



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

MIDWEST CONNECT HYPERLOOP FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) requests proposals for services of a qualified and experienced transportation (planning, environmental and engineering services) consultant or consultant team. Services are requested to complete work associated with the Midwest Connect Hyperloop Feasibility Study.

Consultants interested in being considered must submit **two (2) printed copies and one (1) copy in the form of a jump drive in a PDF format**. Proposals will be received by MORPC until **5:00 p.m. (ET), Monday, April 2, 2018**.

Submit proposals to:

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission
Attn: Dina Lopez
111 Liberty Street, Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43215
dlopez@morpc.org

Proposals must arrive in the MORPC offices prior to the proposal due date and time. Firms making proposals should take this into account when choosing a mail carrier. Facsimile submissions will not be accepted.

All questions must be submitted in writing and should be submitted via mail or email to Dina López at dlopez@morpc.org. No answers will be given over the phone. Written answers, including any amendments to the RFP if necessary will be posted on MORPC's website. Responses to questions will be posted at <http://www.morpc.org/rfps-rfqs/>.

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the related nondiscrimination statutes, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, all bidders including disadvantaged business enterprises, will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, low-income status, or limited English proficiency in consideration for an award.

Neither MORPC nor any member agency of the Committee shall be liable for any costs incurred by the consultant in response to this RFP, or any costs incurred in connection with any discussions, correspondence or attendance at interviews or negotiation sessions.

All materials submitted in response to this RFP shall become the property of MORPC and may be returned only at MORPC's option. All materials received shall be considered public information and shall be open to public inspection.

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OVERVIEW/PROJECT BACKGROUND

In October 2016, MORPC submitted a proposal in response to Hyperloop One's Global Challenge. The Hyperloop One Global Challenge called for comprehensive proposals to build Hyperloop networks connecting cities and regions around the world. More than 2,600 teams registered, and ten routes were selected as winners of the Global Challenge. The Midwest Connect Corridor was one of the ten winners globally and four in the United States. The designation has garnered support from stakeholders across the corridor, culminating in continuing to evaluate the corridor through this feasibility study.

Project Location and Corridor Description

The feasibility study will include two potential routes, one of which will be the rail corridor featured in the Hyperloop One Global Challenge Midwest Connect Corridor proposal. At minimum, the potential routes should include the following cities: Chicago, Fort Wayne, Lima, Marysville, Columbus and Pittsburgh.

Purpose and Objectives

This feasibility study's purpose is to enhance work already completed by MORPC under the Hyperloop One Global Challenge competition, and to further analyze and provide more refined information to the Midwest Connect corridor partners as implementation approaches are evaluated.

The feasibility study's objectives include providing:

- Clarity about optimal range of initial implementation and alignment
- Clarity on initial stations and end points
- High-level estimates of transportation demand
- High-level estimates of economic benefits for freight and passengers
- Stakeholder and public awareness and engagement strategy
- Business case and implementation strategy
- High-level estimates of per-mile cost of construction for the selected corridor

SCOPE OF SERVICES/PROJECT SCOPE/STUDY PURPOSE & APPROACH

The scope of work drafted below has been prepared for the Midwest Connect Hyperloop One Corridor Feasibility Study. This scope of work includes preliminary tasks, and includes tasks to be completed by a selected consultant with expected input from Virgin Hyperloop One as it relates to the technology's right-of-way needs. This scope of work has been prepared under the assumption that the work will proceed under the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's oversight, with input from Virgin Hyperloop One, and in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Rail Development Commission and JobsOhio.

