

## PROCUREMENT SUMMARY

VERMONT TRANSIT CORRIDOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
STUDY/AE97976000

1.	<b>Contract Number:</b> AE97976000	
2.	<b>Recommended Vendor:</b> Vermont Corridor Partners Joint Venture (AECOM Technical Services, Inc., Terry A. Hayes Associates, Inc., and RAW International, Inc.)	
3.	<b>Type of Procurement (check one):</b> <input type="checkbox"/> IFB <input type="checkbox"/> RFP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RFP-A&E <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Competitive <input type="checkbox"/> Modification <input type="checkbox"/> Task Order	
4.	<b>Procurement Dates:</b>	
	<b>A. Issued:</b> February 6, 2023	
	<b>B. Advertised/Publicized:</b> February 6, 2023	
	<b>C. Pre-Proposal Conference:</b> February 22, 2023	
	<b>D. Proposals Due:</b> March 23, 2023	
	<b>E. Pre-Qualification Completed:</b> June 22, 2023	
	<b>F. Conflict of Interest Form Submitted to Ethics:</b> March 24, 2023	
	<b>G. Protest Period End Date:</b> September 27, 2023	
5.	<b>Solicitations Picked up/Downloaded:</b> 134	<b>Proposals Received:</b> 5
6.	<b>Contract Administrator:</b> Yamil Ramirez Roman	<b>Telephone Number:</b> (213) 922-1064
7.	<b>Project Manager:</b> Fulgene Asuncion	<b>Telephone Number:</b> (213) 922-3025

**A. Procurement Background**

This Board Action is to approve Contract No. AE97976000 issued in support of the Planning and Environmental Study for the Vermont Transit Corridor project. Board approval of contract awards are subject to resolution of any properly submitted protest.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued in accordance with Metro's Acquisition Policy and the contract type is firm fixed price. The RFP was issued with a DBE goal of 27%.

Five (5) amendments were issued during the solicitation phase of this RFP:

- Amendment No. 1, issued February 7, 2023 included the Exhibit 3 – Evaluation Criteria which was invertedly left out of the solicitation package.
- Amendment No. 2, issued February 7, 2023 provided clarification on the Exhibit Numbers in the RFP document to align with the Exhibits provided.
- Amendment No. 3, issued February 14, 2023 provided further clarification on the Exhibit Forms required to be submitted with a proposal.
- Amendment No. 4, issued February 24, 2023 provided clarification on the RC DBE Program that incorrectly listed the goal at 30% instead of 27%.
- Amendment No. 5, issued March 7, 2023 included an updated Exhibit 6 – Proposal Letter to include the length of time the proposal would be valid, and provided clarification on the General Format of the proposal submissions.

A total of 134 firms downloaded the RFP and were included in the planholder's list. A virtual pre-proposal conference was held on February 22, 2023 and was attended by 73 participants representing 44 companies. There were 24 questions asked, and responses were released prior to the proposal due date.

A total of five (5) proposals were received on March 23, 2023 from the following firms:

1. HNTB Corporation (HNTB)
2. Arcadis IBI Group, A California Partnership (IBI)
3. Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. (Jacobs)
4. Vermont Corridor Partners – a Joint Venture between AECOM Technical Services, Inc., Terry A. Hayes Associates, Inc., and RAW International, Inc. (VCP)
5. WSP USA Inc. (WSP)

## **B. Evaluation of Proposals**

A Proposal Evaluation Team (PET) consisting of staff from Metro's Mobility Corridors Countywide Planning and Development Department, Metro's Major Capital Project Engineering Department, and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) was convened and conducted a comprehensive technical evaluation of the proposals received.

