



May 29, 2008

«FirstName» «LastName»  
«Company»  
«Address1»  
«City», «State» «PostalCode»

Subject: Request for Proposal – North County Corridor Project

Dear Insert Prefix «LastName»:

Stanislaus County Department of Public Works (Department) is soliciting proposals on behalf of the North County Corridor Joint Powers Authority to provide professional services for project approval and environmental document (PA&ED) clearance in conformance with the Caltrans Project Development Procedures Manual for the North County Corridor Project.

Funding for this project must be identified and the Joint Powers Authority budget must be approved before a contract for services can be executed, tentatively by July 1, 2008. The intent of the work is to program this project in the 2010 State Transportation Improvement Program.

**I) INTRODUCTION**

The North County Corridor Joint Powers Authority (JPA) is soliciting proposals to provide professional services for preparation of the Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED) phase for the North County Corridor Project. This project will provide viable project alternatives, a preferred alternative, and environmental clearance for a North Stanislaus County Corridor roadway alignment that would extend from a location along Dale Road, north of SR 219 / Kiernan Avenue, to a location on SR 120 to be located approximately 6.25 miles east of the City of Oakdale. This alignment may be an entirely new facility or be incorporated into the existing local road network, including a possible realignment of State Route 108 and / or an extension of SR 219. The alignment would generally be oriented east / west and to / from, SR-108 / McHenry Ave and follow the Claribel Road alignment to a new SR 120 expressway interchange to be located east of Oakdale, California within city limits.

The North County Corridor has been identified as a priority corridor by the Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG), the Cities of Oakdale, Riverbank, Modesto; and the County of Stanislaus. The

four city and county entities have formulated a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to develop and implement the construction of this project. The Authority is committed to development of a multi-modal transportation corridor with regional significance. The JPA, will administer this North County Corridor PA&ED.

This Request for Proposal (RFP) describes the project, the required scope of services, the consultant selection process, and the minimum information that must be included in the submitted proposals.

## **II) PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **A. Project Background**

In the recent years, the east and west traffic congestion in northern Stanislaus County has increased dramatically. Stanislaus County is expected to grow to approximately 823,000 residents by the year 2025. This will place tremendous pressure on the surrounding communities and their public infrastructures. According to StanCOG, the number of vehicle miles traveled in the Stanislaus region will increase by almost 70 percent; consequently, requiring more than \$3 billion in transportation infrastructure investments to address the traveling needs of their constituents in the year 2025.

Two studies have been completed recently to document the feasibility, scope, and funding needs for the project. The North County Corridor Feasibility Study was completed in January 2008. This study describes and analyzes existing conditions and anticipated constraints, potential alignments, environmental issues, future 2030 traffic forecasts, and conceptual construction cost estimates along the corridor. The North County Corridor, Preliminary Design Report (PDR) was completed in April 2008. This report further defined the conceptual alternatives along the two major alignments of the feasibility study, performed an intensive outreach program to the member agencies, Caltrans and the CTC, identified project development funding possibilities for the next phase of the project, and served as the programming document for the project in the 2008 STIP, meeting the requirements of a Project Study Report (Project Development Support), PSR/PDS per Caltrans Project Development Procedures Manual. This project is considered a local road project at this time.

The following definition of the project scope, project location, and type of facilities is subject to further studies and input from the member agencies and key stakeholders.

The Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED) phase development will continue the work begun in the feasibility and preliminary design documents; continue the identification and refinement of alternatives for consideration; select the preferred alternative; and obtain the environmental clearance for the corridor, all in preparation of design and construction of the project.

This project is defined as follows:

The North County Corridor Project will provide approximately 24 miles of roadway on new alignment to enhance local traffic circulation and provide regional connectivity. The primary intent of the project is to provide a high capacity/high speed east-west roadway to accommodate anticipated traffic growth in the area, to alleviate traffic on parallel roadways, and to accommodate multi-modal travel. It is anticipated that the facility type will be a four to eight lane Class A Expressway with interchanges, at-grade intersections, grade separated railroad crossings, irrigation district crossings, frontage road and street realignments.