OVERALL SCHEDULE: 9 MONTHS

TASK 1 – VISIONING AND TECHNOLOGY APPLICATION

Task Duration: 2 Months

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Conduct a 1- to 2-day working session with Virgin Hyperloop One (VH1), MORPC, ODOT, the selected consultant and other corridor stakeholders to work through a process to gain clarity on the core capabilities and focused application of the technology within the Midwest Connect Hyperloop Corridor freight and passenger movement context. A list of corridor stakeholders to be invited to the working session will be provided to the selected consultant by MORPC. The 1- to 2-day working session's focus will be on the physical and operations requirements, with the anticipation of VH1's leadership throughout this Task. This working session will also focus on the feasibility study team's coordination planning. Initial key discussions in the working session could include:

- Core capabilities and what the system is best suited to provide in the Midwest Connect Hyperloop Corridor context **(input from VH1 needed)**
- System capacity capabilities **(input from VH1 needed)**
- Technology footprint and geometry **(input from VH1 needed)**
- Station requirements and footprint **(input from VH1 needed)**
- System power and communication requirements **(input from VH1 needed)**
- Utility-resources **(input from VH1 needed)**
- Corridor alignment alternatives and operating speed requirements **(input from VH1 needed)**
- Order-of-magnitude capital construction costs **(input from VH1 needed)**
- Order-of-magnitude operational costs **(input from VH1 needed)**
- Construction and assembly duration estimates **(input from VH1 needed)**
- Description of VH1 proprietary transportation demand and benefit analysis tool, including required inputs provided in a memo format by Virgin Hyperloop One **(input from VH1 needed)**
- General basis of design for technology, including estimates on the following parameters that would impact the preliminary design **(input from VH1 needed)**
 - General loading and sizing of the system for preliminary structural analysis
 - General concept of operations that include vehicle sizing, headways, required maintenance and operations functions, and station operational requirements
 - Infrastructure requirements for power traction, maintenance and operations of the system
 - Geometric requirements for the guideway, including guideway loading, required structures, width and clearances, and approximation of alignment requirements, including maximum vertical grade changes, horizontal curve geometry, and stopping distance
- Identify scenarios of regulating agencies at the federal level
- Expectations on the protocols for coordination for the remainder of the feasibility study including meetings, leadership and technical team structure, and outreach logistics

Deliverables **(Denotes Delivery Responsibility):**

- Delivery of a 1- to 2-day working session at MORPC-provided facilities in Columbus **(selected consultant with support from MORPC)**
- Team Charter and Scope Review Document **(selected consultant)**
- Hyperloop Technology Basis of Design **(input from VH1 needed)**
- Hyperloop Technology Concept of Operations Overview **(input from VH1 needed)**

Responsibilities: Selected consultant coordinates the completion of Task 1, with Virgin Hyperloop One's substantial input, with MORPC and ODOT technical support, as needed.

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Checkpoint and validation occurs at the conclusion of Task 1 to confirm with MORPC and ODOT that sufficient information has been procured from VH1 to result in valid assumptions before moving to Task 2. With input from VH1, ODOT and MORPC to approve Task 1 before proceeding to Task 2.

TASK 2 – TRANSPORTATION DEMAND AND ECONOMIC BENEFIT ANALYSIS

Task Duration: 1.5 Months

As a next step after the initial visioning requirements are accomplished, the selected consultant will develop the demand model and economic benefit analysis with input from Virgin Hyperloop One. Prior work completed by MORPC as part of the April 2017 proposal update (to be provided to selected consultant) will be used to initiate this task, and additional data inputs will be determined based on regional experience and data available that will help refine previous MORPC work done to assess potential demand on the system as well as economic benefits for the region. Data inputs will be organized, formatted, and translated, as necessary, from available resources to MORPC, ODOT and VH1, as defined. Throughout this task, the consultant will consider the wider economic impacts of hyperloop technology, and incorporate their findings in the final deliverable.

