



# Questions & Answers

## *Request for Proposals for Project Initiation Report for the Pennsylvania Avenue Extension Study*

Date: March 12, 2020  
To: Interested Firms and Individuals  
From: Eric Cordoba, Deputy Director for Capital Projects  
Subject: Request for Proposals to Provide Project Initiation Report for the Pennsylvania Avenue Extension Study (RFP 19/20-07)

The Transportation Authority received the following questions in italics submitted by 5:00 p.m. on March 9, 2020. Some questions have been edited for clarity and accuracy.

1. *Part of the Railyard Alignments and Benefits Study looked at the potential reuse of the railyard at 4<sup>th</sup> and Townsend Streets, does this RFP include that evaluation or is it just looking at the Pennsylvania Avenue Extension?*

This RFP is just looking at the Pennsylvania Avenue Extension. The railyard is a separate related project but is not part of this scope.

2. *Can proposals propose a different approach to the Salesforce Transit Center?*

That is not part of this RFP scope.

3. *Can you provide an update on the Downtown Extension project?*

We are currently working with partner agencies to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to move forward with initial engineering and planning work and hope to bring that to the Transportation Authority Board in the next couple months.

4. *Does certification from the Department of General Services count toward the 20% DBE/LBE/SBE goal?*

Yes, certification from the Department of General Services will count as Small Business Enterprise participation.

5. *Is there a list of precluded firms that will not be able to propose on this RFP?*

No firms are precluded from proposing on this RFP, but proposals will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

6. *Does current or previous work with the Transbay Joint Powers Authority on the Downtown Extension Tunnel, or current or previous work with Caltrain and/or California High-Speed Rail on the Peninsula constitute a conflict with this RFP?*

At this time we do not believe that firms who propose on this RFP will be conflicted out of future work on any related projects, however conflict of interest will be determined on a case by case basis after proposals are received.

7. *Please clarify how a firm's involvement in this RFP would affect their ability to participate in a future procurement for Strategic Advisory Services, and whether they would be allowed to provide advisory services on other aspects of the Transportation Authority portfolio of capital projects.*

See response to Question #6.

8. *Task 6, Cost and Funding, discusses "economic benefits" from the project, but then the specific deliverables do not directly mention such analysis. Would a "benefit-cost analysis" typical of federal funding programs (TIGER grants, for example) be desired as part of the scope of services?*

No, detailed benefit-cost analysis will not be performed during this phase of the project. The scope includes cost estimates associated with each alternative and potential funding sources associated with the project. Proposing firms should use their professional judgement as to what sources or methodologies may be applicable to the project.

9. *As part of the "funding sources" analysis described under Task 6, Cost and Funding, would place- or property-based funding ("value capture") analysis be desired in addition to documenting different existing funding sources?*

To the extent that this is not replicating prior work, proposers should review and build on the value capture analysis included in the Railyard Alignment and Benefits Study report.

10. *Could the Transportation Authority provide copies of the Memorandum of Understanding for the development of the 4th and King Railyard, known as the "Railyards MOU" referenced on page 3 of RFP?*

The Railyards MOU establishes a framework for cooperation between the parties and does not affect the PAX project except for coordination. We will provide a copy to the selected consultant.

11. *Will participation in this RFP preclude firms from participating in future design and/or construction management procurements related to the Pennsylvania Avenue Extension Study?*

See response to Question #6.

12. *Is it acceptable to include one-page project sheets in the appendix?*

One-page project sheets are acceptable to include in an appendix, however it will be counted towards the page limit.

13. *Would the Transportation Authority consider expanding the 15-page limit by 5 pages?*

No, the 15-page limit is considered sufficient for the scope of work, and does not include cover letter, table of contents, the cost proposal, resumes, certifications and required exhibits.

14. *May proposers use 10-point font or smaller for graphics and tables?*

A minimum of 10-point font will be acceptable in graphics and tables.

15. *Task 4, subtask 4.1, Geotechnical Study Report, please define scope for "potential geophysical project constraints".*

The geotechnical study report will be used to communicate the site conditions as well as design and construction recommendations. Geophysical site investigations have the purpose of providing specific information on subsurface soil, rock, water and seismic conditions. It should include, at a minimum, a summary of all exploration data of soils, rock, and ground water; exploration logs; lab or in situ test results; and subsurface soil profile, together with analysis and interpretation of the data. Interpretation of the site investigation information, by a geotechnical engineer, should result in specific design and construction recommendations which will be presented in a geotechnical conditions and recommendations report. The geophysical constraints refer to the characterization of the geology, geological structure, groundwater, contamination, and human artifacts.

16. *With respect to Task 4, subtask 4.3, Traffic Impact Study, please provide guidance as to the expectation for the level of analysis/scope required at this stage for a Traffic Impact Study, e.g. is detailed traffic modelling and analysis required. Is the study intended to inform the comparison of alternatives? Would the Traffic Impact Study prepared for the Project Initiation Report be expected to inform future evaluation of transportation impacts in a subsequent Environmental Impact Report?*

The Traffic Impact Study should analyze projected future volumes for the various alternatives to determine the impact of the proposed project on the conditions of the surrounding street system. It should compare the level-of-service for each study intersection against the baseline and provide detailed level-of-service calculations for the baseline and project alternatives. This information will be used in the evaluation of the alternatives. Yes, the Traffic Impact study under this report is expected to inform future evaluation of transportation impacts in the subsequent Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report.

17. *In Section V. subsection 4.c. states "Proposers must specify any potential or perceived conflicts of interest which would disqualify its firm from doing business with the Transportation Authority." Does this pertain only to the prime consultant or should this extend to major subconsultants as well?*

This statement applies to both the prime consultant and all subconsultants.

18. *In Section V. subsection 2, Technical and Management Approach, the RFP asks for an organization chart and staffing plan for each team member, however, subsection 3, Capabilities and Experience, asks for the names of the Project Manager and team members. Is it necessary to include the names for the Project Manager and team members in Section 3 if they are already included in Section 2?*

If the Project Manager and team members are identified in the Technical and Management Approach they do not need to be identified again in the Capabilities and Experience section.

19. *What parts of Section V, subsection 4 are to be included in the technical proposal and also included in the page count? What pieces are to be included as attachments?*

Exhibits A and B identified in subsection 4.a. are to be included as attachments. All information requests in subsections 4.b. through 4.f. can be included as attachments to at the end of the technical proposal and will not be counted against the page limit.

20. *Can a copy of the Transportation Authority's standard contract terms be provided?*

The draft contract will be shared with the top-ranked firm following selection by the evaluation panel.

21. *In consideration of the ongoing circumstances with the COVID-19 outbreak, and the number of agencies and employers now requesting/requiring remote working, would the Transportation Authority consider a one-week extension of the proposal due date to April 3, 2020?*

In light of current events, we will extend the proposal due date to Friday, April 3, 2020. Please refer to RFP 19/20-07 Addendum #1 for the updated RFP timeline.

*For more information regarding the RFP, visit the Transportation Authority's website:*  
[www.sfcta.org/contracting](http://www.sfcta.org/contracting)