The study limits are defined as starting at the State Route (SR) 99/Hammett Road Interchange on the west and extending eastward to Ellenwood Road, then northward to SR-120/108. The north-south study area is roughly bounded on the south by the northern boundary of the City of Modesto, and on the north by the Stanislaus River.

The proposed roadway would be built in unincorporated Stanislaus County and is not anticipated to cross any current city boundaries, though portions of it may travel less than one mile south of Riverbank and Oakdale, and less than one mile north of Modesto.

Although agricultural lands currently flank the study area, the City of Riverbank is developing residential and commercial uses along Claribel Road between Oakdale and Roselle Roads. As traffic volume continues to increase along the SR-108/219 corridor and Claribel Road, individual City Councils and Boards of Supervisors in the affected area have expressed support for moving forward on the North County Corridor project.

## **B. Scope of Services**

The North County Corridor JPA is requesting engineering and environmental services to prepare PA&ED deliverables for the North County Corridor Project. The scope of services to be provided include all studies and activities for providing additional alternative analyses, developing the draft and final project report, providing environmental studies, and developing the draft and final environmental document for the project. This work shall be performed in accordance with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) guidelines including the Caltrans Project Development Procedures Manual, Local Programs Guidelines, Local Assistance Procedures Manual, Standard Environmental Reference, Highway Design Manual, all governing local agency guidelines and criteria, and other appropriate manuals for the PA&ED process.

The Consultant shall provide professional services to manage and coordinate the elements of work to provide surveys and base mapping, geotechnical studies, traffic studies, alternative analyses and

geometric approval drawings, coordinate with utility companies, right of way, value analysis, structure advanced planning studies, hydrology/hydraulics studies, storm water data reports, constructability review, construction cost estimating, environmental technical studies, prepare and conduct public meetings and workshops, perform public outreach, and additional services as may be required for the timely completion of the project.

Caltrans will be involved in the project. The scope of services is based on Caltrans Work Breakdown Structure. Below is a partial list of tasks, deliverables and descriptions. This is not intended to limit any Consultant in deriving a scope to expeditiously complete the PA&ED process for the project. The Consultant should expand and tailor this list to clearly define the project and tasks required to successfully complete the project.

### **Task 1 - Project Management & Meetings**

Consultant shall provide strong leadership and management to establish all appropriate design and management teams for the project. At a minimum, the project development team will be established to include the JPA, Caltrans, city and county staff, consultant staff, and other outside parties as appropriate. The following shall be included at a minimum:

- Facilitate and lead PDT meetings and other project communication
- Caltrans and Local Agency coordination including the development of cooperative agreements and memorandums of understanding
- Develop and monitor Workplan
- Prepare and maintain project schedule reflecting the critical path
- Prepare monthly progress reports

### **Task 2 – Public Outreach**

Consultant shall prepare and conduct a public outreach program to provide information to the general public, to satisfy the requirements for the environmental studies, and to facilitate the approval of the project. The following shall be included at a minimum:

- Plan, organize and conduct a minimum of three (3) project workshops
- Provide and maintain a project website
- News letters and project fact sheets

### **Task 3 - Surveys and Mapping**

Consultant shall provide aerial mapping and field surveys required for the proposed project. All surveys will be based on Caltrans specified horizontal and vertical control datums and be consistent with requirements for the preparation of the Project Report and Environmental Document. All mapping shall be prepared in the Microstation Format using English units.

## **Task 4 - Traffic Studies**

The current version of the StanCOG RTP Model shall be used to perform the traffic studies for the project. The Consultant shall provide the following, at a minimum:

- Collect existing traffic data
- Prepare traffic forecasting model for the project for existing, opening and design years
- Prepare the draft and final technical memorandum for the traffic forecasting, including addressing review comments.
- Prepare a traffic operational analysis for the existing, opening and design year conditions for the alternatives
- Evaluate additional measures of effectiveness (MOEs) such as vehicle miles of travel (VMT), vehicle hours of travel (VHT), and vehicle hours of delay (VHD) with and without the Project
- Prepare the draft and final Traffic Operations Report, including addressing review comments.