Evaluation of the transportation demand for the defined initial implementation will be refined/enhanced based on technical work completed to date by MORPC, and include the following:

- Demand, ridership, freight volume, and high-level revenue potential
- Define catchment sizes for existing cities, towns and other key nodes on the corridor
- Analyze current passenger flows between stations, including peak flow times
- Analyze current cargo flows between stations, including peak flow times and typical mode and method (container type) of shipments
- Analyze current modes of transport on corridor, journey times, ridership (and revenue estimates)
- Estimate induced demand based on readily available methods of estimating mode-shift and growth models
- Project potential future flows, e.g., new commuter flows, new tourism traffics, new cargo flow

Building off preliminary work done by MORPC in April 2017, explore major economic drivers including:

- Land growth scenarios around stations including potential for economic incentive tools to capture value from development.
- Economic development opportunities, including a deeper dive on economic ties between route end points including increased interaction at airport to world markets, both now and what might be possible in the future in terms of industries and scale.
- Examine advanced manufacturing facility and workforce alignment and availability in Ohio and the Midwest Connect corridor region to manufacture Virgin Hyperloop One infrastructure and components.
- Transportation Benefits Assessment, to include:
 - Congestion reduction
 - Emissions reduction
 - Time savings
 - Accident reduction
- Broader Economic Benefits, to include:

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- Agglomeration
- Supply chain integration
- Productivity increases
- Social benefits

Deliverables:

- Demand and Benefit Analysis data input request from VH1 (**Selected consultant to coordinate**)
- Organized data for Virgin Hyperloop One, MORPC and ODOT's modeling of demand and economic benefits (**Selected consultant**)
- Demand Model and Economic Benefit Analysis Report. This report should include a section that addresses the wider economic impacts of hyperloop technology (**Selected consultant with input from VH1**)

Responsibilities: Selected consultant leads with input from VH1, MORPC and ODOT support with data assembly

TASK 3 – ROUTE PLANNING

Task Duration: 3 Months

In conjunction with Task 2, this task will apply parameters resulting from the visioning and technology application component under Task 1 to the potential initial implementation scenarios in the Midwest Connect Hyperloop corridor. Specific focused analysis would include:

- Develop and analyze two potential route alternatives for the entire proposed corridor (Chicago-Columbus-Pittsburgh). The potential routes will include stops in the following cities: Chicago, Fort Wayne, Lima, Marysville, Columbus and Pittsburgh. One of the corridors will be the rail corridor featured in the Hyperloop One Challenge proposal.
- Provide a recommended route alternative from the two routes evaluated (including a brief rationale for its preference).
- With Central Ohio as the focus, identify and include in analysis for route alternatives shorter length (20 to 50 miles) initial phase or spur from approximately Rickenbacker International Airport to John Glenn International Airport.
- Once a preferred route alternative is selected by MORPC and ODOT, analyze and determine intermediate stations and end point stations.
- Engineering team review of the initial phased implementation under review to assess potential technical constraints and develop a risk weighting using:
 - Right-of-way preliminary analysis
 - Environmental
 - Connectivity and integration with existing or planned cargo or transit systems, intermodal facilities, airport facilities, or other defined connections
 - Updated rough order-of-magnitude cost analysis
 - Station operational modeling to determine station physical requirements
 - Station layout, footprint, and required infrastructure
 - Visualizations of stations and alignment for preferred route

Deliverables:

- Map and description of shorter initial alignment (20 to 50 miles, based in Central Ohio) (**selected consultant**)

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- Technical memo with a map and description of entire Chicago-Columbus-Pittsburgh route, detailing two potential route alternatives, along with preferred route recommendation and a route preference rationale (**selected consultant**)
- Preferred route proposed stations (**selected consultant**)
- Rough order-magnitude cost report on technology systems (**input needed from VH1**)
- Route Analysis Report outlining potential Hyperloop One route constraints and opportunities to include a risk matrix with potential mitigation strategies for risks where identified (**selected consultant, with input from VH1**)

Responsibilities: Selected consultant leads with Virgin Hyperloop One input, and ODOT and MORPC support. Virgin Hyperloop One provides cost analysis information.

