

## West Loop Shared Use Path and Bayou Bridge Questions related to Engineer and Architect RFQ and Grants Administrator RFP

**First Response: February 5, 2024**

**Second Response February 7, 2024**

**Third Response: February 15, 2024**

**Final Response: February 22, 2024**

### Architect RFQ Questions

1. Is it expected for the prime Landscape Architecture consultant to meet the DBE Goal of 12.9% with our contract? **Answer – The DBE percentage will be determined including the combined Engineer, Architect, Grant Administrator, and CMAR fees in accordance with FTA requirements. As such DBE participation from each individual respondent is encouraged and would support the Evaluation Committee review.** If so, is it possible to know who Uptown Houston has worked with in the past for object/art design or environmental graphics/wayfinding? – **See Answer #5 and #13 below**
2. After reviewing the schematic design presentation, we noticed there wasn't any object/art design concepts, can you expand on the expectations for object/art design? Is it required to add an artist on the team or for the landscape consultant to curate object/art visions to present to artist? – **See Answer #5 and #13 below**
3. In regard to owner/stakeholder/agency engagement, is the expectation to engage the public citizens regarding this project? Or is this engagement strictly with the Uptown Houston board of directors? – **See Answer #4 and #11 below**
4. Describe the extent of the engagement intended with Stakeholders, Agencies and Owner. **Public Engagement is answered below #11 below. We would expect the selected design team to also assist with any ongoing stakeholder, agency, and owner meetings. Your suggested engagement process will be discussed before we request a fee proposal.**
5. Clarify Object/Art design. – **See Answer #13 below** Is this related to the Perch Tree sculptures shown in the SD presentation? Is this intended to be included in the project? **No**
6. Should the Landscape Architect respondent include FTA grant compliance assistance on the Landscape Architecture team or will that be provided by grant administrator? **The Grant Administrator will need to gather information and coordinate with the selected consultants.**
7. Confirm we are not intended to fill out Exhibit A Rate Schedule, of the Draft Contract (p. 31 of RFQ pdf). **Confirmed**
8. Confirm we are not intended to submit Appendix D Federally Required Certifications with the SOQ. **Confirmed**
9. Confirm that DBE information for SOQ is limited to part 6.b on page 8, and that we are not to include DBE Subcontractor DBE Cert forms with SOQ. **Confirmed**

10. Should sub-consultant resumes be included in Resources and Staff? Elsewhere?  
Section 4 of the Qualifications Submittal Requirements notes that resumes should be included, reduced to meet page limit – meaning short bio’s would be appropriate.
11. Can you please clarify the extent of public outreach anticipated for this project?  
Answer – Previous Public Engagement included the Memorial Park Master Plan, Houston Bike Plan, Open House presentation, Pop-Up event in Memorial Park, presentation to the City Bicycle Advisory Committee Infrastructure Committee, and presentations to Stakeholder Boards of Directors. We would expect the selected design team to assist with any ongoing public meetings and this will be discussed before we request a fee proposal.
12. Does the prime consultant’s HUB certification count towards the desired DBE goal? Answer – If FTA has accepted your HUD Certification, that will work.
13. Could you please elaborate on Object/Art design? Answer – The Uptown Streetscape Program includes unique infrastructure elements like our streetlights, signal poles and arms, arches, gateway rings, and bus shelters. Our experience is that public infrastructure objects can be functional art elements. In terms of forming your team, please have someone included who can provide some creative thinking about how this can be accomplished.
14. The scope includes:
- a. Design team leader and Coordination Leader
  - b. Landscape Architecture and Object/Art design
  - c. Irrigation systems design
  - d. Owner, Stakeholder and Agency engagement
  - e. Lighting design (note electrical engineering by engineering team)
  - f. Environmental graphics and wayfinding
- If the LA firm does not have in-house capabilities for each of these points, would you like us to show a team of consultants now or once we are selected? Answer – Please propose and describe the full team to meet the full scope of work you would direct in your submittal.
15. The RFQ describes in Segment 2, “A 14-foot clear shared use path on a suspension bridge (or similar) over Buffalo Bayou and/or truss bridges (prefabricated or similar). Is there a preferred vendor? Answer – There is not a preferred vendor. The Engineer, Architect and CMAR will explore options during the bridge design development.
16. Page 2 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION – RFQ states that the project includes “adjoining surfaces on both sides of Buffalo Bayou”. Has TxDOT defined the improvements expected on the south side of Buffalo Bayou within the R.O.W.? Answer – The bridge rip rap and column repairs on the south side of Buffalo Bayou will be determined by the selected Engineers and TxDOT.
17. Page 3 – INTRODUCTION – The RFQ states that “In addition, there is a separate RFP being submitted for Construction Manager-at-Risk (CMAR) services. .... All three documents are available for the

respondent to this RFQ to review on the District's website noted above". When is the RFP for CMAR services expected to be posted on the website? **Answer – Our targeted date to post on our website and advertise is February 15, 2024**