The proposals were evaluated based on the following evaluation criteria and weights:

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| • Experience and Qualifications of the Contractor Team                | 25% |
| • Experience and Qualifications of the Proposed Personnel on the Team | 25% |
| • Effectiveness of the Project Management Plan                        | 15% |
| • Understanding of Work and Project Approach for Implementation       | 35% |

The evaluation criteria are appropriate and consistent with criteria developed for other, similar Architect and Engineers (A&E) procurements. Several factors were considered when developing these weights, giving the greatest importance to the understanding of work and project approach for implementation. The PET evaluated the proposals according to the pre-established evaluation criteria.

This is an A&E, qualifications-based procurement; therefore, price cannot be used as an evaluation factor pursuant to state and federal law.

During the period of April 10, 2023 to May 1, 2023, the PET independently evaluated and scored the technical proposals. Of the five proposals received, four firms were determined to be within the competitive range. They are listed below in alphabetical order:

1. HNTB Corporation (HNTB)
2. Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. (Jacobs)

3. Vermont Corridor Partners – a Joint Venture between AECOM Technical Services, Inc., Terry A. Hayes Associates, Inc., and RAW International, Inc. (VCP)
4. WSP USA Inc. (WSP)

One firm was determined to be outside the competitive range and was excluded from further consideration as their proposal did not thoroughly demonstrate the team's experience in planning and environmental review and focused mostly on support efforts such as design and construction activities.

On May 12, 2023, all firms within the competitive range were invited for oral presentations which provided them the opportunity to present their qualifications, and to respond to questions from the PET.

Following the oral presentations, the PET finalized and submitted their technical scores based on both the written proposal and input received during the oral presentation. On May 17, 2023, the PET completed their evaluation of the proposals and determined Vermont Corridor Partners to be the highest ranked proposer.

### **Qualifications Summary of Firms within the Competitive Range:**

#### **HNTB Corporation**

HNTB Corporation (HNTB) has provided relevant experience including planning, design, environmental documents and advanced conceptual engineering (ACE) for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Feasibility Study and Metro K Line project.

HNTB demonstrated understanding of the work and approach, provided tools, visuals, and high-quality data collection to inform planning, design, urban design of BRT and rail. The proposal assigned a Professional Engineer and Structural Engineer to be the PM on the Project, along with key staff with relevant technical and community outreach/engagement experience working on similar projects.

HNTB's proposal included an equity tool dashboard that has been developed for the Vermont Transit Corridor for the Cultural Needs Assessments and Corridor Definition. However, HNTB's proposal did not clearly demonstrate planning and environmental experience for some key personnel on projects of similar scope.

#### **Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.**

Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. (Jacobs) has provided relevant experience including planning, engineering, and environmental capabilities delivering environmental documents and conceptual design for multi-modal transit corridor projects.

Jacobs demonstrated proven ability to plan, design and analyze the various alternatives under consideration for this project and their interfaces. The proposal

showed a strong understanding of local institutional issues, political dynamics, community concerns and the needs of the Vermont Corridor.

Jacobs' proposal demonstrated clear knowledge and understanding of the Scope of Services including all required tasks, deliverables, and project management. However, Jacobs' proposal did not include tasks for Cultural Needs Assessment into the overall project approach.

### **Vermont Corridor Partners Joint Venture**

Vermont Corridor Partners (VCP) Joint Venture (JV) is comprised of AECOM Technical Services, Inc., Terry A. Hayes Associates, Inc., and RAW International, Inc. and collectively has provided relevant services including planning, environmental and architecture.

VCP JV demonstrated experience in all modes of transit, environmental studies including a number of Metro projects and demonstrated understanding and experience working on the Vermont Corridor, politics and its diverse communities. Their proposal also included the incorporation of technology as tools for innovating methods for data gathering, organization and dissemination.

VCP JV's proposal included a summary of the Vermont corridor and how past policies affected the inequity in the present day which reflected a depth of understanding of the issues and how they might be approached during the project. The proposal demonstrated the corridor challenges and opportunities, provided proposed solutions and benefits for each and cited prior experience of where similar challenges were addressed in other relevant projects.

### **WSP USA Inc.**

WSP USA Inc. (WSP) has provided relevant experience in large-scale transit planning and environmental Light Rail Transit projects such as the Metro K Line Northern Extension and East San Fernando Valley Light Rail project.

