



Request for Qualifications

City of East Peoria Trail Corridor Plan and Feasibility Study

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission requests statements of qualifications from qualified firms to provide professional services to develop the City of East Peoria's Trail Corridor Plan and Feasibility Study.

Statements of Qualifications will be accepted until 4:00 pm, January 8, 2021. Statements of qualifications received after that date and time will not be considered.

Background

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) of Peoria, Illinois provides staffing for the Peoria-Pekin Urbanized Area Transportation Study (PPUATS), which is recognized as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Peoria-Pekin urbanized area.

The MPO receives federal funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation. A portion of the FY 2021 allocation has been set aside for this project. The initial proposed compensation for the project is \$50,000. Due to the federal funding source, all work related to the project must be completed by December 31, 2021.

Project

With the work commencing on a new span of the McClugage Bridge, which will include a dedicated hiking/biking lane across the Illinois River, along with the announcement of the Bob Michel Bridge to be re-decked in the next five years to include a better-defined and safer hiking/biking crossing, this appears to be an ideal opportunity to investigate the potential to connect these two crossings and develop a recreational loop with the west side of the river along on Main Street (US-150 and IL-116 & -29) corridor.

To date, the City of East Peoria and the Fondulac Park District have constructed over 8 miles of trails within the City limits. This effort includes the River Trail of Illinois which runs from the Illinois River to the eastern boundary of the City where it meets with the Village of Morton.

One of the corridors still needing to be completed is the one which runs along the Illinois River between the McClugage and Bob Michel Bridges. Today, portions of this trail exist – from the Bob Michel Bridge to behind Bass Pro and between EastPort and Spindler Marinas. Connections are needed between Spindler Marina and the trailhead to be completed as a part of the McClugage Bridge crossing and from behind Bass Pro up to EastPort Marina.

Twenty-plus years ago, the City attempted an effort to establish these connections but property-acquisition proved to be too challenging at the time. In addition, the emphasis was to be as close to the river as possible. Since then, the goal has become making connections that also establish safe pedestrian and biking connections along Main Street – as none exist today – as well as providing opportunities to enjoy views of the river where feasible.

A study is needed to look at a couple of different, but related, areas. They are as follows:

- Identify the best trail connection from behind Bass Pro to EastPort Marina.
- Identify the best trail connection from Spindler Marina to the to-be-established trailhead along Fairlane Dr.
- Identify the best trail connection to cross Main Street and connect to the planned ultimate connection to the City of Washington's trail system via ICC.
- Investigate an alternative corridor along Fondulac Drive from Highview to Main Street.

The riverfront trail, as well as the Centennial connection to the Washington trail system, were both identified in the most recent regional bicycle plan produced by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission – *Bike Connect HOI* – which was completed in 2017.

Scope of Services

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

1. Route feasibility assessment – Along the Illinois River
 - Identify available alternates
 - Compare available property/easements, access, safety concerns, multi-modal use, topography and flood zones, trailhead and trail connection options
 - Preliminary Cost Estimates
 - Preliminary Cultural and Natural Resources Review and Level II Screening
 - Propose type of Environmental Documentation Required based on above results
2. Route feasibility assessment – Main Street Crossing via ICC
 - Identify available alternates
 - Compare available property/easements, access, safety concerns, multi-modal use, topography and flood zones, trailhead and trail connection options
 - Preliminary Cost Estimates
 - Preliminary Cultural and Natural Resources Review and Level II Screening
 - Propose type of Environmental Documentation Required based on above results
3. Route feasibility assessment – Fondulac Drive
 - Identify available alternates
 - Compare available property/easements, access, safety concerns, multi-modal use, topography and flood zones, trailhead and trail connection options
 - Preliminary Cost Estimates
 - Preliminary Cultural and Natural Resources Review and Level II Screening
 - Propose type of Environmental Documentation Required based on above results
4. Topographical Survey
5. Public Engagement – Present feasible options and incorporate feedback on potential routes within the final study document

Deliverables

This contract will result in the following deliverable:

- A Trail Corridor Plan and Feasibility Study for the City of East Peoria, Illinois

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 CITY OF EAST PEORIA TRAIL CORRIDOR PLAN AND FEASIBILITY STUDY and addressed to:

Ryan Harms
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 East 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 16, 2020** – Request for Qualifications is announced
- **January 8, 2021** – Deadline for submittal of statement of qualifications
- **Week of January 11, 2021** – TCRPC & City of East Peoria evaluate responses and select consultant; TCRPC approves contract with consultant
- **January 18, 2021** – Work begins
- **December 31, 2021** – 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 6, 2021. All questions and answers will be posted publicly on TCRPC's website. Questions should be addressed to:

Ryan Harms, Planner
rharms@tricityrpc.org