TASK 4 – REGULATORY FRAMEWORK AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Task Duration: 1.5 Months

Explore the potential processes including:

- Applicability of existing Ohio studies and/or new or existing environmental clearance process, including federal delegation to state government agencies such as ODOT for environmental approvals
- Reviewing existing state laws in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania to identify feasible options for purchasing rights-of-way
- Identifying entitlements and permits required
- Providing an overview of the environmental and entitlement process
- Listing agencies that would have jurisdiction and/or permitting authority
- Identifying other key stakeholders and/or community groups
- Identifying the steps needed to implement the project
- Identifying the structure and supporting policy of the implementing agencies
- Coordinating with regional governments and agencies to determine the potential project delivery mechanism, including consideration for P3 collaborations.

Deliverables: Report and summary of potential regulatory framework and implementation strategies (**Selected consultant**)

Responsibilities: Selected consultant leads with ODOT, MORPC and Virgin Hyperloop One support.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT, STAKEHOLDER, AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Each of the specific tasks in this scope of work will build on each other over the duration of the study. The study is expected to take approximately nine (9) months to complete. The structure and ordering of each task is also developed so that checkpoints along the way can be defined to evaluate if the necessary information that is needed to move to the next task has been achieved and can realistically proceed to the next task. A baseline assumption of progress meetings in person or via conference calls every two weeks is assumed.

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The scope of work also includes a tiered stakeholder and public engagement process that includes the following:

- In collaboration with VH1, MORPC and ODOT, develop coordinated messaging about the overall process of feasibility and roles of the participants
- Developing a series of communications materials that can be shared at different tiers of communication and outreach ranging from: elected officials, partner agencies, private partners, general public, media
- Presentations and handout summaries

Deliverables:

- Stakeholder Analysis Matrix that includes information on stakeholders and engagement summaries and opportunities (**selected consultant**)
- Stakeholder general presentation and notes (**selected consultant**)
- Project management deliverables (monthly progress reports and updated schedules) (**selected consultant**)

Responsibilities: The selected consultant leads the project management. The selected consultant would support with graphics for communications. MORPC, ODOT, and Virgin Hyperloop One to finalize and approve messaging and overall presentations and handout summaries.

PROPOSAL FORMAT

The proposal must address the following items in the following order. Failure of the proposal to respond to a specific requirement may be a basis for elimination from consideration during the comparative evaluation. MORPC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. Those responding to this RFP are encouraged to propose additional tasks or any activities, together with their associated costs, if they will substantially improve the results of the project.

Each consultant shall submit a formal proposal not to exceed thirty (30) 8.5" x 11" pages, not including the cover letter, resumes, graphics and required forms. Excess pages will not be reviewed or evaluated. The proposal shall contain the following sections:

COVER LETTER

The cover letter shall be signed by a representative authorized to legally bind the firm, and include:

- Name, telephone number, and e-mail address of a contact person with authority to answer questions regarding the proposal (ideally the day-to-day project manager for this work).
- Name, address, and phone number of a contact person to be notified regarding contractual issues.
- Identification of the firm as a corporation or other legal entity.
- Will meet the MORPC DBE goal and be signed by a representative authorized to legally bind the firm.

The letter shall state that the proposer:

- Has sole and complete responsibility for delivery of the required services.
- Is presently not debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or involuntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal department or agency or the Ohio Department of Transportation.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Responder's company name, business address, the contact person's name, telephone number, fax number and email address (as available).

PROJECT UNDERSTANDING

Proposals shall include a statement of the objectives, goals and tasks to show or demonstrate the Responder's view of the nature of the Contract.

BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE (COMPANY AND PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THIS PROJECT)

Proposals shall include a detailed description of the Responder's background and experience with implementation of innovative technologies, and preliminary engineering projects. This should include examples of similar work indicating the Responder's level of involvement in the project and the key personnel involved.

