

Palouse Regional Transportation Planning Organization

Serving Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, and Whitman Counties

845 Port Way
Clarkston, WA 99403
509-751-9144
www.palouertpo.org

Request for Qualifications

The Palouse Regional Transportation Planning Organization (PRTPO) is seeking a qualified contractor to perform a regional freight study based upon the information outlined within this Request. The study is to be performed as a two-part project, commencing upon RTPO commitment and to be completed by the end of December, 2015.

Note that the use of ‘economic freight corridors’ in this request refers to the major freight routes within the region, not to the ‘economic freight corridor’ definition found within the *Washington State Freight Mobility Plan*.

Objectives and Associated Deliverables:

Part 1:

- Using region specific current and historic survey and research products, gather and summarize information regarding the current and historic movement of commodity products originating in SE Washington;
- Identify and map the major industry establishments/stakeholders within the region;
- Develop baseline data regarding the quantity, type, and direction of the movement of goods throughout the economic freight corridors;
- Identify and quantify seasonal movements into and out from the establishments identified, along with the routes used;
- Identify any modal and intermodal bottlenecks (physical and/or operational) within and in relation to the economic freight corridors;
- Identify other limiting factors that may enhance or constrain state investment on regional freight corridors;
- Generate investment prioritization strategies to enable more efficient movement of commodities and products in SE Washington;
- Develop other pertinent information consistent with the intention of developing and maintaining an efficient regional multi-modal economic freight corridor system.

Part 2:

- Collect and develop specific seasonal data representing the peak demands upon the economic freight corridors including product type(s), tonnage, direction of movement, destinations, and other relevant parameters;
 - Develop significant data regarding the strategic importance of the economic freight corridors within the region;
 - Estimate the freight related impacts upon several significant corridors as a result of the development of the McCoy Grain Terminal and the impending development of Columbia Pulp;
 - Integrate the information collected within the regional study to the recently completed *Washington State Freight Mobility Plan*;
 - Develop recommendations for:
 - Specific locations within the region where structural improvements to existing infrastructure are needed;
 - Where existing local and state level policy might be modified to enable increased investments in rural economic corridor transportation systems on a strategic basis, not just upon volume based metrics;
 - Gap analysis to quantify specific future studies needed in support of the economic freight corridors.

This project is to be based upon a multi-modal approach to the movement of the major commodity products into and out from the region. Work products should reflect the view of freight movement as a system, with recommendations made according to this viewpoint. Engagement with the major producers, and the major modes: water, rail, and roads, is expected. Close alignment and collaboration with the RTPO planning staff is expected during all phases of this project.

Respondents should list their charges in two parts. Part one will end on June 30, 2015 with a draft due at that time; part two will start July 1, 2015. The part two draft report is due December 1, 2015. The final study report, along with all recommendations, shall be completed and submitted by December 31, 2015. Based upon the responses, the Palouse RTPO reserves the right to move elements to and from each set of objectives above based upon funding available. Modifications to the Objectives elements listed above will be considered as part of any proposal received. Responses to this RFQ are due back to the Palouse RTPO by Friday, March 6, 2015.

Please contact Marshall Doak, Executive Director of the Palouse RTPO for any additional information or clarifications needed in order to respond to this RFQ. Responses will be judged according to the completeness of response, the qualifications of the responding entity, and the ability to work with RTPO staff in the project's development.

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www.palousertpo.org
marshall@seweda.org