Southern Alleghenies Corridor N (U.S. Route 219 Completion Analysis & Impact Study)

Frequently Asked Questions

Many of the questions below are asking us to be more prescriptive. While we can oblige in some instances, the RFP was written to promote each of the individual respondents’ unique professional experience and qualifications to craft a response. Ideally, responses will incorporate concepts, methods, and other projects that we have not considered in this scope of work, but that the experience of the respondent has driven.

1. To what extent is the objective of this project to produce INFRA grant application materials? Will there be a separate effort to produce the INFRA grant if the state DOTs choose to apply?
   - The initial thought was that a joint application between PennDOT and the Maryland SHA would be submitted. That may or may not be possible. We intend to proceed with the intent that the results of the work outlined by this effort will inform an INFRA grant application, or similar grant application, this year or in the future. We don’t want to limit our ability to submit in a subsequent round. Having said that, some technical assistance regarding an application maybe necessary.

2. What is the objective of task 1e “Identification of existing projects”? Is the expectation that this will pull together information from existing studies? Is any new planning work expected?
   - Item 1e iii is the most important in this section. The intent of subsection iii is to show how a four lane U.S. 219 would mitigate traffic concerns on some of the other already congested interstates across the state. Items i and ii are simply to help inform our TIP and/or LRTP with projects that would support a four lane U.S. 219. It’s unlikely that you would find much of this information in other studies.

3. What kind of stakeholders do you envision are most important to reach out to? Is in-person engagement required? Is any of the engagement public-facing (such as workshops)? What would be the role of PennDOT and Maryland SHA? What kind of local support would we expect to identify and contact stakeholders?
   - While we would leave much of this up to your discretion, business and industry would be the primary target. Other stakeholders would include but are not limited to local municipalities, local elected officials, emergency responders, non-profits, etc. Organizations like The Greater Cumberland Committee and SAP&DC as well as Somerset, Cambria, Garret, and Allegheny Counties’ chambers and redevelopment authorities will be excellent sources to assist in identifying stakeholders. The Greater Cumberland Committee and SAP&DC may be able to assist with coordination of some of these entities.

4. What kind of feedback is expected from businesses? How many interviews/case studies are expected? Is the primary purpose to provide examples to include in Task 2?
   - You are correct, the primary purpose is to provide examples to support Task 2. The kind of feedback will be driven by the types of businesses identified. Ultimately, the intent is to show how the improved ease and safety of access will help to grow their businesses generally and specifically. We don’t have a hard number requirement, but we would like to see case studies representing several different industries including but not limited to manufacturing, multimodal shipping and warehousing, retail, technology, and higher education.
5. Can you say more about what is expected for Task 5? For 5a, are you expecting in-person presentations? How many? For 5b, what kind of technical assistance for grant applications is expected as part of the project? What kind of level of effort is expected? Should this be considered an add-on task?
   - Presentations to the Southern Alleghenies RPO, PennDOT, and Maryland SHA are to be expected. Depending on the audience, in-person presentations maybe required, but if remote presentations can be effective, they may be permitted as well. This task would be considered as a part of the initial project. The technical assistance should at least relate to helping a potential applicant to incorporate findings of this study into any application.

6. What is the goal of the data review (Task 1a)? Is there any specific data analysis that is expected?
   - We included this piece because we believe it is important to paint a picture of the current system. Please note that much or some of that may be outlined by the Maryland SHA study currently underway. The analysis should focus on usage (vehicular and truck,) system condition, crashes, and like data. If the Maryland SHA study already does this analysis, please incorporate it.

7. Do you envision that the one-pager factsheet would be designed by a professional graphic designer?
   - We don't have a preference. The only requirement is that it is easy to understand and presented well.

8. Are you looking for examples of how information can be presented in the proposal or as part of the project deliverables (See 4aiii)?
   - The latter, as project deliverables.

9. What is included in the 10-page limit (i.e. does this include resumes and firm quals)?
   - The 10-page limit does not include items such as cover sheets or letters, resumes and qualifications, or other supporting materials. The 10-page limit applies to the scope of work.