

## **Draft Request for Qualifications**

### **University Avenue Complete Streets Improvement Plan**

This Request for Qualifications is subject to the Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organizations Request for Proposal Process adopted in August of 2012 and which is available on the MPO's website [www.planttogether.org](http://www.planttogether.org).

#### **Purpose of the Request for Qualifications**

This RFQ is to identify qualified bidders to conduct complex planning tasks on behalf of the Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization. The purpose of these tasks will be to expand on the recommendations of the most recent update of the MPO's long range transportation plan, in particular the recommendation related to the improvement of a portion of the University Avenue Corridor. It is anticipated that if justified, this Study will provide the proposed transportation improvement project with a Project Purpose and Need Statement, preliminary public involvement and analysis that may be used as part of a Planning and Environmental Linkage document as specified by WVDOH Policy. The Consultant selected for this project will be eligible for a potential second phase of the Study for the remaining portions of University Avenue if it is determined that it should move forward. It is possible that this phase of the Study would need to be completed within one year of the notice to proceed.

#### **Project Location**

The corridor for the proposed study is University Avenue in Morgantown, West Virginia. The segment of University Avenue to be studied is the segment from Beechurst Avenue in downtown Morgantown to WV 705 in the vicinity of the Suncrest Neighborhood and the West Virginia University Alumni Center. University Avenue connects WVU's downtown campus to Evansdale Drive which is one of the primary access routes to WVU's Evansdale Campus as well as to University housing. University Avenue is also one of two main arterial streets serving the Sunnyside neighborhood which has historically been a primary location for student housing and commercial services.

#### **Project Purpose and Need**

The Morgantown Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MMMPO's) 2014 Long Range Transportation Plan identifies University Avenue as an important two lane arterial with physical constraints limiting the ability to expand the roadway. University Avenue is maintained by the City of Morgantown, but it is eligible for Federal funding. It connects downtown Morgantown and West Virginia University's (WVU's) two main campuses. The MPO has recommended the development of operational and safety improvements for automobile traffic, transit, pedestrians and cyclists along this corridor. The MPO has identified the improvements to this corridor as a Tier Two Priority. Tier Two meaning a high priority need that is not recommended for immediate funding.

The creation of the Sunnyside Up Tax Increment Finance District as a means to improve the Sunnyside neighborhood and the redevelopment of WVU's two campuses has made the University Avenue corridor a much higher priority for improvement within the urban area. Funding for improvements to the corridor by these entities could be used to match Federal Funds for the improvement of the entire corridor. The purpose of the proposed Study is to identify improvements that will facilitate safe and efficient traffic operations, transit operations, and bicycle and pedestrian operations along the corridor. The study will also look at improving the appearances of the corridor to create a gateway into downtown Morgantown and WVU's campuses. The improvements proposed to create the gateway should be consistent with improvements traditionally included in the US Department of Transportation's Transportation Alternatives Program. It is anticipated that the Plan created by this Study will be used to seek a TIGER grant from the USDOT.

### **Project Scope of Work**

It is anticipated that any proposal submitted for this project will include the following work:

- Public Involvement-It is anticipated that there will be significant public involvement in developing the plan for the subject corridor. Any proposal submitted should identify the means proposed to be used to involve the public in the Project and a proposed schedule for public involvement activities.
- Evaluation of Existing Conditions in the Corridor-Preparation of an existing conditions report on the physical conditions affecting automobile, transit, pedestrian, and bicyclist operations along the corridor. Work will include identification of physical constraints and opportunities for improvements, including right of way, sight distances at intersections, topography, and facilities for transit, pedestrians and cyclists.
- Identification of anticipated transportation demand along the corridor-It is anticipated that estimated corridor level traffic volumes will be calculated for the year 2015 and for the year 2040. The future year estimates will be based on the MPO's transportation model updated with traffic counts taken by the MPO and the West Virginia Department of Transportation. These estimates will be supplemented by estimations of the demand for pedestrian, cyclist and transit use along the corridor. The estimates for the demand for non-motorized travel will be based on data collected as part of the project with projections for future years demand informed by the goals of the area's stakeholders, including but not limited to WVU, the City of Morgantown, Sunnyside Up and Mountain Line.
- Operational Analysis of the Corridor-Prepare an analysis of the current and future years operation of the corridor under the current configuration of the road for all modes utilizing appropriate methodologies for each mode of transportation. This analysis will be used to identify the improvements needed to address existing and potential future deficiencies in the area.
- Preparation of a Corridor Plan-The product of the Study will be a detailed corridor plan that identifies the need for automobile, transit, pedestrian and bicycle facilities along the corridor. The Plan will specify the location of the proposed improvements, and constraints on

implementing the proposed improvements. The Plan will also develop consistent specifications for each type of improvement along the corridor. Items to be included in the Plan such as striping for pedestrian crosswalks, the design of bus shelters to be used along the corridor, the type of vegetation to be installed as part of upgrades to the facility and other similar details that impact the appearance of the corridor. The Plan will also include an appendix documenting methodology and public involvement in the Planning process.

The Corridor Plan will identify the cost and a timeline for implementing the entirety of the Plan at one time, as well as appropriate phases for the implementation of the Plan if it should be found impractical to implement the Plan as one project. The cost of implementing each phase of the Plan and a recommended timeline for the implementation of the Plan.

-Project Timeline-It is anticipated that the proposed project should be completed in less than nine months. Respondents should provide a timeline with identified milestones for the completion of the project.