



Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency

NOACA
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**Request for Quotes (RFQ)
for Preliminary Project Management Services for the
Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad Downtown Extension**

Issue Date: May 17, 2023
Close Date: May 24, 2023

The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) is seeking quotes to provide preliminary project management services for Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad Downtown Extension.

Project Background: NOACA, the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad (CVSR), the Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) and a consortium of local partners that include the Greater Cleveland Metroparks; the Cleveland Planning Commission; the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission; and the Greater Cleveland RTA are working to extend excursion passenger rail services from the CVSR's Rockside Road terminus in the City of Independence a distance of 10.8 miles north to Downtown Cleveland. Expanding to Cleveland would make CVNP the only U.S. national park with excursion passenger rail access that connects to a major metropolitan center. This alternative transportation link between the Towpath Trail, the Cuyahoga River Water Trail, the City of Cleveland and the National Park would also provide people who live in underserved neighborhoods and rely on public transportation with improved access to a major recreational asset.

Planning for the rail extension will rely on an update to an existing engineering feasibility study (circa 2005) that examined infrastructure conditions along the proposed route. The proposed route would utilize the tracks now owned by CSX, which encompass the former B&O Terminal and Valley Subdivision that connected the Terminal in downtown Cleveland (now owned by Sherwin-Williams) to Akron and beyond. Updates to the feasibility study will also include a more current estimate of the project's capital costs and a market assessment of potential ridership. This study will also involve a thorough public engagement process, building upon input gathered during other studies and through an effort that is currently underway by the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, the National Park Service's (NPS) Park Planning and Facilities Office (PPFL), the NPS Midwest Region Transportation Office, and the NPS Denver Service Center, along with other partners to conduct a listening session with stakeholders and the public on this topic. The proposed project has commitments (financial and in-kind) from community partners and seeks to increase access and visitation to the Ohio & Erie Canalway Heritage area, the Cuyahoga River Valley, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, the City of Cleveland, the City of Akron, and all points in between.

Scope of Services: As the lead agency on the project, NOACA is seeking a consultant to provide preliminary project coordination services for the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad Downtown Extension. The consultant would be under contract for an estimated six-month period to coordinate among project partners and develop the specifications for and participate in the procurement process to retain a qualified professional services firm to complete the planning and design work for the project.

Deliverables:

- Convene and facilitate preliminary meetings of project partners
- Develop specifications for request for proposals (RFP) for planning and design firm
- Participate in evaluation of proposals submitted by vendors in response to planning and design solicitation
- Coordinate with NOACA procurement office on Board approval of award and execution of contract with selected planning and design firm
- Coordinate with NOACA Executive Director and Public Affairs Division on any press releases, response to requests for information, or other external communications that are needed during this preliminary, procurement phase of the project
- Other work that is incidental to this early phase of the project, as assigned

Submission of Quote for Services:

Submit a proposal of up to two pages in length that provides the following information:

- Relevant knowledge of and/or experience with passenger rail, shuttle, or similar types of projects
- Experience with community and/or transportation planning
- Familiarity with project partners
- Experience with the procurement of professional services
- Experience in managing multiple organizational stakeholders in a project
- Total cost of services, broken down by deliverables

Attach resume(s) of professional(s) to be assigned to this engagement.

Budget

The budget for this engagement is not-to-exceed \$37,500.

Eligibility

Please note - vendors are prohibited from serving as a consultant on both the project coordination activities that are the subject of this request for quotes, and on the subsequent planning and design work to be undertaken for the rail extension project.

Process for submission

Submissions should be emailed in PDF format to procurement@mpo.noaca.org by end of day on Wednesday, May 24, 2023.

Inquiries

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

Procurement@mpo.noaca.org

Phone: (216) 536-7626