## **Task 5 - Geotechnical Studies**

Consultant shall perform preliminary investigations to determine the geotechnical considerations for design, assess potential impacts, and provide general design and construction recommendations. The investigation will support the project design and structures advanced planning studies. The information will be documented in a Geotechnical and Structures report including data for:

- Preliminary Geotechnical Report that addresses cuts, fills, miscellaneous structure and drainage facilities, and pavement structural design; and
- Structures Preliminary Geotechnical Report (SPGR) for the bridge structures subject to improvement in this project.

## **Task 6 – Perform Additional Alternatives Analyses**

The Consultant shall develop project alternatives based upon the Feasibility Study (FS) and Preliminary Design Report (PDR). To date, this project has deferred much of the identification of alternatives to the PA&ED process. The FS and PDR shall be used as the basis for the continuing development of the project. Alternatives, new and updated, identified to be reasonable shall be developed to continue forward in the PA&ED process.

## **Task 7 - Perform Preliminary Engineering Studies**

A range of preliminary studies is necessary to support the project report and environmental document. The Consultant shall prepare all appropriate engineering studies, as defined in Caltrans guidelines for

the project report, for the successful completion of the project. The following is an initial listing of the studies required. The Consultant shall expand on this listing as appropriate.

- Geometric Plans for Project Alternatives
- Value Analysis
- Hydraulic/Hydrology Studies
- Right of Way Data Sheets
- Utilities Requirements
- Railroad Study
- Multi-Modal Study
- Park & Ride Study
- Structure Advance Planning Studies
- Transportation Management Plan
- Project Cost Estimates
- Design Exceptions Fact Sheets
- Constructability Review
- Storm Water Data Report

### **Task 8 - Draft and Final Project Report**

The Consultant shall prepare a Draft Project Report and Final Project Report in accordance with the guidelines provided in the Caltrans Project Development Procedures Manual (PDPM). The following is the outline of the report from the PDPM, Appendix K:

#### **Project Report Outline**

1. INTRODUCTION
2. RECOMMENDATION
3. BACKGROUND
4. NEED and PURPOSE
  - A. Problem, Deficiencies, Justification
  - B. Regional & System Planning
  - C. Traffic
5. ALTERNATIVES
  - A. Viable Alternatives
  - B. Rejected Alternatives
6. CONSIDERATIONS REQUIRING DISCUSSION

- A. Hazardous Waste
- B. Value Analysis
- C. Resource Conservation
- D. Right of Way Issues
- E. Environmental Issues
- F. Air Quality Conformity
- F. Title VI Considerations

## 7. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS AS APPROPRIATE

- Public Hearing Process
- Route Matters
- Permits
- Cooperative Agreements
- Other Agreements
- Involvement with a Navigable Waterway
- Transportation Management Plan for Use During Construction
- Stage Construction
- Accommodation of Oversize Loads
- Graffiti Control
- Other Appropriate Topics

## 8 PROGRAMMING

## 9. REVIEWS

## 10. PROJECT PERSONNEL

## 11. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

The Consultant shall be responsible for identifying, preparing, and obtaining approval of memorandum and documents necessary for the complete processing of the Project Report, both draft and final documents, through final approvals and required signatures.

### **Task 9 - Geometric Approval Drawings for Preferred Alternative**

Once a preferred alternative is selected, the Consultant shall prepare Geometric Approval Drawings (GAD) for the appropriate phase(s) of the preferred alternative. The GADs shall include plans, profiles and typical sections at a minimum and be prepared in accordance with Caltrans Plan Preparation Manual.

## **Task 10 – Environmental Document**

### **Project Noticing, Scoping and Coordination**

Consultant shall conduct all necessary noticing and scoping activities pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The activities described below will be conducted:

- Consultant shall prepare draft NEPA Notice of Intent (NOI) for transmittal to Caltrans for publication in the Federal Register.
- Consultant shall prepare CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP) including an attached CEQA Initial Study (IS) Checklist
- Consultant shall prepare for and conduct Scoping meeting(s). A Scoping Meeting Summary Report shall be prepared.

