



REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Metropolitan Planning • Public Transportation & Operations • Engineering & Construction

Metropolitan Planning Organization of Washoe County, Nevada

January 15, 2021

AGENDA ITEM 3.12

TO: Regional Transportation Commission

FROM: Amy Cummings, AICP/LEED AP
Deputy Executive Director/Director
of Planning



Bill Thomas, AICP
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Approve the procurement for the selection of Engineering Professional Services for the McCarran Boulevard Corridor Study

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the procurement of planning and engineering services for the McCarran Boulevard Corridor Study.

SUMMARY

The Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County (RTC), in coordination with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), is proposing the development of the McCarran Boulevard Corridor Study to identify short- and long-term transportation improvements to the loop road and develop a funding strategy for project implementation. Study recommendations will be incorporated into NDOT's long-range plan and programs and the RTC Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

This procurement will begin the process of a qualification-based selection to select a Service Provider to perform Engineering services to develop the McCarran Boulevard Corridor Study.

FISCAL IMPACT

The RTC entered into a cooperative agreement with NDOT, through which NDOT will provide funding for the study.

PREVIOUS ACTIONS BY BOARD

November 20, 2020 Approved the cooperative agreement with NDOT for funding of the McCarran Boulevard Corridor Study

ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

The purpose of this project is to conduct a multimodal analysis for transportation improvements on the McCarran Boulevard loop. The study will identify recommendations for enhancing mobility options, improving safety, and addressing economic development efforts within the corridor that could potentially have significant traffic impacts; with the goal of maintaining consistency of the roadway character throughout, where feasible and within the context of the varying land use pattern. The plan will identify short- and long-term improvements and develop a funding strategy.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE(S) RECOMMENDATION

There are no advisory committee recommendations regarding this report.

Attachments

McCarran Boulevard Corridor Study

Scope of Work

Purpose and Objective

Project Limits: Entire McCarran Boulevard Loop

Project Objective: The purpose of this project is to conduct a multimodal analysis for transportation improvements on the McCarran Boulevard loop. The study will identify recommendations for enhancing mobility options, improving safety, and addressing economic development efforts within the corridor that could potentially have significant traffic impacts; with the goal of maintaining consistency of the roadway character throughout, where feasible and within the context of the varying land use pattern. The plan will identify short and long term improvements and develop a funding strategy. Study recommendations will be incorporated into the Nevada Department of Transportation's (NDOT) long-range plan and programs and the RTC Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

Project Need: McCarran Boulevard is a ring road approximately 23 miles in length that largely encircles the Reno-Sparks urbanized area and sections of the roadway carry some of the highest traffic volumes in the region, including high percentages of freight traffic. It also provides direct access to some of the largest employers in the region and has multiple interchanges with the Interstate system as well as other major freeway and arterial facilities such as US 395 and Pyramid Highway. The character of the McCarran Boulevard corridor varies widely throughout the region. Sections of the roadway are highly urbanized while others are more suburban or rural in nature. The roadway traverses industrial, commercial, and residential land uses, and has varying speed limits and traffic patterns throughout. Sections of McCarran Boulevard are also utilized by several transit routes operated by RTC. Due to the varying nature of development that has occurred alongside the corridor over the past several decades, and the piecemeal construction of the roadway itself, McCarran Boulevard does not necessarily function or operate in the manner it was intended to as a high capacity bypass or beltway. There have been several localized studies and improvements implemented along sections of McCarran in recent years that weren't necessarily completed within the context of the roadway as a whole. This has resulted in somewhat of an "identity crises" for the ring road, and this project seeks to establish a consistent framework for improvements going forward.

The CONSULTANT is responsible for carrying out tasks 1 through 4 as listed below to conduct the McCarran Boulevard Corridor Study. To conduct this work the RTC will provide the consultant the Model output runs and copies of prior RTC studies.

Task 1: Project Management

- 1.1 Perform day-to-day work to administer interrelated activities, manage personnel and resources, prepare and submit monthly invoices, monitor schedules and budgets, and prepare and distribute project progress reports as required.
- 1.2 Organize and conduct an initial kick-off meeting to clarify and refine study schedule, discuss overall study objectives, establish project management team's roles and responsibilities, and identify potential information sources.
- 1.3 Organize and conduct weekly status meetings (or as needed) with the RTC staff to explain the study progress, details and seek consensus on the tasks and milestones.
- 1.4 Provide frequent communication with RTC project manager and assistant project manager, team leads, and subconsultants to ensure that all project activities move forward in a coordinated manner.
- 1.5 Follow a documented QA/QC program so that all project deliverables meet or exceed the appropriate standard of care. Within two weeks of the notice to proceed (NTP), the consultant team will provide a detailed work plan for the project. The work plan will be delivered to the RTC project manager/assistant project manager for review and comment.
- 1.6 Provide materials to RTC staff to present to the RTC Board and Advisory Committees.

Deliverables:

- Quality Control Plan,
- Schedule,
- Presentation and meeting materials where applicable, and
- Monthly invoices.

