

Questions Received by the Capital Area MPO Prior to RFP Advertisement

Q: What is the project scope?

A: The approximate 15 – mile segment of NC 50 from I-540 in Wake County to NC 56 in Creedmoor.

Q: What is the nature of the study?

A: A comprehensive multi-modal corridor study that will include recommendations for maintaining mobility within the corridor, will take into consideration the environmental and topographic features along the corridor, will take into account the bicycle and pedestrian planning efforts that have been undertaken by the various jurisdictions, and that will make recommendations for transportation accommodations that will maintain mobility, consider land use, and will be feasible to implement.

Q: Who will be reviewing proposals?

A: Representatives from the Capital Area MPO, the NC DOT Transportation Planning Branch, the Counties of Wake and Granville, the City of Creedmoor, Capital Area Transit, Triangle Transit, and Kerr Area Transit System will be invited to participate in the selection process.

Q: What is the level of public involvement expected (i.e. stakeholder groups, public hearings, charettes, direct interaction, etc)?

A: The study will need to have broad public outreach, and specific minimum requirements for public involvement will be included in the RFP. A stakeholder process engaging, or at least inviting, all stakeholders along the corridor will be expected. Multiple meetings with a stakeholder steering committee will be expected. Additional ideas for more robust public involvement techniques are welcomed as part of the RFP.

Q: What entities will be involved as stakeholders?

A: At a minimum, the City of Creedmoor, Granville County, Wake County, City of Raleigh, Triangle Transit, Capital Area Transit, Kerr Area Transit System, NC DOT Transportation Planning Branch, NC DOT Division 5, NC DOT Traffic Engineering, Division of Water Quality, and other environmental and resource agencies will be invited to participate. Meetings will also be open to the public, and could include land owners, residents, businesses, and community leaders.

Q: What is the driving factor of the study?

A: The public outreach and buy-in will be important, as will the feasibility of implementing the recommendation, given the topographic, environmental, and land use challenges facing the corridor.

Q: Will a pre-proposal conference be held?

A: Yes, we are planning a pre-proposal conference for mid-October, depending on the date the RFP is released.

Q: Will there be a short list of candidate firms interviewed?

A: Yes, we expect to narrow the list to around five proposals, and these proposers will be interviewed by a selection committee in late October or early November, depending on the final RFP release date. Details will be included in the RFP.

Q: What are the land use considerations in the study?

A: Southern Granville County is rural in nature, with low density residential. They desire to maintain the rural character of the county, while increasing the mobility of the corridor. The study area also goes into downtown Creedmoor, which has a traditional town center located along the corridor. The Granville County Comprehensive Transportation Plan outlines a southern bypass of Creedmoor, which is also included on the Capital Area MPO Long Range Transportation Plan as a future project. This corridor will need to be taken into account during formulation of recommendations.

Q: Do you have a preference on modeling software to be used?

A: No, we are open to proposals on software packages and approaches to be used in the study.

Q: Are there specific access issues on the corridor, such as driveways or problems with the interchange an NC 98?

A: There are multiple private driveways, and we are looking for the study to indicate whether there will be problems with the existing interchange functionality. It is part of the corridor being studied.

Q: Are there specific land use challenges associated with the study?

A: Granville County is hoping to maintain their rural character, and have no immediate plans to extend water or sewer capacity down the corridor. Residential development is spreading from Raleigh, and there are issues associated with water quality and the impairment of Falls Lake. There is currently a Nutrient Management Study underway that may place additional development constraints on the land within the watershed area.

Q: Is there political support for this project?

A: Both Granville County Board of Commissioners and the City of Creedmoor City Council have listed the corridor as their top priority for improvement for several years, particularly as commuter traffic between Raleigh and Granville County and the Butner area continues to increase. Rep. Jim Crawford, whose district includes Granville County, has repeatedly expressed support for a solution to NC 50.

Q: Would it be more appropriate for a public involvement specialist to be on the team, or would a planning firm be sufficient?

A: All proposals will be considered; it does not matter if a specialist is involved, as long as the public involvement is done at an appropriate level.

Q: Should the project team leader be a planner or an engineer?

A: All proposals will be considered; both the planning and engineering aspects of this study are important.