For the similar work identified, provide information on:

- Cost management (comparison of final cost to the initial Contract price with explanation of significant increases).
- Whether the sponsor's schedule was met (with explanation of any delays).
- Sponsor feedback regarding quality of services (for example, any constructability or other plan reviews, any significant rework required, or any known Contractor claims relating to plan errors). Emphasis should be placed on ability and history in handling projects with special constraints similar to this proposed project.

No change in personnel assigned to the project will be permitted without the written approval of MORPC's Project Manager.

Only identify similar projects undertaken by the Responder's team within the last five (5) years. Document the team members' actual responsibility on the project. The prime consultant should describe no more than five (5) projects and the sub-consultants no more than three (3) projects each. The sub-consultant's projects should be similar to the work it will perform on this project. For each project, provide the client's name, address and telephone number for a contact person currently available who is familiar with the firm's performance on each project listed. The contact person should be familiar with the firm's key personnel.

In this section provide an organizational chart showing the interrelationship of the Responder's team members and key personnel. Identify the team members' areas of responsibility. Provide sub-consultant's company name, address, contact person, and telephone number. Describe your previous experience working with each sub-consultant.

For each of the key personnel shown in the organizational chart requested above, provide a one- to two-page resume. A longer resume may be used for the project manager. Include in the project manager's resume a summary of experience with the public involvement process.

DETAILED WORK PLAN

Provide a detailed work plan that will identify the major tasks to be accomplished and be used as a scheduling and management tool, as well as the basis for invoicing. The work plan must present the Responder's approach, task breakdown, deliverable due dates and personnel working on the project and the hours assigned to each individual to reach the

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project results. This work plan will form the basis for cost negotiations after Responder selection.

For each of the key personnel assigned to the project, provide a list of their current projects, expected completion dates, and percentage of time dedicated to those projects.

The schedule presented in the proposal is to include all work tasks (whether performed by the consultant team or by others), start dates, activity duration, and product submittal dates. The schedule must account for interface with and review by MORPC, the public, and other study participants.

Responders must provide a statement of willingness to complete the project within nine months of the notice to proceed.

DETAILED DELIVERABLES

As described in the above Scope of Services.

MORPC DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) GOAL COMPLIANCE/SUBCONTRACTING

Working in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), a 9 percent disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) goal has been established for this contract per requirements of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). Respondents are expected to meet or exceed this goal. DBE firms must be certified by a USDOT-authorized certification agency, such as the Ohio Department of Transportation. This section shall include a description of how the contractor will meet or exceed the 9 percent DBE goal. MORPC will expect contractors to meet the DBE percentage included in their contract and will require ongoing reporting of this percentage during the contract life. MORPC will also include DBE prompt payment requirements in all contracts.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Included as part of the proposal, the proposer shall provide a schedule identifying all tasks and sub-tasks, all deliverables, and time in the scope of work.

The project is estimated to begin in May 2018 and end in approximately March 2019, for a project length of nine months. If the consultant believes this will adversely affect the quality of the project, the consultant should explain why. The selected consultant shall provide a detailed Project Schedule as part of its proposal.

PROCUREMENT PROCESS

TENTATIVE EVENTS CALENDAR

Date: RFP notice February 23, 2018

Date: RFP responses due April 2, 2018 by 5:00 pm EDT

Date: Proposal evaluation complete by April 16, 2018

Date: Interviews (as needed) scheduled in the week of April 23, 2018

Date: Contract Negotiation and Award complete Mid-May, 2018

EVALUATION CRITERIA

MORPC, in consultation with the Ohio corridor partners, will evaluate all responses received by the deadline. All responses will be evaluated on the basis of the evaluation criteria included in this RFP, with a possible total of 100 points.

