



# Request for Qualifications

## Peoria Passenger Rail Planning Study

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Tri-County Regional Planning Commission requests statements of qualifications from qualified firms to provide professional services to develop The City of Peoria's Passenger Rail Planning Study.

Statements of Qualifications will be accepted until 4:00 pm, January 14, 2022. Statements of qualifications received after that date and time will not be considered.

### Background

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) of Peoria, Illinois proudly serves Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford counties as the "Steward of the Regional Vision." TCRPC studies the needs and conditions of the region and develops strategies that enhance the area's communities. TCRPC offers a forum for leaders of area government to define regional issues, set regional goals, and cooperatively implement plans.

TCRPC is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Peoria-Pekin urbanized area. As the MPO, TCRPC carries out the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive (3-C) transportation planning process required by law. TCRPC carries out this process by preparing regional plans and programs with the assistance of an MPO Technical Committee.

The MPO receives federal funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation. A portion of the FY 2022 allocation has been set aside for this project. The initial proposed compensation for this project is \$50,000. Due to the federal funding source, all work related to the project must be completed by December 31, 2022.

### Project

The City of Peoria has formed a coalition led by Mayor Ali to make a case to bring passenger rail to Peoria. The coalition is made up of State and Federal representatives, Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce, Peoria Convention and Visitors Bureau, TCRPC, Bradley University and Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). The Greater Peoria Region is the second largest metropolitan region in the State of Illinois and the City of Peoria is the largest city in Illinois without a commitment for passenger rail service.

The Peoria region has long advocated for rail connections, but the state's strained transportation funding made finding the needed dollars difficult. The Illinois legislature fully funded the transportation account in 2019, opening new opportunities. Most importantly, Congress recently approved a multi-billion increase in competitive funds for states to expand passenger rail. Peoria is working to be well positioned to compete for these funds.

Currently, IDOT has hired a consultant to prepare an updated high-level feasibility study report for proposed passenger service to Peoria. The report will update the two previously compiled reports

- “Feasibility Report of Proposed Amtrak Service Chicago – Peoria” by Amtrak Policy and Development Department (Central), dated September 26, 2011.
- “Commuter Rail for Central Illinois” Feasibility Study by Tri-County Regional Planning Commission et al., dated January 2013.

The report will review the current rail system around Peoria and determine the best option to provide passenger rail service based on existing infrastructure and cost. The report is expected to be complete by April 2022.

The end goal of the project is to connect the Peoria Region to Chicago, St. Louis, and points beyond with passenger rail service that can compete with driving for both business and leisure trips. Connecting Peoria to the Amtrak system will help attract a new diverse workforce to Central Illinois, expand opportunities for the existing workforce, and make the area more accessible and competitive in the world economy.

To supplement the IDOT study, TCRPC and the City of Peoria are seeking a consultant to provide local support for the project and aid in the site selection for a transportation center in the greater downtown area that would accommodate multimodal uses, such as passenger rail, transit transfer station, intercity passenger bus terminal, etc. In addition to site selection, the study will include analysis of how the Greater Peoria Mass Transit District service and other multimodal infrastructure would interact with the prospective station locations. Additionally, the study will analyze both economic and community development impacts and opportunities around the prospective station locations.

### **Scope of Services**

Final scope of services will be negotiated upon consultant selection, but the project will include the following elements.

1. Transportation Center Site Selection
  - a. Identify available alternatives
  - b. Compare available property, rail access, and multimodal uses
  - c. Analyze location each proposed use/service within the perspective facility
2. Multimodal Analysis
  - a. Determine how the Greater Peoria Mass Transit District and other services would interact with the prospective transit center
  - b. Analysis of the number of persons moving through the proposed transportation center
3. Economic Impact Analysis
  - a. Determine both economic and community development impacts around the perspective station location

- b. Determine transit-based development opportunities supported by the proposed transportation center
    - c. Estimate job creation opportunities based on the transit-based development
4. Public Engagement
  - a. Present feasible options and incorporate feedback on potential site locations within the final study document.

## **Deliverables**

This contract will result in the following deliverable:

- Site plan for the proposed transportation center
- Analysis and conclusion report
- Public engagement summary report

## **Submittal Contents**

TCRPC will only consider submissions limited to 15 pages (not including resumes) and containing the following:

- Name, address, telephone number, email, and website of firm;
- A Statement of Qualifications of:
  - The firm and any subcontractors (if any);
  - The lead team member; and
  - The individuals to be assigned to the project;
- At least three (3) examples of similar projects the firm has completed in the last 5 years;
- Business references from these projects, including client's name and telephone number shall be included; and
- Identification of any potential subcontracted services as necessary.

Please submit two (2) physical copies and one (1) digital PDF with all submittals.

All submittals shall be sealed and identified as PEORIA PASSENGER RAIL PLANNING STUDY and addressed to:

Gabriel Guevara  
Planner  
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission  
456 Fulton Street, Suite 401  
Peoria, IL 61602

## **Contract Development**

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission will enter into a contract for professional consulting services based on a fixed-price to the selected consultant for a Scope of Services to be negotiated and finalized once the consultant is chosen. Incremental payments to the consultant will be made at the completion of major tasks with a "not to exceed" contract amount. Ten (10) percent of the contract price will be held as final payment upon delivery of the final products. The exact payment schedule will be negotiated and determined as part of the contract.

TCRPC is not liable for any costs incurred by a consultant in responding to this Request for Qualifications or for any costs associated with discussions required for clarification of items related to this RFQ.

The contract shall not be considered executed unless signed by the authorizing representative of TCRPC.

### **Selection Process**

TCRPC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all statements of qualifications. All submittals become the property of TCRPC upon receipt. TCRPC will evaluate each statement of qualifications according to the following factors and 100-point scale:

1. **(25 points) Experience and Technical Competency**  
The consultant's response should reflect qualifications and experience necessary to successfully develop and execute a Scope of Services. Reviewers will also assess the applicability and relevance of the consultant's experience and previous projects.
2. **(25 points) Familiarity with Project Type**  
The consultant's response must demonstrate a level of familiarity with the proposed project and an understanding of the planning challenges posed by the project.
3. **(25 points) Record of Success**  
The consultant's response should demonstrate success on similar projects and provide examples of similar work.
4. **(15 points) Local Knowledge**  
The consultant should demonstrate familiarity with the City of East Peoria and Greater Peoria in their response.
5. **(10 points) References**  
The consultant's response should include at least 3 references, with contact information.

All submittals will be reviewed by a committee made up of representatives from TCRPC and The City of Peoria. All statements of qualifications will be scored and ranked; however, the committee IS NOT bound to select the highest-scoring submittal. TCRPC reserves the sole right to invite one firm to the contract development stage or to reject all candidates that submit.

### **Project Schedule**

- **December 22, 2021** – Request for Qualifications is announced
- **January 14, 2022** – Deadline for submittal of statement of qualifications
- **Week of January 17, 2022** – TCRPC & City of Peoria evaluate responses and select consultant; TCRPC approves contract with consultant
- **February 2nd, 2022** – Work begins
- **June 30th, 2022** – All project work is completed by this date

### **Compliance with Laws**

The selected firm agrees to be bound by all applicable Federal, State, and Local laws; regulations; and directives as they pertain to the performance of the contract.

## **Questions**

TCRPC staff will answer all questions related to this RFQ until 4:00 pm, January 10, 2022. All questions and answers will be posted publicly on TCRPC's website. Questions should be addressed to:

Gabriel Guevara, Planner  
Rfp-rfq@tricityrpc.org