



Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency

NOACA
1299 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-3204
(216) 241-2414
www.noaca.org

Request for Quotes (RFQ) for Implementation of a Public-Private Crowdsourcing Financing Concept for the Irishtown Bend Bank Stabilization Project

Issue Date: September 9th, 2019

Closing Date: October 9th, 2019

The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), is seeking proposals to assist in the development and implementation of a Public-Private Crowdsourcing Financing Concept for the Irishtown Bend Bank Stabilization Project

Innovative Financing Proposals for the Irishtown Bend Bank Stabilization Project Submittal US DOT Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Project Application

Table of Contents

1. ABOUT NOACA	3
2. BACKGROUND.....	3
3. SCOPE OF WORK	4
4. PROCESS AND TIMELINE FOR SELECTION.....	4
5. GENERAL INFORMATION	5

1. ABOUT NOACA

NOACA is the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) and designated areawide water quality management agency for the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina in Ohio. In these capacities it:

- Works with other organizations to help address northeast Ohio's transportation, air quality, and water quality needs.
- Conducts metropolitan planning for various modes of transportation, including vehicles, freight, transit, bicycle, pedestrian, etc., while considering the transportation system's impact on the environment and land use.
- Prepares the region's long-range transportation plan and short range transportation improvement program, which is the region's capital budget for federally funded transportation projects.
- Conducts studies that address congestion, improve safety and strengthen community livability.

NOACA is directed by a 45-member Board of Directors, representing all five NOACA counties and the City of Cleveland, plus transit agencies, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority, Ohio EPA, and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).

The NOACA region is home to 2.1 million people and over 150 units of government. The region is anchored by several urban core cities, the largest being Cleveland.

2. BACKGROUND

Intermodal shipping is a critical part of the surface transportation system and is vital for the region's and the nation's economy. Despite this, marine commerce is often neglected because it is not as visible as freight traffic on roads and rail. Maritime commerce in Cleveland Harbor provides over 20,000 jobs and businesses adjacent to and relying on the river form a key manufacturing hub in Northeast Ohio. The river, as part of the M-90 Marine Highway Corridor, is a key piece of Great Lakes shipping: sending and receiving goods with several Great Lakes ports. The Irishtown Bend hillside bulkhead project is essential to the continued shipment of materials such as iron ore, limestone, cement, aggregate, and salt, which comprise 13 million tons of cargo transiting the ship channel.

Due to aged and failing infrastructure that will inevitably result in the riverbank's failure – blocking all movement upstream – shipping through the Cuyahoga River's navigable channel is at risk. The implications of failure is barges not being able to access the Cuyahoga River and an estimated 473,000 additional trucks being added to roads. The Irishtown Bend project will restore the riverbank, ensuring manufacturing continues to support the regional and national economy.

The project entails installing approximately 2,600 linear feet of sheet steel bulkheads along the shoreline of the Cuyahoga Ship channel along the section know as Irishtown Bend (between River mile 1.39 and 1.93). Due to wear and tear and lack of existing functional bulkheads, this hillside section along the Cuyahoga ship channel is at risk for failure. Such collapse would block movement by freighters that deliver bulk commodity cargos to upstream manufacturing sites.

NOACA has recently been awarded funding through the USDOT 2019 INFRA Grant Program for the Irishtown Bend Bank Stabilization project. The total project construction cost is \$34 million, with nearly \$23 million committed and secured. The remaining funding gap is approximately \$11 million.

As identified in the original application to the US DOT INFRA program, NOACA is pursuing innovative financing through a public-private crowdsourcing investment model to help close this funding gap. The crowdsourcing model will generate funding for the Irishtown Bend Bank Stabilization project through internet-based securities offerings to private individual or organization investors.

The Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority is a partner in the execution of this project and will serve as the lead agency for project development and administration.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

NOACA is seeking professional services to develop and execute a crowdsourcing financing strategy, build and execute a website (if part of the strategy), and the execution of the crowdsourcing financing model. The consultant will lead on behalf of NOACA the following tasks and any additional tasks identified and necessary to complete the strategy.

Specific tasks include:

- Create an online profile and fundraising application
- Assist NOACA in the evaluation and selection of a crowdsourcing investment platform best suited for the ITB project
- Development and execution of a campaign strategy to generate interest by prospective investors
- Guide NOACA and the lead agency for project administration through steps associated with collection and transfer of generated funding, if needed.
- Identify/select an investment partner(s) to advance, and/or guarantee funding as part of the crowdsourcing process

4. PROCESS AND TIMELINE FOR SELECTION

NOACA will directly select a consultant based on the contents of the submitted quote in response to the Tasks identified in this document.

Proposals/Quotes will be evaluated based on NOACA's determination of the best strategy that demonstrates:

- Knowledge of US DOT INFRA program requirements
- Experience and/or knowledge of the steps in the development of a public-private crowdsourcing financing model

- Experience and/or knowledge of the steps in the development of campaigns to generate investment interest in large scale capital projects
- Familiarity with federal requirements and/or regulations that impact the implementation of a public-private crowd-sourcing financing model for large scale capital projects
- The proposal should include the methodology of how they will collect their fees/percent of funds raised.

Please include a total estimate for services associated with the defined tasks.

Inquiries

All inquiries related to this RFQ are to be directed in email to:

Susanna Merlone
smerlone@mpo.noaca.org
 NOACA

Information obtained from any other source is not official and should not be relied upon.

Closing Date

Electronic submissions will be until noon on Wednesday, October 9th, 2019. Submissions are limited to 30mb. Please submit no more than 10 pages and 1 copy. Responses may not be sent by facsimile or post. Submissions should be emailed to procurement@mpo.noaca.org. If you do not receive an automatic response, please call (216) 241-2414 extension 108.

5. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. NOACA, as an Equal Opportunity Employer, requires all consultants to affirm that they agree to abide by any and all applicable equal employment opportunity laws, whether state or federal, and to use best efforts to subcontract with Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) when possible. It is recommended that consultants attempt to achieve 12% letting of subcontracts to DBEs. This complies with requirements of NOACA for its efforts at minority participation. Consultants agree not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, age, creed, sex, sexual orientation or national origin, and agree to take affirmative action so that applicants are employed and that employees are treated during employment without regard for their race, color, religion, age, creed, sex, sexual orientation or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising, layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. Consultants further agree that they will insert the foregoing provision in all subcontracts in connection with services provided. Consultants further agree to comply with all requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., 49 C.F.R. Part 21.
- B. All submissions become public information and may be reviewed by anyone requesting to do so at the conclusion of the evaluation process.

- C. All submissions received by NOACA in response to this RFP shall remain valid for 90 days from the date of submittal.
- D. NOACA reserves the right to cancel or reissue the RFP or to revise the timeline at any time. NOACA may reject any submission if such action is believed to be in the best interest of the agency.