

## **West End Bridge Access Structures RFP Questions**

1. Is there any potential to extend the deadline for submission? This proposal package is a bit more involved than a standard SF-330 type RFP that we typically have 30 days to respond to and it falls close to Memorial Day weekend. A preferred date would be something like June 12<sup>th</sup> or later to give it our best look.

**We will push the due date back to June 6th.**

2. Can you clarify if the DBE requirement is 25% as the breakdown looked like 20% (13% MBE, 2% WBE, 5% VOSB)?

**It is not required, but the target is 25%. The breakdown only adds up to 20% because it is meant to provide some flexibility in how teams meet that 25% target. Teams should aim to exceed the individual and total percentages.**

3. Is there any flexibility in the proportions of MBE/WBE/VOSB if we can meet the overall DBE goal?

**Yes. These are not requirements but targets. Teams should aim to exceed the individual and total percentages.**

4. What coordination has taken place already with PennDOT District 11-0 and DOMI? Looking for more clarification on who will bid the job when design is completed? Will DOMI own the facility or PennDOT? Do you anticipate ROW acquisition and who leads the ROW coordination? What sort of NEPA compliance document is required based on the grant and federal funding requirements? A lot of these items would be identified during a scoping field view with PennDOT / DOMI? Was this completed?

**Riverlife has discussed this project with both PennDOT and DOMI. Both support the further development of the design. The hope is to include these designs in a bid package for the restoration of WEB. Discussion of ownership has yet to take place, though PennDOT has said that they do not maintain pedestrian infrastructure. Regardless of ownership, maintenance responsibility would fall to DOMI. We expect this project to be federally funded at least in part. As such, we would expect to follow all necessary NEPA requirements. Though we have not had a scoping field view meeting with PennDOT/DOMI, PennDOT did provide comments on the RFP.**

5. In reviewing the scope in more detail, we have some additional questions as well.
  - a. Supplemental survey should be considered and will likely be needed even with using existing surveys.

**Yes.**

- b. D11 Coordination was not identified as a task with their design reviews and approvals if they are involved.

**This will be required. PennDOT has participated as an advisor, and will continue to serve as a key stakeholder for the project.**

- c. ROW / Easement Coordination – more clarification on what will be required.

**All proposed structures fall on PennDOT, City of Pittsburgh, or ALCOSAN-held property. Coordination with these owners will be essential to determine other necessary ROW or easement requirements.**

- d. Norfolk Southern Coordination – in our experience railroad coordination can be extensive and something that can delay projects if not started early in the process.

**This should be included, though we believe that PennDOT owns the easement through the tunnel.**

- e. Bid package preparation and support – what format will be used? PennDOT, City another sponsor?

**PennDOT.**

- f. Utility relocation plan – this wasn't identified as a major task within the design.

**We hope that we won't have to relocate any major utilities. Close coordination with ALCOSAN will be important as they are working towards construction of their drop shaft in a shared ROW location.**

- 6. Regarding MWBE utilization, is there a specific agency or jurisdiction that MWBE contractors need to be certified with in order to qualify?

**Given that MWBE utilization targets are goals and not a requirement, we do not require specific certifications for firms to qualify.**

- 7. Do covers and divider pages count towards the 50 page proposal limit?

**No, they do not.**

- 8. For the West End Bridge Access Structures project, do you anticipate needing ROW acquisition services?

**No, we do not. All proposed structure locations are on public property.**

- 9. Have you looked at the plans for the old railroad bridge going across West Carson?

**We haven't, but will, and will try to have that as a package available to the selected Consultant.**

10. On the West End side of the bridge, there are two switchback. Which trail - to the east or to the west - is likely to happen first, and which switchback is a higher priority?

**The switchback connected to the rail tunnel would be a higher priority. The community has identified this structure as essential to connecting the neighborhood to the river and regional trail systems. It would also provide accessibility to both riverfronts, and could conceivably connect to a future trail system along the PennDOT-owned railroad corridor.**

11. How much public involvement is expected?

**Considerable public involvement is expected but Riverlife will take on the broader engagement efforts. However, we will need the Consultant to provide drawings, prepare graphics, presentations, etc.**

12. Do you have plans in place to have the rail tunnel dedicated, or do you want the Consultant team to work with Norfolk Southern directly?

**That corridor is owned by PennDOT. They went through a lengthy process to assure that ownership through court. We don't know about air and underground rights that Norfolk Souther may retain, but PennDOT has the easement through the tunnel. We are working with them and other stakeholders to transfer that, along with other properties to a long-term owner with an interest in pedestrian access.**

13. What is the schedule for this project? There are open-end items, and trying to get a handle on priorities and how they impact the schedule. What is the end-game on what Riverlife would like to see?

**These funds must be spent by the end of 2024. We've allowed a little bit of cushion (16 months gives us 2 months on the back end) but that's not a lot of time for this work. We may determine things as part of the alternatives phase like improvements to adjacent intersections or groundplain improvements in the parks that are part of a later effort, but the construction documents for the access structures must be done by the end of 2024. We're hoping to work with PennDOT about this being included in a package for federal funding to restore the bridge. It's on the TIP for 2028. We want this to be ready and delivered to them in advance of that work so it's part of that overall construction package.**

14. Considering the switchback location on the NE side of the WEB, have you considered the proximity to the existing building, or extensive underground utilities and adjacent roadway?

**The one building is coming down, so won't be a consideration. Re: utilities, we don't have a survey of the sites, so only have preliminary information about utility locations. We have approximate locations for ALCOSAN's planned leave-behinds. A fair amount of leg-work should be done by ALCOSAN for that work, and we have an MOU with ALCOSAN for the West End site, and are working on an MOU for the North side of the bridge as well. Given the scope of their work, they will have extensive information about the existing utilities, and we will work with them to make sure that we're placing the structures appropriately. That will be a significant portion of the preliminary work.**

15. Is the intent to let this project with the West End Bridge rehabilitation project?

**Yes.**

16. The Project Considerations, C. Funding section of the RFP mentions "...Consultants will be required to adhere to certain billing, bonding, and insurance requirements..." but bonding is not mentioned elsewhere in the RFP. Are design consultants pursuing this project expected to adhere to bond requirements?

**To satisfy this project consideration, submitting firms will need to provide evidence of auto liability, comprehensive general liability, professional liability, and worker's compensation insurance coverage.**

17. Please confirm that all responses are due by 5:00 PM on May 30<sup>th</sup>, as the time is not specified in the RFP.

**We are extending the deadline to June 6, 2023 at 5pm. Please send responses to [maria@riverlifepgh.org](mailto:maria@riverlifepgh.org).**