Task 2: Information Gathering and Analysis

- 2.1 CONSULTANT will compile all information into a GIS database where layers will be created to identify the limits of each plan, study, or project, issues discussed and recommendations provided. A detailed description of the data that will be included in the database is provided in subsequent tasks. This methodology will provide the stakeholders with an understanding of the time and spatial distribution of issues and recommendations as well as overlaps and gaps that may exist.
- 2.2 CONSULTANT will review and synthesize the analysis and recommendations of other recent studies and projects in the corridor as well as the results of the additional traffic operations and safety analyses as described herein. Studies and projects include but are not limited to the following:
 - NDOT Road Safety Assessments (RSAs) and Safety Management Plans SMPs

- Proposed projects in the existing RTP, One Nevada Transportation Plan, Nevada State Freight Plan, and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (eSTIP)
- Relevant Traffic Impact Studies (TIS) for pending development proposals
- Land use master plans for the jurisdictions of the City of Reno, City of Sparks, and Washoe County

2.3 CONSULTANT will undergo a data collection effort to identify roadway characteristics on McCarran Boulevard. As part of this task, the team will:

- a. Identify the existing roadway geometry including such features as number of travel lanes, existing right-of-way, traffic control at intersections as well as mid-block crossing, multimodal facilities (sidewalks, bike lanes, off-street paths), access control, and roadway lighting.
- b. Provide traffic data such as posted speed limits, existing annual average daily traffic (AADT) volumes, AM and PM peak period intersection level of service (LOS) and/or bottleneck data, and roadway operation metrics (speed and travel time data, user delay, etc.).
- c. Provide safety data such as the number, frequency, and severity of crashes, as well as the type of crashes. Highlight crashes resulting in fatalities and those which involved pedestrians or bicyclists.
- d. Coordinate with RTC staff to obtain forecast traffic data such as AADT and LOS.

2.4 CONSULTANT will consolidate all the pedestrian and bicycle facility needs, solutions and strategies throughout the corridor previously identified within the completed or ongoing studies. To perform this task the CONSULTANT will:

- a. Identify gaps or barriers in the pedestrian and bicycle network
- b. Identify the pedestrian crossing desire lines and accessibility at pedestrian traffic generators such as shopping centers, civic services, and existing transit stop locations.
- c. Identify intersections with potential speed and sight distance issues that would create safety concerns or an increased risk for conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians and/or bicyclists.

2.5 CONSULTANT will collect information from NDOT regarding pavement conditions along McCarran Boulevard with a focus on:

- a. Identifying pavement needs and strategies in the corridor.
- b. Providing recommendations on prioritization for potential improvements based on any opportunities identified through pavement preservation/maintenance needs.

- 2.6** CONSULTANT will perform an evaluation of the transit elements as below:
- a. Coordinate with RTC to collect information on transit stop characteristics including, stop utilization, accessibility, and programmed or planned improvements.
 - b. Identify potential locations adjacent to the roadway or within the corridor for park and ride lot opportunities.

Deliverables:

- GIS Database,
- Technical Memo documenting inventory, identified issues and implementation strategies for elements listed above.

Task 3: Stakeholder Engagement and Public Involvement

- 3.1** CONSULTANT will facilitate bi-monthly project Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings, including representatives from RTC, NDOT, Cities of Reno and Sparks, Washoe County, and other agencies as appropriate, to be held during the study period. The purpose of the TAC is to review technical study issues and provide technical guidance for development of strategies by the stakeholder group. A total of five (5) meetings is anticipated to be conducted for the duration of the project.
- 3.2** CONSULTANT will undertake public involvement activities with the goal of maintaining a dialogue as to the future of the corridor. This will be accomplished through active engagement of stakeholder groups and activities as follows:
- a. In coordination with staff, the CONSULTANT shall develop presentation materials to convey progress throughout the development of the study.
 - b. The Consultant shall identify community activities that provide potential opportunities to engage the public and solicit feedback on the study.
 - c. The CONSULTANT shall compile the results of public engagement into a Public involvement memorandum.
 - d. The CONSULTANT shall reserve social media accounts and develop a website to serve as an information resource regarding development of the study. Management of the pages will include proactively posting appropriate project information, graphics, and photographs, connecting with appropriate agencies and stakeholders, and monitoring online conversations to correct misinformation. The CONSULTANT will develop a monthly schedule of messages in coordination with RTC project management and communications to be posted several times each week.
- 3.3** CONSULTANT will develop a comprehensive Stakeholder database for review and approval by RTC. Consultant will maintain and update the database in a format approved by the RTC. The consultant will provide the RTC with the final database at the end of the study.

