

SM 101 EXPRESS LANES PROJECT



TO: All Prospective Consultants

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PROJECT: Request for Proposal (RFP) for Consultant Services to Conduct an Equity Study for the San Mateo County US 101 Express Lanes Project

RE: Responses to Questions related to the RFP for Equity Study Consultant

DATE: February 21, 2020

Listed below are the questions received regarding the RFP and corresponding **responses**:

Question 1: Are there equity studies for toll systems that C/CAG is looking to as particularly exemplary for this project?

Response 1: No. C/CAG is not the agency that issued this RFP. The San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority (SMCEL-JPA) is looking to understand the community equity issues; formulate and implement an Equity Program in response to perceived and/or actual equity issues surrounding the implementation of the US 101 express lanes.

Question 2: What is the budget and timeframe for the project?

Response 2: The proposed consultant budget is part of the evaluation of the consultant proposal. The timeframe is anticipated to be 12-15 months after contract execution.

Question 3: What is the structure of oversight and management of the equity study across HNTB, C/CAG, and the JPA?

Response 3: HNTB has been retained by SMCEL-JPA as its Independent Policy/Program Manager (PPM). HNTB will manage the day to day oversight of the equity study and collaborate with the selected consultant team to develop and implement an equity program. The Executive Council of SMCEL-JPA, comprised of both Executive Directors of C/CAG and SMCTA, will participate as a member of the project team. The SMCEL-JPA Board is the ultimate client and recipient of the Equity Study.

Question 4: Which agency will monitor and manage the equity strategy to ensure successful outcomes?

Response 4: SMCEL-JPA

Question 5: Has C/CAG identified equity goals or desired outcomes for the express lanes project?

Response 5: The establishment of specific goals and outcomes will be developed as part of the study. SMCEL-JPA wants to ensure equity while simultaneously ensuring that the operational performance of

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the express lanes is maintained.

Question 6: What groups of people have already been engaged as part of the project? Are there particular populations or entities who have not been engaged and should be?

Response 6: No specific groups have been engaged to date or targeted as part of the study. The identification of the appropriate groups and stakeholders will be an essential early step in the process.

Question 7: What does success look like for the equity study?

Response 7: The study needs to result in an implementable Equity Program for the US 101 Express Lanes in the Summer of 2021.

Question 8: How will the equity study's outcomes and recommendations be integrated into the overall Express Lanes project?

Response 8: The outcomes of the Equity Study will formulate an implementable Equity Program.

Question 9: The RFP says that consultants should have direct experience performing an equity analysis conducting equity studies for toll systems and/or similar projects. However, there are few precedents for such an analysis, particularly in the Bay Area. Is the agency willing to consider relevant experience and approaches that don't precisely meet this standard of prior experience?

Response 9: Yes, the proposed approach is paramount. An evaluation and comparison of the direct and indirect experiences of all respondents to the RFP will be performed.