

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN SERVICES

The City of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, is accepting proposals from qualified firms for professional engineering design services for the following environmental scoping project.

Railroad Relocation Plan Environmental Assessment

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to prepare an Environmental Assessment with a Scoping Component and to objectively analyze the environmental impacts for a new rail line switching yard location.

Background

The City of Sioux Falls is a thriving community with a current census of 144,600. In 2002, the City of Sioux Falls, BNSF Railway, and South Dakota Department of Transportation commissioned a study to remove and relocate the Downtown Sioux Falls Switching Yard. The study showed there were significant benefits to drivers, pedestrians, potential for economic redevelopment, and improved rail safety. As a result, the entities entered into a mutual decision to move forward with the Railroad Relocation Plan.

In 2003 and 2004, the first phase was completed. Phase 1 consisted of multiple projects. First in 2003, construction of 8,000 feet of new rail siding along North Minnesota Avenue in Sioux Falls, south of Benson Road was completed. Pasley Park Railroad Underpass was constructed in 2004. Also in 2004, Phillips Avenue Extension to Falls Park was constructed, which involved some rail removal in the Downtown Area.

Phase 2 and 3 are the next steps in completing the plan. The proposed location for the new rail yard is near Timberline Road and Rice Street, near Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Minnehaha County.

SCOPE OF WORK

The Railroad Conceptual Phasing Plan and Rail Benefits Study, both prepared in 2002, can be reviewed by appointment at the City Engineering Office. This project will perform an environmental assessment on the proposed rail switching yard location. This project will be federally funded and will be managed by the City of Sioux Falls. The consultant that is selected for this environmental assessment is not guaranteed to be selected or prohibited from proposing on the final design phase of the Rail Relocation Plan.

The scope includes, but is not limited to the following.

Environmental Screening of Alternatives:

Using the Rail Relocation Conceptual Phasing Plan and Benefits Study as the base studies, the consultant will develop environmental screening goals and objectives, and evaluation criteria for the alternatives for the rail yard location. The final location in the Concept Plan along with the No Build alternative will be included in the analysis. Projects that are planned for this area may shift the final location and need to be considered, for example the construction of the Eastside Corridor (SD 100). The goal of this process will be the ability to distinguish the preferred alternative for further study in the Environmental Assessment.

The environmental screening will be used to make the following observations:

- Identification of environmental issues warranting detailed analysis in the Environmental Assessment;
- Identification of environmental issues NOT warranting further analysis in the Environmental Assessment;
- Identification of potentially significant environmental issues that require a separate, detailed study to determine environmental effects from the proposed project;
- Reasons to dismiss or retain alternatives

Selection of Preferred Alternative

Using the results of the environmental screening, the consultant will analyze the findings and assemble documentation for a preferred alternative for rail yard location. A technical memorandum detailing the process will be prepared.

Phase 2 and Phase 3

This environmental assessment and scoping will also include the rail removal and new rail line installation for both Phase 2 and Phase 3. Phase 3 preferred alignment is Alignment Option C, as described in the rail reports.

Both phases' environmental process will be performed concurrently in this project. Phase 2 and 3 Environmental Assessment will be one document.

Public Involvement Component

The consultant shall identify their approach to public involvement for the entire environmental process. Gaining public support and consensus is an integral component of the environment assessment. It is anticipated that there will be at least three public meetings/hearings on the project at a minimum. However, the consultant is encouraged to provide their own plan.

Resource and Regulatory Agency Component

The consultant shall identify their approach on how they plan to involve and engage the resource agencies throughout the process. The consultant should identify milestones that will need to be met to allow the project to continue on schedule. Early involvement from the regulatory agencies is a must.

Preparation of Environmental Assessment (EA)

An Environmental Assessment of the preferred location will be performed according to NEPA Regulations (40CFR 1501.7). The No Build alternative will be retained in the EA analysis to establish base line condition.

The EA should address the following issues as stated in the NEPA process, but is not limited to:

- Purpose and Need of project
- Project Description
- Cost and Funding Source
- Alternatives analyzed
- Social, Economic and Environmental Impacts
- Mitigation measures
- Soil conditions
- Hydraulic analysis to determine the impacts to the Flood Plain and a mitigation procedure for the impacts. See 23 CFR 650 Subpart A, "Location and Hydraulic Design of Encroachments on Floodplains." The floodplain impacts are very sensitive and vital aspect of this project.
- Right of way issues
- Public Process and Regulatory Agency Involvement,
- Complete Noise Analysis
 - Determine existing noise levels
 - Prediction of Post Development Noise Levels
 - Analysis of Traffic Noise Abatement Measures
 - Preparation of Noise Analysis Report

Schedule of the Environmental Process:

June/July 2006	Design Team Notice to Proceed
September 2006	Preferred Location Determination
January 2007	Draft Environmental Assessment
February 2007	FHWA Review
April 2007	FHWA Determination

FIRMS INTERESTED IN PROVIDING ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ARE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

Statement of Interest

- A. State in clear terms your understanding of the proposed project and describe your approach to the project. The approach should include, but not limited to, all items listed above.
- B. State the name of the project manager and other design team members to be assigned to this project. Please address contingency plans should one of these team members be unavailable during the project.

- C. Describe in outline form the proposed work plan and team, total project hours, including an estimated number of hours to be committed to the project by each person involved.
- D. Present a schedule or time line for completion of this project.
- E. Include any other information believed to be pertinent, but not specifically mentioned in this RFP.
- F. A sealed cost estimate should be provided with your proposal.
- G. The consultant should be aware this project is only for the environmental assessment process. Final design of the rail line switching yard will be advertised and proposals will be solicited.