18. Page 3 – SCOPE OF SERVICES – The RFQ mentions design development level services followed by construction documents. Please verify that a distinct design development phase is expected. **Answer – A distinct design development phase is expected, for completion after the selection of the CMAR. The exact definition of what this includes can be determined in conjunction with the CMAR at that time.**
19. Page 4 – SCOPE OF SERVICES – Services include "Regulations and updates as needed to the National Environmental Policy Act." This scope of work also appears in the Engineering RFQ. Which team would Uptown Houston prefer for these services to be a part of, Architecture or Engineering? **Answer – Engineering to prepare the materials and Grant Administrator to report to Agencies as required.**
20. Page 4 – RFQ OVERVIEW – "There may be a delay of one or more months after a CMAR is selected prior to the execution of a professional landscape architecture services contract." Can you please elaborate on the reasoning behind this statement? **Answer – The CMAR is needed to review the schematic design and provide estimates and value engineering before the design development phase can complete – schedule for this can be discussed with the selected Firms – this is likely an overlapping activity.**
21. Page 5 – SELECTION TIME – On page 5 the RFQ states "It is the intent of the District's Board of Directors to start the landscape architecture and design of the Project in the first quarter of Calendar Year (CY) 2024" (*aka prior to March 31, 2024*). On page 7 the RFQ states "Services are anticipated to begin in May 2024". Can you please clarify? **Answer – Consultants' fees and scopes of work hopefully can be agreed upon in March 2024. The Landscape Architect, Engineer and Grant Administrator NTP's will potentially be in April 2024, with CMAR following in May 2024.**
22. Page 6 – DBE GOAL – Will the DBE Goal be evaluated on an individual SOQ basis, or is the intent that when taken together (*Architecture, Engineering and Grant Management*) they collectively achieve the goal? **Answer – The DBE percentage will be determined including the combined Engineer, Architect, Grant Administrator, and CMAR fees in accordance with FTA requirements.**
23. Page 8 – QUALIFICATIONS SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS – Do the compliance forms required by the RFQ vary from the forms required in the original RFQ? **Answer – No.**
24. Page 9 – QUALIFICATIONS SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS – Can a previously completed and notarized House Bill 89 Verification form be reused in this SOQ? **Answer – No.**

## Engineer RFQ Questions

1. Page 4 – SCOPE OF SERVICES – Services include “Regulations and updates as needed to the National Environmental Policy Act.” This scope of work also appears in the Engineering RFQ. Which team would Uptown Houston prefer for these services to be a part of, Architecture or Engineering? **Answer – Engineering to prepare the materials and Grant Administrator to report to Agencies as required.**
2. The RFQ describes in Segment 2, “A 14-foot clear shared use path on a suspension bridge (or similar) over Buffalo Bayou and/or truss bridges (prefabricated or similar). Is there a preferred vendor? **Answer – There is not a preferred vendor. The Engineer, Architect and CMAR will explore options during the bridge design development.**
3. I could not download the schematic design set from this website: [WEST LOOP SHARED USE TRAIL & BAYOU BRIDGE SCHEMATIC DESIGN](#) Can you send me a PDF file? **Answer - The schematic design pdf is a 80 MB file that we are sharing via dropbox.**  
**Dropbox.**<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/s97o1li8ngvn1xgwIz5g7/20231128-West-Loop-Shared-Use-Path-and-Bayou-Bridge-Schematic-Design.pdf?rlkey=oj0hdfvqq65p52d83lmt26ba8&dl=0>
4. The specification did not indicate the time of the due date, February 29, 2024. Do you have a specified due time such as 2:00PM or so, on the day? **Answer - Cover states the submittals are due February 29, 2024 at 2:00 pm.**
5. The specification did not specify the presentation format of the RFQ, either one-sided or double sided per page, as well as the minimum font size, please clarify. **Answer - Pages are one-sided. We did not specify a font size but please make your response legible.**
6. It required that the cover letter from the interested firm should be signed by a principal of the firm not a representative of the firm, different from last submittal requirement. Is this a restrict demand? Please clarify. **Answer - Regarding authority to represent the submitter, the instructions state: "A letter of interest, signed by a principal of the professional engineering firm, with a statement as to the firm's availability to complete the work and an overview of the firm or team proposed to complete the effort." Still applies.**