

Highway 75 Corridor Transportation Feasibility Study and Strategy Request for Qualifications

1. Introduction

The Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA), in coordination with the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), is issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to conduct a Feasibility Study and Strategy Development in the vicinity of the Highway 75 corridor in Northeast Omaha. Qualified consultants are invited to submit a statement of qualifications as further outlined below for this study.

This study is a Transportation Feasibility Study which will evaluate the current alignment of Highway 75 through the Florence Neighborhood of Omaha and evaluate potential realignment alternatives and their economic impact. A subsequent phase focused on Economic Development potential and disaster resiliency may be pursued pending funding availability.

This request invites qualified consultants to submit for accomplishment of the items of work described in the Scope of Services below of this phase of the project. Proposals shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the requirements described in this Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Upon completion of the scope of work for the project, a corresponding fee will be developed and negotiated with the successful firm selected from the interview. An agreement will be executed with a single firm. If MAPA is unable to arrive at a mutual agreement with the top ranked firm, then MAPA retains the right to move on to negotiations with the second (then third, etc.) ranked firm. The contract shall be a cost plus fixed fee plus reimbursement of actual expenses with an agreed maximum amount. All information related to this proposal will be posted at <https://mapacog.org/projects/rfpsrfqs/>.

Study Boundaries

The Study Area includes the region generally bounded by approximately 36th Street on the west, I-680 on the north, Eppley Airfield / Abbott Drive on the east extending northward to I-680 in Iowa, and Sprague Street and the north edge of Levi Carter Park on the south. The study area includes land in both Iowa and Nebraska (see map of study area on the last page of this RFQ packet).

2. Study Background

Roadway improvements and highway alignments have been studied in the Florence area back to the 1950s and 1960s as part of highway planning for the Omaha region. Strong opposition to a proposed extension of the North Freeway through Florence in the 1970s caused further development of that project to cease— leaving a gap in limited access facilities between the Storz Expressway and I-680. Thus, the existing highway connection travels through the main commercial and residential districts of the Florence neighborhood, providing for significant noise and traffic impacts due to freight traffic from North Omaha’s industrial and warehousing cluster. These concerns prompted the Nebraska Legislature in 2019 to allocate funding toward a feasibility study to evaluate transportation and economic options in the area, including the construction of a new bridge across the Missouri River

(LB129/LB294). This study will evaluate the aforementioned impacts, issues, and identify alternatives for the existing alignment of Highway 75. It will also assess costs, benefits, economic and community impacts of alternatives to develop recommendations about investments and policy changes to mitigate these impacts.

In light of this background, this study will be guided by three core principles:

- Support the movement of goods from North Omaha’s existing industrial cluster via the state highway system and evaluate mitigation strategies to reduce impacts on adjacent, non-industrial land uses in the Florence neighborhood and Study Area.
- Ensure that transportation plans are consistent with guiding State policies and regulations governing highways and roads.
- Develop transportation solutions that are consistent with the goals and principles identified in the MAPA’s 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan and the related Connect GO initiative led by the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce.

3. Anticipated Scope of Services

Task 1: Project management and coordination

Task 2: Public involvement

Task 3: Transportation Data Collection

Task 4: Preliminary Feasibility Assessment of Alternatives

4a: Review of previous studies

4b: Alternatives identification and data gathering

4c: Origin/Destination analysis

4d: Alternative development and refinement

4e: Preliminary cost estimates

4f: High-level cost-benefit screening /economic analysis

4g: Preliminary feasibility analysis

Task 5: Community impact assessment

Task 6: Final Memorandum and Next steps

Task 1: Project management and coordination

The Consultant shall be responsible for project management and coordination including but not limited to, project steering committee and stakeholder committee support, regular progress reports, budget development and cost control, and other tasks. The stakeholder committee will include, at a minimum, representatives from local governments, state transportation departments, Eppley Airfield, local businesses, and neighborhood resident/association representatives.

Anticipated Deliverables: Project Management Plan, Project Budget, Project Schedule, Monthly Progress Reports, Meeting Agendas and Minutes

Task 2: Public involvement

The Consultant will plan and execute at least two (2) workshops with the general public and key stakeholders at appropriate junctures in the planning process. Workshops should have a dynamic and interactive design, and have a defined goal and list of outcomes.