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The factors and weighting on which proposals will be evaluated are:

1. Project Understanding Work Plan/Detailed Deliverables **50%**

- Technical competence and expertise as demonstrated by the Responder's expressed project understanding, proposed project approach and methodology, project work plan, and project management techniques.
- Completeness and clarity of proposal.
- Scope of work approach, timing and substance.
- Ability to complete project in a timely manner and on schedule.
- Proposed level of detail, documentation, and backup material.
- The availability of personnel and other resources to perform the work within the specified time limit.
- Ability to execute the project within budget and project timeline.

2. Background and Experience of Personnel Assigned to this Project **40%**

- The comprehensiveness, appropriateness, and quality of experience of the firm(s) proposing.
- Demonstrated experience with engineering of track and railroad improvements.
- Specialized expertise, capabilities, and technical competence as demonstrated by the Responder's background and experience with similar work, and ability and experience in handling projects with similar constraints.
- Response of references.
- Presence of the required disciplines.
- Level of effort and participation of key personnel.
- Experience, education and qualifications of key personnel with similar roles and projects.
- Experience, reputation and interpersonal skills of the project manager and demonstrated ability to successfully lead project.
- Access to and availability of project manager and key personnel throughout the project.
- Ability of key personnel to work in a team environment.
- The Responder's record of past performance, including ability to control costs, ability to meet schedules and quality of work.
- Availability of key personnel to complete work.
- Allocation of resources among work tasks.

3. Risk Assessment **10%**

The Responder should list and prioritize major risk items that are unique to this project. This includes areas that may cause the project to not be completed on time, not finished within budget, generate any change orders, or may be a source of dissatisfaction for NIPRA. Risks can include things that Responder can control and things that Responder does not control. The risk should be non-technical, but should also contain enough information to describe to a reader why the risk is valid. The Responder must also explain how to avoid or minimize the risk from occurring. If the Responder has a unique method to minimize the risk, that should be explained in non-technical terms.

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EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The Committee will conduct the evaluation of proposals and reserves the right to reject any and all proposals in whole or in part received in response to this request. The Committee may waive minor defects which are not material when no prejudice will result to the rights of any other consultants or to the public.

The second step would include oral presentations. Depending upon the relative merits of the proposals, two or three of the consultants will be invited to give an oral presentation and respond to questions from an interview panel. The second step may be waived if the Committee finds from the evaluation in the first step that one team is clearly more qualified to perform the study than the other teams.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

At MORPC's option, the consultant may be required to make a live summarization of its proposal in Columbus. If presentations are necessary, MORPC will contact the consultant's authorized representative to schedule the time, date, and location of the presentation. The presentation will be within two weeks of notification. Total time of the presentation shall be limited to 50 minutes, with 15 minutes reserved for questions and answers. The proposed project manager shall attend and deliver the presentation. A few other key personnel should be present to assist in the presentation and discussion. Key personnel shall have been specifically listed in the consultant's proposal as part of the project team.

The purpose of the presentation is to provide clarification of information presented in the written proposal. The presentation will be given to the Committee. The presentation will focus on the consultant's project understanding and project approach. All information detailed in the presentation shall have been originally incorporated in the submitted written proposal. The consultant must explain how the expertise of the proposed team will be applied to satisfy the RFP requirements and accomplish the feasibility study.

If presentations are requested, the consultant must comply at no cost or obligation to MORPC. A consultant's refusal to make a presentation as described shall result in the consultant's proposal being rejected from consideration for the project.

SELECTION AND NEGOTIATIONS

Based on the evaluation of the proposals the most qualified consultant will be selected. If negotiation with the highest ranked consultant fails in a mutually acceptable agreement, MORPC will notify that firm in writing of the termination of negotiations. The next highest ranked consultant, as determined by the earlier technical proposal evaluation, will then be invited to enter into negotiations with MORPC. If negotiations again fail, the same procedure shall be followed, with each next most qualified firm until a contract has been negotiated. If the remaining proposals are considered not to be qualified, the notification and selection process will be repeated.