Statement of Qualifications

- A. Complete background information on the firm, including, but not limited to, overview of the company, number and type of employees, principals or partners, areas of specialization, location(s) and other information that would indicate the necessary qualifications to accomplish this project.
- B. List the personnel which will be assigned to this project, and describe their education, qualifications, licenses and experience. Identify each person's specific responsibilities with respect to this project. Identify any subcontractors, their responsibilities, and provide resumes.
- C. Describe your involvement in projects of similar size and scope, providing the name, address and telephone number of at least three references. Any experience with rail projects should be highlighted in detail in the proposal.
- D. Describe your involvement in projects with the NEPA Process and your public involvement experience during these projects.
- E. Any recent innovative experience on projects that your firm was involved in that highlights challenging environmental issues.
- F. Professional liability required insurance will be required upon selection.
- G. Consultant should be aware of the requirements for insurance, permits, flagging, etc for performing work in the BNSF railway right of way. Consultant should include those costs in the cost proposal. Railroad protective liability insurance, flagging costs, etc will be needed to do boring and investigative work.

Evaluation of Proposal Schedule

A selection team comprised of representatives from Sioux Falls Public Works and Planning Departments, BNSF Railway, and South Dakota Department of Transportation will review all proposals. The selection team shall select the firm they feel will supply the best and most complete effort. Selection will be based on the proposals and subsequent oral interviews, if needed. The selection of a qualified firm will be made no later than June 23, 2006. The evaluation of proposal shall proceed on the following schedule:

May 5, 2006	RFP posted on City's Website
May 26, 2006	Deadline for Questions
June 2, 2006	Proposals received at City Hall
June 14, 2006	Short list Selection for interviews, if necessary
June 21, 2006	Interviews, if needed
June 23, 2006	Select engineer and prepare agreement
July 5, 2006	Notice to proceed for design

Please furnish **five** copies of the proposals to Ms. Shannon Ausen, PE, Office of Public Works-Engineering, 224 West Ninth Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57104-6407 by **2:00 p.m. Central Time, June 2, 2006**. Submittals received after the stated time will be returned unopened and will not be considered.

Appointments can be made to review the documentation and preliminary information that has been assembled to this point. One hour appointments can be scheduled by contacting Brandi Rensch at the City Engineering Office, 367-8601.

Questions and/or Revisions to the Specifications and Requirements.

Questions about the proposal should be addressed in writing or email before **2:00 Central Time, May 26, 2006**, to: Ms. Shannon Ausen, Assistant City Engineer, Office of Public Works-Engineering, 224 West Ninth Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57104-6407 (605) 367-8601. Email address is sausen@siouxfalls.org. All questions will be posted daily on the City's website on the Request for Proposals home page. This approach allows all respondents to receive the same information.

Respondents are encouraged to monitor the website for daily updates.

Respondents are expected to raise any questions, exceptions, or additions they have concerning the RFP document. If a respondent discovers any significant ambiguity,

error, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other deficiency in this RFP, they should immediately notify the above named individual of such error and request modification or clarification of the RFP document.

Selection Process

The selection committee will review all proposals which are submitted prior to the deadline. The selection committee reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or cancel the selection process at any time. The selection committee also reserves the right to request additional information or clarification from respondents, or to allow the correction of errors or omissions.

The selection committee will select the top firms which it determines to be the most qualified to provide the services requested. The selection committee may require, if necessary, each of these firms to make a presentation to the committee regarding its qualifications to perform the project. The top firms will then be ranked in order of qualifications. The selection committee will then attempt to negotiate a contract at a fair and reasonable price with the top-ranked firm. If unable to negotiate a contract with the top-ranked firm, negotiations will be terminated and the selection committee will then initiate negotiations with the second-ranked firm.

The selection committee shall have the final authority and discretion to make a selection based upon the qualifications, responsibility and capabilities of respondents, the fairness of price and other factors. Any decision by the selection committee shall be final. The City of Sioux Falls will not be liable in any way for the costs incurred by respondents in replying to this RFP or the costs incurred in making a pre-selection presentation to the project selection committee.

General Requirements

- A.** The consultant shall make an effort to involve DBE/MBE businesses in this project.
- B.** The successful firm shall comply with the requirements of Title 49 CFR Part 21 and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The successful firm shall submit upon request quarterly Title VI (civil rights) State of Contractor reports to the SDDOT. The successful contractor shall provide services in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act of 1990.
- C.** Any and all resulting agreements from this RFP shall require the successful firm to provide and maintain professional liability insurance as well as worker's compensation, public liability and property damage insurance in amounts set forth by the City of Sioux Falls policy in force at the time of agreement or subsequent revisions of said policy.
- D.** Federal funding will be utilized in this project; and thus, this project will be subject to all requirements that are incurred as a result.
- E.** No member officer or employee of the City of Sioux Falls, the State of South Dakota or SECOG or member of its governing body or of a local public body having jurisdiction within the metropolitan area during his or

her tenure or one year thereafter shall have any interest, direct or indirect, in any resultant contract or the proceeds thereof.

- F.** Unless otherwise indicated the process shown shall not include taxes of any kind. All agency members are exempt from Federal Excise Tax under Chapter 32 of the Internal Revenue Code. The City of Sioux Falls is exempt from all state taxation including state sales and use taxes.