The Consultant may be asked to develop social media and other online public involvement activities, in coordination with MAPA staff.

Anticipated Deliverable: Conduct public involvement workshops and provide social media content.

Task 3: Transportation Data Collection

The Consultant will gather existing traffic count information, environmental, and socioeconomic resources within the study area. The consultant will utilize the existing traffic data to develop future traffic projections and conduct a capacity analysis of the existing transportation system within the study area.

Anticipated Deliverable: Memorandum summarizing existing environmental and socioeconomic resources in the study area, existing and projected traffic counts, and the results of the capacity analysis.

Task 4: Preliminary Feasibility Assessment of AlternativesTask 4a) Review of previous studies

The Consultant will review previous transportation and planning studies conducted in the Study area. The Consultant will interview stakeholders, including local elected officials, governmental staff members, economic development professionals, and businesses.

Anticipated Deliverable: See Task 4b.

Task 4b) Alternatives identification and data gathering

The Consultant will identify potential transportation improvements to connectivity within and through the Study Area. This will include connections between Highway 75 (North Freeway) and I-680 in Iowa and improvements to the currently designated route from I-680 to Eppley Airfield. Other alternatives may be considered and proposed as part of the study. Gather data, assess impacts related to traffic, environment, social and community impacts for the alternatives. Analysis should include consideration of the 2019 Missouri River flooding, current flood risk and resiliency of infrastructure to future flood events.

Anticipated Deliverable: Memorandum and aerial map identifying and describing each transportation alternative, the results of stakeholder interviews, accompanied by relevant data as well as a preliminary assessment of strengths and weaknesses for each alternative.

Task 4c) Origin/Destination analysis

The Consultant will propose a cost-effective method to gather O/D data and review travel patterns, including truck travel patterns, for internal-external and external-external trips in and through the Study Area.

Anticipated Deliverable: Memorandum evaluating traffic, including truck patterns in the Study Area.

Task 4d) Alternative development and refinement

The consultant will work with stakeholders to identify feasible alternatives providing improved connections and routing for traffic while improving the quality of life in the Florence neighborhood and surrounding Northeast Omaha vicinity. In consistency with LB129/LB124, a new Missouri River bridge crossing shall be included as at least one alternative.

Anticipated Deliverable: Memorandum providing detailed descriptions and maps of the transportation alternatives.

Task 4e) Preliminary cost estimates

The Consultant will develop preliminary cost estimates for transportation alternatives.

Anticipated Deliverable: Memorandum providing cost estimates with description of costs.

Task 4f) High-level cost-benefit review/economic analysis

The Consultant will conduct a high-level review, or “screening,” of costs and benefits for the transportation alternatives. The review shall include consideration of each alternative’s potential impact on economic development potential in the Study Area. The study team may choose to conduct this review on a narrowed set of alternatives.

Anticipated Deliverable: Memorandum providing cost estimates with description of costs.

Task 4g) Preliminary feasibility analysis

The Consultant will provide a preliminary feasibility analysis of the transportation alternatives, using the information developed in the aforementioned tasks and gathering input from the stakeholder committee and the public. The analysis may include recommendations for a Purpose and Need statement, which would be done in coordination with NDOT. This analysis is to be conducted at a planning level and will not get ahead of the NEPA process.

Anticipated Deliverable: Memorandum of the preliminary alternatives analysis.

Task 5: Community Impact Assessment

The Consultant will prepare an evaluation of the impacts of alternatives on surrounding neighborhoods, the physical environment and the residents. It should also evaluate the potential relocation implication of residents and/or businesses, particularly, the financial implications. Any measures required to maintain or enhance future flood resiliency should be included in the assessment. The information from this task would be an input into the second phase of the study.

Anticipated Deliverable: Memorandum with map assessing the community impacts of the study alternatives.

Task 6: Final Report and Next Steps

The Consultant will compile and edit the memoranda from Tasks 1-5 into a final report and executive summary. Next steps for a potential transportation improvement(s) should be identified clearly, including but not limited to potential funding resources to implement the project, accompanied by a timeline and lead agencies/organizations to advance the recommendations.

Anticipated Deliverable: Final Report (30 hard copies) and Executive Summary (500 hard copies).

