MetroCOG Responses to Firm Questions related to the 2025 Regional POCD Update
December 4, 2024
Issue Date: October 31, 2024 Proposal Deadline: December 12, 2024 -3:00 PM

Q: Has a budget been allocated for this effort?

A. There has not been a budget allocated for the project, we will work with the selected firm to determine an appropriate budget.

Q. Are there any platforms that MetroCOG subscribes to that the consultant team should consider in the development of an interactive plan? For example, does MetroCOG have an ArcGIS Online account that supports StoryMaps?

A. MetroCOG currently has an ArcGIS Online account that includes StoryMap and Hub capabilities and as an agency has used both for several projects. MetroCOG intends to host and maintain the final interactive version of the POCD. We welcome firms to suggest additional applications but would desire a thorough process for updates/handing off the application to MetroCOG, as well as an idea of the costs to continue hosting the application.

Q. Pertaining to community engagement, it is understood that the consultant will lead the facilitation of focus groups. In relation to Task 4 efforts around "public events," please confirm that MetroCOG staff will lead facilitation with the consultant team assisting.

A. MetroCOG intends to lead facilitation at public events, with aid from the consulting firm in assisting at 6 events throughout the POCD update. If the firm has ideas or suggestions about innovative approaches to engaging the public at events, we suggest that these be lead by the consultant, with the proposal including the approach and an idea of cost.

Q. Is the intent of developing regional typologies similar to the 2015 POCD focus on "character areas?

A. Yes, The State C&D Plan, local POCDs, and 2015 RPOCD should be utilized in developing typologies.

Q. The RFP lists civic infrastructure as a topic that MetroCOG is seeking subject matter experts. Please specify if there are pre-identified civic infrastructure interests/priorities.

A. MetroCOG used the term civic infrastructure to encompass topics specified in 8-35a, which currently do not easily align with other topic areas in the plan, including "schools, public institutions, public utilities…and such other matters as, in the opinion of the council, will be beneficial to the area." At a minimum, schools and public institutions should be included under civic infrastructure. We welcome suggestions about other areas that could be included under civic infrastructure.

Q. Is there an established target month for Plan adoption?

A. *The 2015 plan was approved on December 17, 2015. According to State requirements, outlined in 8-35a*

"at least sixty-five days before the public hearing the regional council of governments shall post the plan on the Internet web site of the council, if any, and submit the plan to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management for findings in the form of comments and recommendations." A draft plan should be ready at least 65 days prior to mid-December, and some time assumed to address any substantive comments from the council, the public, and/or OPM. Ideally, we would like the POCD wrapped in early October.

Q. The RFP reads, "Respondents are advised that any and all materials submitted in response to this RFP shall become the sole property of MetroCOG and shall be subject to the provisions of Section 1-210 of the Connecticut General Statutes (re: Freedom of Information)." and "The use of consultant generated media, photos, surveys, and videos may be used by MetroCOG for future planning purposes and documents." Could you please confirm that photographs generated and submitted as part of the response to the RFP will remain the property of the photographer, unless our team is selected to be the consultant?

A. MetroCOG will not retain the photos provided during the RPF process and will only use and retain photos from the selected firm after confirmation.