ADMINISTRATIVE & ORGANIZATIONAL ELEMENTS

STUDY ORGANIZATION

The technical components of the study will be prepared by a consultant to be selected through the RFP process. The consultant will work with the Project Manager of MORPC to coordinate routine exchange of

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data and overall project supervision. Technical components of the study will be regularly presented to the Committee members whose roles are to review and confirm the results.

ROLE OF MORPC

MORPC will manage the entire study in close coordination with the Ohio corridor partners. MORPC conducts the RFP process and will, together with the Committee, select the consultant to perform the study as described in this scope. MORPC will also provide limited assistance to the consultant in the various tasks of the project scope as described above.

MORPC will provide copies of relevant prior studies to inform work tasks and deliverables described in this scope of services. The selected consultant should bring QA/QC concerns of items not identified in this scope of services that are considered relevant to this feasibility study.

ROLE OF THE CONSULTANT

The consultant is to conduct a technical and institutional assessment as outlined in the described tasks above, along with cost estimates.

REPORTING

Interim Reports

The consultant shall prepare technical memos at milestone points (at a minimum at the end of each task) of the study which are to be suggested by the consultant. Each of these technical memos shall describe the major issues addressed and results obtained in that portion of the study. All these technical memos will serve as a basis for the formal final report. In addition to these technical memos, the consultant shall provide and/or present the interim findings before the Committee as appropriate at milestone points. The consultant shall prepare presentation materials (display graphics, PowerPoint presentations, and written summaries) at specified milestones throughout the study as suggested by MORPC.

Interim reports shall be provided in electronic format. All components of a single technical memo would be combined into a single file in Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format. Page sizes shall be limited to 8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17".

Final Reports

The Final Draft Report shall be provided in electronic format. All components of the Final Draft Report would be combined into a single file in Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format. Page sizes shall be limited to 8.5" x 11" or 11" x 17". An easily reproducible less technical summary document in electronic format should be included for presentation to council persons and other educated and informed non-technical persons. The document will be supported by the technical memorandums.

The Final Report, along with an executive summary, shall be provided in electronic format and forty (40) printed copies. All components of the Final Report would be combined into a single file in Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format. The Final Report shall be prepared in such a way that a black and white reproduction is easily possible.

PROPOSAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

EVALUATION OF PROPOSAL COMPLIANCE WITH SPECIFICATIONS

Understanding that no consultant may completely meet all requirements of the specifications, MORPC reserves the sole right to determine whether a proposal substantially complies with the specifications;

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accept, negotiate modifications to, or reject the terms of any proposal; and waive the right to accept a part, or parts, of a proposal, unless otherwise restricted in the proposal.

MODIFICATION AND/OR WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSALS

Modifications of a submitted proposal must be received by the designated due date specified. Withdrawal of proposals will be allowed only in those cases in which a written request to withdraw a Proposal is received by MORPC prior to the date and hour for receiving and opening Proposals. In such case, same will be returned to consultant unopened.

PROPOSER QUALIFICATIONS

MORPC may require all proposers to submit evidence of qualifications, and may consider any evidence of the financial, technical, and other qualifications and abilities. MORPC will not award a contract to a proposer who, in its opinion, is not fully qualified on the basis of financial resources and responsibility, possession of adequate equipment, personnel, experience, and past record of performance to perform the obligation to be undertaken competently and without delay.

AWARD OF CONTRACT

Each consultant acknowledges that MORPC will use its discretion and judgment in making the final decision and further acknowledges that no claim by the consultant will arise in any way relating to the exercise of that judgment by MORPC. MORPC reserves the right to accept the Proposal deemed to be in the best interest of MORPC or to reject any and all Proposals.

MORPC's Executive Director is the only individual who may legally commit MORPC to the expenditure of public funds. No cost chargeable to the proposed contract may be incurred before receipt of either a fully executed contract or a specific, written authorization to proceed.