3.4 CONSULTANT will conduct up to 10 stakeholder meetings with neighborhood groups, businesses, or other interested organizations with a stake in project implementation along the corridor. The purpose of the meetings are to: receive feedback and validation from the stakeholders on existing studies, planned projects and initiatives and other pertinent corridor information; listen and document stakeholder issues with respect to project implementation; develop criteria to help inform priorities and implementation strategies. Stakeholder activities may include:

- Data identification (including existing plans),
- Data validation,
- Data organization,
- Immediate, short, and long-range action plans,
- Identify implementation strategies,
- Data integration with identified strategies,
- Negotiate formal and informal agreements as necessary, and
- Strategies to advocate for the future of McCarran Boulevard with the broader community.

3.5 The CONSULTANT will coordinate with RTC staff on all logistics for the stakeholder meetings including invites, securing meeting locations, agendas, meeting materials, and equipment and meeting and action items. The consultant will provide a final Stakeholder engagement memorandum to the RTC at the end of the study.

Deliverables:

- Agenda, meeting materials and minutes of meetings,
- Public involvement memorandum, and
- Stakeholder engagement memorandum.

Task 4: Implementation and Financing Plan

4.1 Under this task CONSULTANT will identify funding sources and prepare an implementation plan for short and long term improvements. CONSULTANT, along with input from stakeholders, will use a range of metrics to evaluate potential improvements, prior to including them in an overall implementation plan for the corridor. The evaluation information will be displayed in a typical criteria matrix format. This type of display will enable decision makers to see, at a glance, how each project or strategy compares overall. This evaluation matrix will be used to develop a tentative list of projects and strategies by proposed implementation order. The list could be divided into sub lists of projects of similar types, such as pedestrian/streetscape improvements. Stakeholder input is critical at this stage prior to finalizing a list of projects by proposed implementation order. Additionally, the CONSULTANT's team will identify potential funding sources in a parallel effort and will enhance stakeholder's capacity to secure resources in the future.

4.2 CONSULTANT will prepare a conceptual design level plan for improvements and strategies. This will include concept layouts, cost estimates, and right of way needs.

- 4.3 CONSULTANT will prepare a draft implementation and financing plan and distribute it for review to the RTC, City of Reno, and other partner agencies.
- 4.4 CONSULTANT will revise the draft implementation and financing plan based on the comments from the RTC, NDOT, Cities of Reno and Sparks, Washoe County and other partner agencies and present the plan to the stakeholders.
- 4.5 CONSULTANT will incorporate comments and produce the Final Implementation and Financing Plan.

Deliverables

- Electronic copy of the draft report to the RTC, and participating agencies,
- Electronic copy of the revised report to the RTC and stakeholders, and
- Six 6 hard copies of the final report and 15 electronic copies.

Data to be provided by RTC

- Model output runs and other data sources
- Copies of prior RTC studies

Evaluation/Scoring Sheet

McCarran Boulevard Corridor Study

1. Project Approach: (35 pts)

- a. Teams will be evaluated based on the following:
 - i. Demonstration of sound Transportation Planning techniques and holistic approach to a planning study
 - ii. Multimodal nature of approach and integration of land use pattern and form
 - iii. Innovative Planning, Traffic Engineering, and Transportation Safety techniques and strategies and context sensitive solutions
 - iv. Innovative public engagement strategies and an equitable and inclusionary process
 - v. Demonstration of project cost estimation and implementation scheduling

2. Past Performance: (20 pts)

- a. Project teams will be evaluated on their past performance of similar projects or projects which include techniques and analysis that is included in the proposers approach to this project.
- b. List RTC and/or NDOT project(s), if any, as well as details of at least three similar projects, other than RTC or NDOT project(s), including project name, project staff, initial project budget and final budget, project dates, and the name and contact information for a client representative.

3. Project Team: (15 pts)

- a. Teams will be evaluated based on the individual experience, technical capabilities, education, and certifications of each proposed project staff member.
- b. Project Teams must include resumes of all proposed project staff members.
- c. Successful teams will include experts from multiple disciplines (Transportation Planning, Traffic Engineering, Urban Design, Public Engagement, Land Use Planning, Environmental Analysis) with a wide variety of specialties (Roadway and Utility Design, Micro-Simulation, Traffic Modeling, School Zone Safety and Operations, Public Engagement, Social Media Engagement) in order to provide the holistic analysis required for this project. Successful teams will also have experience on projects with diverse stakeholders from multiple government agencies.

- d. Project teams must submit an organizational chart indicating the Project Manager and all proposed project staff.

4. Local Knowledge & Experience: (15 pts)

- a. Project teams will be evaluated based on their understanding of and experience with past and current transportation planning issues both in the project area and Washoe County as a whole.

5. Capacity and Availability: (15 pts)

- a. Demonstrate the anticipated availability of the key personnel for the duration of the project. Specify if the availability of the key personnel will change during the project. List significant projects and any RTC projects that the key personnel are currently working on or are committed to work on, the percentage of time allocated to each project and the completion date for each project.
- b. Demonstrate the capacity of the project team to meet the needs of the project tasks. Consider the prime consultant's and sub-consultant's depth of staffing and other resources.
- c. Provide a commitment that the proposer will provide key personnel as needed to successfully complete the project.