

April 4, 2012

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission is soliciting Statements of Qualifications from experienced, creative rail engineering/planning firms for two primary tasks:

- Analysis of alternative options offered in an Amtrak feasibility report for passenger rail service to Peoria
- The development of a feasibility report on the creation of a transit connection (including rail) between Peoria International Airport and the site of a proposed rail terminal in East Peoria

The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) was established in 1958 to provide regional planning services in the tri-county region. TCRPC provides land use, transportation, and environmental planning services in Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties.

TCRPC has been pursuing a passenger rail connection for the past several years. A subcommittee of TCRPC, the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC) was formally created on January 28, 2010 to provide recommendations to the full Commission. The PRAC has since prioritized a corridor from East Peoria to Bloomington-Normal as the most desirable option for connecting to the Midwest passenger rail system.

On September 26, 2011 Amtrak released a report (Attachment 1) on the feasibility of a rail connection from East Peoria to Bloomington-Normal. In this study Amtrak proposes the creation of a \$74,652,000 connection track located in Bloomington-Normal in order to minimize conflicts with Union Pacific freight operations (pg.9). This infrastructure improvement consists of five (5) overpasses and represents the bulk of the total capital cost necessary to construct the link. The PRAC and TCRPC want to see further analysis of the Amtrak proposal.

The PRAC and TCRPC are also requesting a feasibility report on the creation of a rail connection between Peoria International Airport and the proposed site of a new rail terminal in East Peoria. This proposed connection would serve travelers to and from Peoria International Airport.

Interested parties are invited to submit statements of qualifications to complete the aforementioned tasks. SOQs should include a description of the services offered, samples of similar work, and a list of client references.

Statements of Qualification submitted in response to this RFQ should be of sufficient length to demonstrate that the respondent has a thorough understanding of the project. However, elaborate submittals are not desired.

Respondents will be evaluated based on understanding of the project, professional credentials, and length and depth of similar experiences. From the SOQs, a selected number of firms will be asked to submit full proposals and participate in an interview process.

Please submit two (2) hard copy Statements of Qualifications within ten (10) days of your receipt of this RFQ to:

Mr. Jim Webb – Transportation Planner
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
211 Fulton Street, Suite 207
Peoria, IL 61602

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Jim Webb, Transportation Planner, at 309-673-9796 ext. 257 or jwebb@tricountyrpc.org