

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) RFQ TOD16-01

ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT – NORTHWEST TRANSIT CENTER DALLAS – HOUSTON HIGH SPEED RAIL TERMINAL AND ALIGNMENT STUDY

The City of Houston intends to enter into contract with a professional engineer to provide engineering services for the project listed below. The work is to be performed by the professional engineer and the proposed contract shall consist of engineering services as outlined below.

To qualify for selection, the submitting firm must be registered in Texas and have a professional engineer (also registered in Texas) who can sign and seal the work to be performed under the contract. To be considered for evaluation, firms shall submit a specific statement of qualifications (SOQ) in the manner described below and may not submit more than one response to this RFQ. **Any firm submitting an SOQ that does not conform to all the requirements of this RFQ will be subject to disqualification.**

1. One hard-copy SOQ, including the entire submittal package (items 1-6, below), and
2. One (1) CD-ROM according to the following instructions:

The CD-Rom label clearly shows the firm name and the RFQ number.

Only one PDF file on the CD-Rom, with the entire submittal package (items 1-6, below) included within that PDF file. The PDF file shall follow the below naming convention.

- "<RFQ Number>_<Firm Name>.pdf"
- Example: "E13-07_ABC Services.pdf"

Every submittal will be reviewed and rated for accuracy and completeness, but **the following specific errors are cause for disqualification:**
Qualifications (see below) are on more than eight (8) pages.

The submittal shall include the following:

1. A transmittal letter of interest notifying the City of Houston of the submitter's intent to be considered for these professional services.
2. A one-page letter from each sub-consulting firm proposed in the submittal indicating that firm's desire to be included and indicating a general statement of the scope of services that the sub-consultant will perform if the submitting firm is selected.
3. A copy of the submitting firm's response to questionnaire pertaining to "Conflict of Interest". Local Government Code Chapter 176 requires firms seeking to do business with the City of Houston ("City") to file a Conflict of Interest Questionnaire with the City Secretary. The current Conflict of Interest Questionnaire is available for downloading on the website of the Texas Ethics Commission: <http://www.ethics.state.tx.us/forms/CIQ.pdf> *If nobody in the company has a business relationship with the City (as defined in Section 176.001 (1-a) in the Local Government Code), write "N/A" in Section 1 and leave the remainder of the form blank.*
4. A copy of the submitting firm's current on-file Department of Public Works and Engineering's *Standard Form for Engineering and Related Services* ("PWE100"). Firms are still responsible for the formal submission of updated PWE100s according to the instructions at the following location: http://www.publicworks.houstontx.gov/notices/pwe_100_form.html
5. A fully completed Pay or Play POP-1A form, which can be found at the following location: <http://www.houstontx.gov/obo/popforms.html>. The City of Houston's Pay or Play (POP) Program as authorized by Ordinance 2007-534 and Executive Order 1-7 will be included as part of the professional services contract.

6. The remainder of the submittal document (Qualifications) shall follow the below parameters:

A. Format of Qualifications:

- Not exceed EIGHT single-sided 8 1/2x11 pages
- Font: 11pt Arial
- Line Spacing: 1.5

B. Content of Qualifications:

- Specific technical capabilities of the firm(s) for the project;
- Prior demonstrated experience in accomplishing similar projects;
- Project Approach
- Demonstrated timeliness on similar projects;
- Identification and qualifications of employees proposed to be assigned on the projects;
- Identification and qualifications of sub-consultants proposed to be used on the project, and
- Demonstrated knowledge of local conditions, especially knowledge relevant to project scope;
- Demonstrated ability to fulfill M/WBE goals (24%).

A committee appointed by the Director of Public Works and Engineering will review the submittals and recommend the most highly qualified submitting firms for selection.

A pre-submission meeting will be held from 1:00 – 2:00 PM on Friday, May 13, 2016 in the 5th Floor Conference Room at the Bob Lanier Public Works Building, 611 Walker, Houston, TX 77002 to discuss this and other solicitations. A firm may not have more than (2) members at this meeting.

Deadline: Packages shall be submitted as described above in a sealed envelope with the RFQ number and firm name clearly identified on the outside of the envelope. They shall be addressed to the City of Houston, Department of Public works and Engineering, 611 Walker, 5th floor, Attention: Ms. LaVerne Hollins-McGlothen, Houston, Texas 77002 and **will be received until 2:00 P.M. on May 27, 2016**. Any submissions received after this time will not be considered.