GENERAL INFORMATION & REQUIREMENTS

Compliance with US DOT Regulations

The project will be funded from federal transportation funds. Consequently, the consultant must comply with all U.S. Department of Transportation regulations pertaining to federal transportation planning studies and non-discrimination in federally assisted programs.

Ownership of Products

MORPC will retain the copyright for all data, materials, information, processes, studies, reports, surveys, proposals, plans, codes, scientific information, technological information, regulations, maps, equipment, charts, schedules, photographs, exhibits, software, software source code, documentation, and other materials and property that are prepared, developed or created under or in connection with this project. Therefore, the submitter should anticipate that all products of this work effort will become the property of MORPC who will make them available to other government agencies and their contractors.

Deviation Clause

The consultant's attention is called to the condition that, if awarded a contract, the consultants will be required to furnish the particular item referred to in strict accordance with the specifications or descriptions as proposed, unless a departure or substitution is clearly noted and described in the proposal, along with the reasons therefore.

Tax Exemption

MORPC is exempt from the payment of federal excise and transportation taxes levied under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. MORPC is also exempt from Ohio State Gross Retail (sales tax). The successful consultants will be furnished with any certificates of exemption required.

MIDWEST CONNECT HYPERLOOP FEASIBILITY STUDY

MORPC STATEMENTS ON DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Equal Opportunity

The consultant agrees that it will not discriminate against any employee, applicant for employment, or sub-contractor and that it will take affirmative action to ensure that employees, applicants and sub-contractors are treated equally during employment without regard to race, color, sex, gender identification, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, genetic information, age, marital/familial status, military status (past, present, or future), limited English proficiency, or status with regard to public assistance.

Disadvantaged Vendors

Disadvantaged Vendors shall have the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts financed under this solicitation. In this regard, all proposers shall take all necessary and reasonable steps to ensure that minority vendors have the maximum opportunity to compete for and perform any subcontracts. Also, proposing firms are encouraged to notify MORPC if they meet one of the disadvantaged vendor designations, such as Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Small Business Enterprise (SBE), or Women-owned Business Enterprise (WBE).

CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS

The following are not part of the proposal requirements but will be requirements in the contract in addition to other contractual requirements. *Please also note that prior to negotiation, the firm selected for negotiation must provide average hourly rates for personnel assigned and a copy of the last audited financial statement.*

Compensation

A cost plus fixed-fee contract with a maximum contract amount will be entered into after negotiations between MORPC and the selected firm.

Alternative compensation models may be considered.

During contract negotiations, the selected firm must provide individually priced and prioritized tasks to be completed "if authorized." The sequencing of work tasks must be done in such a way that successful completion of earlier tasks is not dependent upon the completion of later tasks.

Cancellation

MORPC reserves the right to cancel any contract for failure or refusal of performance, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, collusion, or any other misconduct on the part of the consultant.

Unresolved Finding for Recovery

The selected consultant affirmatively represents and warrants to MORPC that it is not subject to a finding for recovery under ORC 9.24 or that it has taken appropriate remedial steps required under ORC 9.24 or otherwise qualifies under that section. The consultant agrees that if this representation or warranty is deemed to be false, the agreement shall be void *ab initio* as between the parties to this agreement, and any funds paid by MORPC to the consultant hereunder shall be repaid to MORPC immediately, or an action for recovery may be commenced immediately by MORPC for recovery of said funds.

Covenants of Consultant

The consultant will be required to covenant and warrant the following:

MIDWEST CONNECT HYPERLOOP FEASIBILITY STUDY

- Consultant is not debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in any contract, supported in whole or in part by the funding sources for this project.
- Consultant has not within a three- (3-) year period had one or more public transactions terminated for cause or default.
- Consultant will comply with the provisions of Section 1352, Title 31 of the U.S. Code, which prohibits the use of federal funds to lobby any official or employee of any federal agency, or member or employee of Congress; and to disclose any lobbying activities in connection with federal funds.