### **General Environmental Studies**

A range of environmental technical studies necessary to support the Environmental Document (including the EIS and EIR) has already been identified through the preparation of a Preliminary Environmental Assessment Report. All documentation will be prepared in accordance with Caltrans Standard Environmental Reference (SER). Consultant shall conduct the following technical studies to analyze potential environmental impact:

- Community Impact Assessment (CIA)
- Farmland Evaluation
- Visual Impact Assessment (VIA)
- Noise Study
- Air Quality Study
- Water Quality Study
- Energy Study
- Initial Site Assessment (ISA)
- Draft Relocation Impact Report (DRIR)
- Location Hydraulic and Floodplain Study Report
- Paleontology Study
- Natural Environmental Study (NES)
- Biological Assessment (BA)
- Wetlands Study
- Area of Potential Effects (APE) Map
- Historic Property Survey Report (HPSR)
- Archaeological Survey Report (ASR)
- Historic Resources Evaluation Report (HRER)
- Finding of Effect (FOE)



- Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)
- Section 4(f) Evaluation

## **Environmental Document**

The anticipated environmental document for the North County Corridor Project will be a combined Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), prepared pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Caltrans, as assigned by the Federal Highway Administration, would act as the lead agency under NEPA and CEQA.

- a) **Administrative Draft EIS/EIR** – Consultant shall prepare an Administrative Draft EIS/EIR in conformance with the document outline posted on the Caltrans SER. The document will summarize the alternatives development and screening process; document the project Purpose and Need, results of environmental technical studies, project impacts and mitigation measures; and summarize the public/agency consultation and coordination process conducted as part of environmental compliance.
- b) **Draft EIS/EIR** – Consultant shall prepare, publish and distribute the Draft EIS/EIR/Section 4(f) Evaluation. Upon receipt of approval to circulate from Caltrans, the EIS/EIR will be circulated for a 45-day public review after relevant notices are prepared and circulated. Up to two public hearings to meet NEPA/CEQA requirements will be held during this period to obtain public and agency comments.
- c) **Final EIS/EIR** – Consultant shall undertake activities necessary for the production of the Final EIS/EIR. This will include incorporating responses to comments received during the public circulation period and focusing on the identified preferred alternative. The Final EIS/EIR will include records of consultations, which must be concluded prior to publication of the Final EIS/EIR.

## **PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS:**

In addition to addressing the above items, the Department requests that the following items be addressed and included in the proposal:

- Proposed staffing for this project.
- Staff qualifications and current and projected workload.
- Proposed project schedule including all major milestones.
- List of services that the consultant will provide including your approach to project delivery.
- Proposal to be limited to 30 pages total.

Ten copies of your proposal are due in this office by 3:00 P.M. on June 16, 2008. If your firm is short listed, interviews will be held the week of June 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is anticipated that the contract can be executed and a notice to proceed issued in July. Please include with the proposal, your fee proposal. The fee proposal must separate the project into milestones and tasks as identified in the Caltrans Project Development Procedures Manual and provide the associated fees that define the work to be accomplished. Subconsultant fees must be clearly indicated.

The proposal will be evaluated, at a minimum, based on the following:

An understanding of the work to be performed, your firm's experience with similar kinds of work, the qualifications and availability of staff for the project, your use of innovative and advanced techniques for this project or those used in previous projects, and your firm's demonstrated professional and financial responsibility.

Please submit your proposal to:

Laurie Barton, Deputy Director Engineering and Operations  
Stanislaus County Department of Public Works  
1716 Morgan Road  
Modesto, CA 95358

The proposals will be reviewed shortly after the closing date for submittal of proposals. Those firms believed to be the most qualified based on their proposal, may be subject to an interview.

Laurie Barton will be acting on my behalf as the project manager. If you have any questions regarding this request for proposals, please give her a call at 209-525-4151, or email her at [laurie.barton@stancounty.com](mailto:laurie.barton@stancounty.com).

Sincerely,

Matt Machado  
Director of Public Works

cc:

Laurie Barton, Stanislaus County Public Works Deputy Director  
Vince Harris, Stanislaus Council of Governments  
Rich Holmer, City of Riverbank  
James Niskanen, City of Modesto  
Steve Hallem, City of Oakdale  
Dave Myers, NCC TAC  
JD Hightower, NCC TAC  
Firoz Vohra, NCC TAC  
Carlos Yamzon, NCC TAC