WSP provided a detailed management plan and document control procedures that clearly defined the contractor's responsibilities. The proposal reflects a substantial investment by the contractor to understand the VTC sufficiently to identify technical and operational issues and opportunities.

WSP demonstrated the ability for the team to meet the schedule anticipated in the Scope of Services and provided a plan for coordination with Metro's consultant selected under a separate contract to carry out the community outreach. However, WSP's key personnel did not demonstrate relevant experience leading transit projects similar in scope and demonstrated limited BRT experience managing BRT projects.

A summary of the PET scores is provided below:

1	Firm	Average Score	Factor Weight	Weighted Average Score	Rank
2	<b>Vermont Corridor Partners</b>				
3	Experience and Qualifications of the Contractor Team	77.88	25.00%	19.47	
4	Experience and Qualifications of the Proposed Personnel on the Team	79.16	25.00%	19.79	
5	Effectiveness of the Project Management Plan	76.73	15.00%	11.51	
6	Understanding of Work and Project Approach for Implementation	79.80	35.00%	27.93	
7	<b>Total</b>		<b>100.00%</b>	<b>78.70</b>	<b>1</b>
8	<b>HNTB Corporation</b>				
9	Experience and Qualifications of the Contractor Team	77.00	25.00%	19.25	
10	Experience and Qualifications of the Proposed Personnel on the Team	76.52	25.00%	19.13	
11	Effectiveness of the Project Management Plan	76.27	15.00%	11.44	
12	Understanding of Work and Project Approach for Implementation	80.20	35.00%	28.07	
13	<b>Total</b>		<b>100.00%</b>	<b>77.89</b>	<b>2</b>
14	<b>Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.</b>				
15	Experience and Qualifications of the Contractor Team	78.76	25.00%	19.69	
16	Experience and Qualifications of the Proposed Personnel on the Team	76.84	25.00%	19.21	
17	Effectiveness of the Project Management Plan	75.00	15.00%	11.25	
18	Understanding of Work and Project Approach for Implementation	76.20	35.00%	26.67	
19	<b>Total</b>		<b>100.00%</b>	<b>76.82</b>	<b>3</b>
20	<b>WSP USA Inc.</b>				
21	Experience and Qualifications of the Contractor Team	74.36	25.00%	18.59	
22	Experience and Qualifications of the Proposed Personnel on the Team	73.32	25.00%	18.33	
23	Effectiveness of the Project Management Plan	74.53	15.00%	11.18	
24	Understanding of Work and Project Approach for Implementation	76.60	35.00%	26.81	
25	<b>Total</b>		<b>100.00%</b>	<b>74.91</b>	<b>4</b>

**C. Cost Analysis**

The recommended price of \$55,668,537 has been determined to be fair and reasonable based upon MAS audit findings, an independent cost estimate (ICE), cost analysis, technical evaluation, fact finding, and negotiations. Staff successfully negotiated a savings of \$3,429,567.

<b>Proposer Name</b>	<b>Proposal Amount</b>	<b>Metro ICE</b>	<b>Negotiated Amount</b>
Vermont Corridor Partners	\$59,098,104	\$57,907,009	\$55,668,537

**D. Background on Recommended Contractor**

The recommended firm, Vermont Corridor Partners Joint Venture (VCP JV), is located in Los Angeles County and have been in business for 120 years collectively (50 years for AECOM Technical Services, Inc., 40 years for Terry A. Hayes Associates, Inc., and 30 years for RAW International, Inc.). VCP JV offers cross-disciplinary services across various sectors including BRT and LRT planning and delivery, station planning and architecture, and environmental clearance.

The proposed team is comprised of staff from VCP JV, of which two of the JV firms are DBE certified (Terry A. Hayes Associates, Inc. and RAW International, Inc.), and thirteen (13) subcontractors, of which eight (8) are certified DBE firms.