

QUESTIONS & RESPONSE TO FMT RFP INQUIRIES

Flooding Dynamic Modeling Tools (FMT) for Optimized CORE MPO Planning of Transportation Infrastructure Systems

Question 1: My team is very interested in the RFP released. We are a non-profit applied research organization with a range of academic affiliations. The RFP states that it must be an academic institution applying to be eligible to submit a proposal. My question is, does the academic institution need to be based in the US?

Response: The academic institution does not need to be based in the United States. However, preference is given to Institutions that demonstrate an understanding of the challenges facing the CORE MPO metropolitan planning area and describe specific experience on similar and relevant research in the USA. Refer to page 7 of the RFP for eligibility and preferred qualifications. Additionally, refer to pages 12 and 13 of the RFP for proposal and presentation evaluations when considering submitting a proposal. All proposers must be able to agree to and abide by all contractual obligations and have the ability to perform the work as described in the RFP within the constraints of the specified budget.

Question 2: Are you looking for development and calibration of a hydrodynamics flood model or 1D flood model?

Response: The MPC/CORE MPO is looking for proposals with a clear project approach that will effectively assess the needs of the purpose and objectives outline in the RFP. Models and tools developed or applied for this project must be user-friendly and transferable.

Question 3: What is the format of the interviews? Virtual or in person?

Response: Proposer should expect the interview presentation to be in-person. The MPC/CORE MPO reserves the right to conduct interviews virtually when deemed necessary. An official decision regarding the interview format will be posted on Monday January 3, 2022 by 5pm (EST).

Question 4: What is the indirect cost (IDC) rate you accepted? My institution has a 49% IDC rate, is this allowed?

Response: Indirect cost rates have no bearing on the evaluation of proposals or in determining qualifications of Institutions.

Question 5: Are there any reporting requirements during the project? Like quarterly meeting/report or draft final report?

Response: Yes. See Addendum #1 Item 1.0

Question 6: About to prioritize future transportation infrastructure projects, should projects like embankment, retaining walls, culverts all be included? Or we should emphasize more on construction of new and widening roads?

In regard to projects and prioritization, the development of any models and tools should:

- Response:
1. Evaluate the effectiveness, trade-offs, and costs of a range of feasible adaptation strategies.
 2. Prioritize projects and implementable level steps to help increase the resiliency of the transportation system and infrastructure.
 3. Provide a toolbox of infrastructure best management practices and projects, and the associated cost estimates, which mitigate the effects of flooding events.
 4. Develop a priority framework that incorporates variables such as cost, land use, access, and environmental justice components to identify specific locations with transportation infrastructure resiliency deficiencies.

Decisions taken today, particularly those related to the redesign and retrofitting of existing or the location and design of new transportation infrastructure, will affect how well the system adapts to climate change far into the future.

Question 7: As a university we are not setup to contract with M/WBE

Response: Academic Institutions shall submit the Notice of Non-Discrimination found in Appendix II of the RFP with their proposals. Academic Institutions are not required to submit the Proposed Schedule of M/WBE Participation found in Appendix III. However, a Proposed Schedule of M/WBE Participation found in Appendix III shall be submitted for all non-academic subconsultants. See Addendum #1 Item 1.1

Question 8:

Does professional liability insurance need to be as high as \$1,500,000 per occurrence? Does this apply only to the Consulting Firms or do Universities have to provide as well? We have already pre-negotiated insurance that we cannot change, but we can provide proof. Would that work?

Response:

The Liability Insurance form provided will be reviewed by the MPC's counsel and Insurer to ensure adequate coverage is provided. See Addendum #1 Item 1.2

Question 9:

Can a consulting team be the lead with a university as partner or does a university have to be the lead for this?

Response:

Proposals including partnerships with other institutions or consultants for research and development of the FMT is strongly encouraged. Non-academic entities eligible as subconsultants. See Addendum #1 Item 1.3

