

## **Introduction**

The Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC), the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), and the City of Grand Rapids request statements of qualifications and Proposals from consulting firms who are able to assist in the undertaking of joint traffic circulation/signage and access realignment feasibility study for the City of Grand Rapids downtown area. The consultant's primary responsibility will be to develop reasonable and feasible multi-modal transportation system improvements, to serve the existing and developing medical research operations and supporting industries in the extended downtown area of the City of Grand Rapids.

## **Background**

The Michigan Street corridor section of the City of Grand Rapids is the fastest growing employment area of the Grand Rapids Metropolitan Area. Based on the findings of the Michigan Street Corridor Plan study, there is a strong interest in a more detailed assessment of state and local transportation system needs, access, and deficiencies along Michigan Street and immediate downtown area. The project area is defined by US-131 to the west, Fuller Avenue to the east, Leonard Street to the north, and Fulton Street to the south.

## **General Approach**

The project will build on the findings of the Michigan Street Corridor Plan and will identify future growth based on the City's downtown redevelopment plans. The study will identify population and employment growth, changing traffic patterns and downtown circulation, multimodal transportation needs, and practical improvement options in the study area.

## **Consultant's Role**

The consultant should be proficient with traffic circulation studies, traffic simulations, preliminary engineering analysis, access studies and the interchange modification process at the state and federal level. The consultant will be responsible for all technical aspects of the study including data collection, traffic projections, intersection and link level of service analysis, access analysis, and traffic circulation analysis and signage plans. The consultant will report to and present findings and recommendations to the Project Steering Team, including GVMC, City of Grand and MDOT staff.

In addition, the consultant will facilitate the public involvement/input process as needed and identified by the Project Steering Team.

In general the consultant will:

- Review and assess the economic trends in the study area and how they may influence the transportation system and land use.
- Review recommendations of previous studies and environmental documents
- Identify all proposed and committed road improvement projects and incorporate them into the analysis.
- Review existing traffic circulation conditions within the study area.
- For all options, analyze existing and future level of service for all impacted roadway links and intersections within the study area.
- Identify state and local transportation conditions/needs for **2018, 2025 and 2035**
- Develop employment and population/housing growth projections for the study area
  - Identify/Analyze immediate transportation needs and practical options to address the Grand Valley State University development phases anticipated to be built by 2018
  - Identify/Analyze immediate transportation needs and practical options to address the anticipated Michigan State University development phases to be built by 2018
  - Project long term/build out scenario from GVSU, MSU and related development
- MDOT facilities affected in the study area:
  - Primary Impact: I-196 mainline; I-196 @ Ionia/Ottawa Avenues
  - Secondary Impact (Minimize): I-196 @ College and Fuller Avenues; US-131 @ Leonard Street and Pearl Street; US-131 BR (Division Avenue and Leonard Street)
- Assume that there are no significant changes to the current points where the ramps enter and exit the two freeways (US-131/I-196); then consider the following:
  - Analyze the feasibility of reconfiguring the surface street access points for I-196 @ Ionia/Ottawa Avenue and other freeway interchanges in the study area
  - Changes to the surface streets (one-way vs. two-way, closing streets, new links, etc.)
  - Traffic control options/changes
  - Sub-area and Network Traffic simulation modeling for feasible options

- Ensure that options studied or recommended do not cause traffic back-ups and safety issues on the freeway mainlines and interchanges, and are consistent with the I-196/I-96/M-44/M-37 Environmental Assessment (EA).
- Develop Practical Options for state and local system enhancements for 2018, 2025, and 2035:
  - Analyze the long term impact of growth and redevelopment on the transportation system in the study area
  - Assess transportation network (state and local) impacts: peak hour/24 hour LOS, access conflict points, crash potential, congestion, delay, etc.
- Consider practical Multi-Modal impacts and accommodations
  - Transit, Bicycle, Pedestrian, TDM, etc.
  - Complete Streets issues considered
  - Some public participation, for review of reasonable and feasible options
- Coordination with other study findings, such as: The Michigan Street Corridor study, the Grand Rapids DDA Plan, the Silver Line BRT operations, Laker Line BRT EA, and the US-131/I-96 PEL Study
- Recommend staging plan for feasible improvements in 2018, 2025 and 2035
- Identify all improvements (preliminary geometric design, signal timing, traffic signing plan) to optimize traffic operation within the study area.
- Implementation Strategies and Next Steps
  - Identify practical Multi-Modal options and accommodations (highway, transit, bicycle, pedestrian, TDM, etc.)
  - Analyze the effectiveness of the options, based on expected demand
  - Develop implementation plan, general cost estimates and funding options
  - Coordinate with other Multi-Modal transportation plans impacting the study area
  - Identify additional studies and process requirements for implementation, such as federal interchange modification or environmental clearance documents and approvals, city or state permits, etc.
- Coordinate with all local and state transportation agencies.
- Prepare and present the draft and final report (implementation plan) to the steering team, GVMC and the participating agencies.

## **Project Administration**

The consultant will contract with the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (Council) and one of the Council staff persons will be appointed to supervise the work. The consultant will work directly with a steering committee made up of staff from the Council, and the participating agencies. The consultant will also make presentations to and solicit input from the participating units as well as the project steering team.

## **Content of Statement**

### Firm Identification

State the full name, address and phone number of your organization and the address of any local branches or offices that will be used in the project. Indicate whether you operate as an individual, partnership or corporation. If a joint venture is contemplated, state the names and addresses of the other firms involved. If subcontractors will be used, they must be identified in the same way.

### Statement of Understanding

State your understanding of the Scope of Services presented in the RFQ, an approach to the assignment and your firm's role in accomplishing the tasks. Please limit this to a maximum of ten pages.

### Previous Experience

You should include information regarding previous projects that you believe to be pertinent to this assignment.

### Staffing

Provide the names, qualifications and background information (resumes) of the members of the firm who will be involved in this project.

### Price of Services

The hourly rates (including overhead) for services of all of the staff who would be working on this project should be listed.

### References

Provide a list of private or public clients who can be asked about the quality of your work. This list should include references to projects which are similar to the one described in this request.

### Liability Insurance

Provide a copy of your liability coverage.

## **Solicitations for Subcontracts, including Procurement of Materials and Equipment, DBE Requirements**

“The (Recipient), in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C 2000d to 2000d-4 and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally assisted programs of the Department of Transportation issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.”

### **Review of Statements of Qualifications**

A committee made up of representatives from each participating agency and the Council staff will review the Statements and select three or fewer firms for interviews. One firm will be selected for recommendation to the Council based on the criteria listed below and interviews. A contract will be negotiated and, after approval by the Council, signed.

The criteria which will be used in the evaluation of the Qualification Statements will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

- Experience of the firm and staff assigned to the project
- Understanding of the project
- Method of approach
- Completeness of content
- Project organization and management
- Avoidance of personal and organizational conflicts of interest.
- Past record of performance on similar projects, including such factors as control of cost, quality of work, and ability to meet schedules.

## **Submission of Statements of Qualifications**

In order to be considered, **8 copies** of the statements of qualifications must arrive at the following address by 4:00 PM, April 25, 2014.

The mailing envelope must state:

**Qualifications Statement for  
Grand Rapids Downtown Area Traffic Circulation and Access Feasibility Study  
Attention: Abed Itani  
Grand Valley Metropolitan Council  
678 Front Street NW  
Suite 200  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504**