with the TxDOT Access Management Policy. All PS&E developed for this Project shall conform to the latest version of TxDOT's Standard Specifications for Construction and Maintenance of Highways, Streets, and Bridges, and the special specifications and special provisions related thereto, and shall conform to the latest edition and revisions of the State's Roadway Design Manual.

Construction Plans:

The construction plan sets shall contain as a minimum the following:

- Final Design Plans, Specifications, and Cost Estimate
- Drainage Design
- Base, Sub-Base, and Pavement Design
- Roadway Plan
- Irrigation Plans
- Construction Phasing and Traffic Control Plan
- Traffic Related Items to include Signing, Pavement Marking, Delineation, Signalization, as well as Roadway Illumination Plan
- Initial Toll Collection Design Elements (to be aligned with integrator plans at a future date)
- Design of Bridges (including Scour Analysis)
- Design of Retaining Walls supported by Slope Stability Analysis
- Geotechnical Information to Support Pavement Design and Bridge Foundation Design (Geotechnical Report will be required)
- Environmental Permits, Issues, and Comments
- Survey Data Sheet

The construction plans furnished to the RMA shall be reproducible tracings on mylar or equivalent.

Other Activities Required:

- Design Concept Conference
 - Establish Performance Parameters
 - Establish Design Requirements
 - Pavement Design
 - Hydraulic Design

- Forms
 - Typical Sections
- Value Engineering Workshop
- Utility Coordination
- Roadway Design (TxDOT standards)
- Environmental Support
- Geotechnical Report
- Final design materials report
- Hydraulic studies
- Structure design
- Support of Public Involvement
- Final PS&E Submittal
- Coordination with All Entities and Stakeholders involved, including joint review sessions

Bid Assistance

- Provide assistance to RMA during bidding of project to include advertising, issue bid proposals, receive and tabulate the bids.
- Proposed contract administration procedures that comply with applicable federal or state administration criteria and manuals

Services During Construction

- Review and approval of shop drawings
- Provide interpretation and clarification of design intent
- Provide surveying for construction
- Related services such as preparing engineering drawings required for change orders correcting errors and omissions on the plans.

Project deliverables

Project Management

- Monthly schedule updates
- Detailed project development schedule and cost estimate
- Monthly project status report
- Monthly billings
- Project Information Binder

Preliminary Design Review

- Preliminary design submittal (Design Summary Report (DSR))
- Review meeting (Pre-Design Meeting)

Material Specifications

Utilities: Utility Coordination Binder

Public Involvement

- Support to Environmental Consultant such as schematic plots constraint maps and other needed exhibits

Submittal

- Final plans
 - 7 copies of final plans, specifications, and engineer's estimate
- Project Information Binder