4. RFQ Schedule

The anticipated consultant selection schedule is included below

Activity	Date
RFQ Released	3/24/2021
Deadline for Written Questions	4/1/2021
Responses to Written Questions	4/5/2021
Deadline for Submittals	4/15/2021
Proposals Reviewed and Consultants Short-Listed	4/21/2021
Notification of Interviews	4/22/2021
Short-Listed Consultants Interview	5/6/2021
Consultant Selection & Notification	5/10/2021
Scope and Fee Negotiation Finalized	5/26/2021
Agreements Finalized	6/11/2021
Finance Committee Approval	6/16/2021
MAPA Board Approval	6/24/2021
Notice to Proceed	6/25/2021

5. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation and selection of the winning proposal will be based on the qualifications of the responding firm. A consultant evaluation team will screen the proposals to ensure they meet the minimum requirements of the proposal format. A review of qualifying proposals will identify potential firms that most closely meet the needs of the project. Upon review and ranking of the proposals, the top two to four candidate firms will be interviewed.

Factors that will be considered by the selection team include the following:

Criteria	Points
1. Project understanding	10
2. Overall project approach and strategy	20
3. Expertise and experience necessary to execute Phase 1	20
4. Expertise and experience necessary to execute Phase 2	20
5. QC/QA and cost control procedures	10
6. Clarity, conciseness, and organization of written proposal	10
7. Public engagement strategy, including outreach to key stakeholders and local residents and organizations	10
Total Points	100

6. Submission of Proposals

Seven (7) printed copies and one electronic version (PDF preferred) of the proposal must be received in the MAPA offices by 4:00 PM CST on April 15, 2021.

The Issuing Officer, identified below, is the sole point of contact regarding the RFQ from the date of issuance until selection of the successful vendor.

Court Barber
Issuing Officer
Metropolitan Area Planning Agency
2222 Cuming Street
Omaha, NE 68102
cbarber@mapacog.org

From the issue date of this RFP until announcement of the successful vendor, vendors may contact only the Issuing Officer regarding this RFP. The Selection Committee will include representation from at least MAPA, NDOT, the City of Omaha, and the Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD). Vendors may be disqualified if they contact any employee or representative of MAPA or other agencies participating in the selection committee members other than the Issuing Officer regarding this RFP. Questions only about the procurement process will be accepted by MAPA; all of these must be submitted in writing by April 1, 2021. Answers to all questions will be posted on the MAPA website by April 5, 2021. Firms whose proposals are not accepted will be notified as soon as the selected firm has been approved and a contract has been negotiated.

7. Submittal Requirements

The proposal shall include the following items and be organized in the manner specified below. Proposals shall be bound with pages numbered and limited to 24 pages. This page limit does not include the cover letter, resumes of the key staff to be assigned to the project, or a listing of similar projects the firm has completed.

A. Front Cover

The proposal shall include a front cover that identifies the Prime Consultant, Sub-consultants (if applicable) and the title of the project or service (does not count against page limit).

B. Firm Profile

A summary description of the Firm's history, structure, size and philosophy

C. Organizational Chart

Delineate the project team by including an organizational chart showing lines of responsibility and extent of involvement for sub-consultants. Include names and titles of key individuals to be assigned to and work directly on the project. Describe specific areas and limits of responsibilities for each of the team members and proposed sub-consultants to be utilized. Resumes of key personnel shall be included in an appendix.

D. Project Approach

Describe and outline the Firm's approach to performing the work required by this project. Include an implementation plan describing project phases

E. Public Involvement Approach

Provide a description of your proposed public involvement process

F. Proposed Project Schedule

Outline of the proposed project schedule. Include key work elements and public involvement tasks required to meet critical project dates.

G. Staff availability

Describe the ability of the Firm to meet the intent of required services outlined in this RFQ, including the time availability of team members to meet the tentative project schedule, and the availability of the firm to provide the resources necessary to complete the project.

H. References

List a minimum of three contacts of former clients (to include contact person, title, and telephone number) for which your firm was engaged within the past five (5) years to perform projects of similar size or scope.

I. NDOT Form 498

Supplement to Statement of Qualifications (does not count towards page limit)

J. Proof of Insurance

The successful firm shall comply with all contractual obligations, including without limitation the obligation to obtain all insurance required by the County. All certificates of insurance shall be filed with the County on the standard ACORD Certificate of Insurance Form showing the specific limits of insurance coverage required in the contract and showing MAPA as a named additional insured. Such certificate shall specifically state that insurance policies are to be endorsed to require the insurer to provide MAPA with not less than thirty days written notice of cancellation, non-renewal, or any material reduction in the standard amounts or limits of insurance coverage.

K. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

The proposal shall include a completed Consultant Conflict of Interest Disclosure form for the prime consultant and any subconsultants (does not count against page limit).

8. Additional Submittal Requirements

1. All material in the submittal must be on 8½ x 11 paper printed on one (1) side, single or double spaced.
2. Submittal covers and dividers between the sections are allowed and not included in the page limit.
3. Fold-out pages are not allowed.
4. Submittals are to be bound, no three-ring binders

All information must be received by 4:00 p.m. CST on April 15, 2021.

9. Interviews

The short-listed firms will be notified by telephone of the interview time and duration.

MAPA will make every effort to post the short-listed firms and the interview schedule on the MAPA website by 4:00 p.m. on April 22, 2021.

The selection committee will conduct interviews with the short-listed firms on May 6, 2021. Interviews will be in-person with COVID-19 safety protocols followed.

10. Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Policy

The Omaha –Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. MAPA has received Federal Financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, MAPA has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is the policy of MAPA to ensure that DBEs, as defined in part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts. It is also our policy:

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT assisted contracts;
2. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT assisted contracts;
3. To ensure that the DBE Program is tailored narrowly in accordance with applicable law;
4. To ensure that only firms that meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards fully are permitted to participate as DBEs;
5. To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT assisted contracts;
6. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program.

The following assurance is to be included on all DOT-assisted contracts:

“The contractor, subrecipient or subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this contract. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR part 26 in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract, or such other remedy as the recipient deems appropriate.”

11. General Terms and Conditions

1. Conflicts of Interest — The proposer shall disclose any known or potential conflicts of interest with MAPA and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The proposer must

declare that the proposer is not currently, and will not during the performance of any services for MAPA, participate in any other work involving a third party with interests in conflict currently or likely to be in conflict with MAPA's interests without MAPA's approval. All sub-consultants must submit a conflict of interest form as well.

2. SAM Registration – All prospective consulting firms must be listed in the U.S. Federal Contractor Registration database known as SAM (System for Award Management) to be considered for this project.

3. Amendments to the RFQ — MAPA reserves the right to amend or cancel any or all parts of this RFQ. Revisions to the RFQ shall be posted on the MAPA website at least three (3) full business days prior to the deadline for submittal of responses.

4. Non-commitment of MAPA — This RFQ does not commit MAPA to award a contract, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this request, or to procure or contract for services.

5. Confidentiality — Before award of the contract, all responses to this RFQ will be designated confidential to the extent permitted by the Nebraska Public Records Law (84-712). After award of the contract (or if not awarded, after rejection of all responses), all responses will be regarded as public records and will be subject to review by the public. Any language purporting to render all or portions of the responses confidential will be regarded as non-effective and will be disregarded.

6. Access to Records and Reports — The proposer acknowledges the selected consultant firm will give MAPA, NDOT, Iowa DOT, FHWA, and the Comptroller General of the United States access to any books, documents, papers and records of the consultant firm which pertain directly to the contract for the purposes of making audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcriptions. Related contractual documents will be maintained for no less than three years after the date of termination or expiration of the contract.

7. Termination — MAPA will retain the right to terminate the contract for convenience or default. These clauses will be incorporated into the contract with the selected consultant firm.

8. Civil Rights — MAPA is in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, as amended, section 303 of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities act of 1990, and Federal transit law. Thus, clauses relating to nondiscrimination and equal employment opportunity (race, color, creed, national origin, sex, and disabilities) will be included in the contract with the selected consultant firm.

9. Drug Free Workplace – MAPA has established and maintains drug-free workplace policies. The selected consultant firm and all sub-consultants must have established and maintain drug-free workplace policies as well, such as those set forth in the Federal Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988.

12. Award of Contract

MAPA reserves the right to negotiate with the selected firm on matters related to project cost, or technical or other considerations that arise following announcement of the award of the contract. A decision to contract with the selected firm will be made by the MAPA Board of Directors following a recommendation by MAPA planning staff. Subject to selection and successful negotiation, MAPA intends to sign a contract on or about June 24, 2021 with the objective of the selected firm beginning work on or about June 28, 2021.

Study Area