General Scope:

Background:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Dallas to Houston High-Speed Rail Project. The proposed project would connect Dallas and Houston with a dedicated High Speed Rail (HSR) system proposed by a private company, Texas Central Railway (TCR). FRA completed an independent evaluation of potential high-speed rail corridor alternatives and determined that the Utility Corridor is the only feasible end-to-end corridor alternative.

FRA's [Alternatives Analysis Technical Report](#) documents the potential high-speed rail corridor alternatives that were evaluated, and describes FRA's screening process. The report eliminated the alternatives to the Houston Central Business Districts (CBD) due to the potential to create significant environmental impact and thereby resulting in higher cost per mile. The reports the recommendation of the Houston Terminal to be located near US 290 and IH 610.

The City of Houston in coordination with its partners would like to conduct its assessment to understand the feasibility of terminal or station near the CBD; and the impact of HSR terminal/station near the CBD and TCR proposed US 290 at IH 610/ Northwest Mall/Transit Center (NWTC). The outcome of the study will guide City's next steps to coordinate with TCR and FRA to ensure effective transportation system for last mile connections to various employment centers in the region.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Study is to evaluate

1. Feasibility of extending HSR and terminal/station location in proximity to the Central Business District (CBD).

2. Overall impacts and benefits (pros and cons) of CBD terminal/station vs. HSR's proposed NWTC terminal location? *All impacts inclusive of economic, traffic and transportation, environmental, land use and social/quality of life should be studied.*
3. Identify and evaluate transit connectivity alternatives and other mobility improvements needed for HSR opening day (2021) at NWTC or CBD and in the future

Scope:

The scope of work for the Study will include, but not limited to, the following factors identified below:

Understanding of the requirements of Terminal or Station in proximity to the CBD

- Frequency of trains
- Terminal capacity- startup & long term
- Intermodal access/multi-modal connectivity
- Location of passenger's origins/ destinations/ future expansions
- Mode split of passengers to final destinations
- Parking requirements
- Ingress/ egress traffic volumes
- Front & back of house facilities
- Desired adjacent development

Identify feasible locations for Terminal or Station in proximity to the CBD that address

- Location and site availability of terminal / station
- Multimodal Connectivity: Vehicular (SOV, shared ride, taxi etc.), transit (Commuter Rail, Light Rail, Bus, Park & Ride System, etc.), pedestrian – bicycle access, etc.
- Parking and access
- Rough development cost estimate
- Development timetable
- Development capital sources
- Sensitive adjacent neighborhoods and properties- environmental issues
- Alignment and right-of-way availability
- Engineering feasibility
- Coordination with NHHIP

Comparative analysis of CBD and NWTC Terminal or Station locations to evaluate impact

- Ridership and mode-split of passengers to final destinations
- Transportation Impacts – Traffic Circulation Freeway/major roadway connectivity, necessary modification of streets, ramps, etc.
- Costs and Economic Impacts
- Development timeline
- Community/ environmental issues
- Analysis of connectivity options to Uptown, CBD and TMC
- Transit Impacts – Need for transit connectivity to the Terminal/Station via Rapid bus, LRT, Commuter rail, Park & Ride System,
 - Feasible alignments
 - Transfers to other modes
 - Travel time (all modes used)
 - Rough cost estimates
 - Financing options
 - Lead development entity
 - Local ridership

The Study will summarize the process, approach and recommendation. It will also provide a case for business model to implement the recommendation.

Study Team:

The Study team will include expertise inclusive but not limited to the following fields:

- Transportation Planning and Engineering
- Transit Planning and Engineering
- Rail Planning and Engineering
- Environmental considerations (Historic Preservations, Community Impacts, etc)
- Transit Station/Facility Development
- Project Development
- Travel Demand Modeling
- Financing

The Study will be guided by a project Steering Committee inclusive of the following entities

- City of Houston Public Works & Engineering Department
- City of Houston Planning and Development Department
- Central Houston
- Uptown Houston
- TMC
- GHCVB (Connectivity Task Force)
- TxDOT
- Gulf Coast Rail District
- METRO