



MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Board

From: Angela Manning-Hardimon
Deputy Executive Director, Finance and Administration

Date: November 11, 2021

Re: Contract Approval for Post COVID-19 Regional Assessment

As the Chicagoland Region continues to move forward post COVID-19, it is imperative to regional transportation and land use planning that the region's stakeholders and implementers collaborate and coordinate on economic development and COVID-19 recovery activities. Promoting the region's economic development attractiveness and economic mobility opportunities together can advance a region that thrives and presents strategies to support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency. This is especially true in the areas across the region that were disproportionately impacted by income loss, job changes, housing access struggles, and business reductions and closings due to COVID-19.

CMAP has also identified many of these same areas as having less accessible and less adequate transportation alternatives and transportation infrastructure networks necessary for optimal location investment and employment. The purpose of this contract is to understand how we can best support the region through economic recovery with a focus on those areas and people who were most impacted, and promote consistency between state and local planned growth and economic development patterns and transportation improvements.

In response to these challenges and others, the region convened a COVID-19 Recovery Task Force, the Economic Development Organizations (EDOs) of each of the seven counties in the CMAP region, the City of Chicago, and Intersect Illinois to discuss a path toward regional economic development collaboration. The Task Force and EDOs, including the Board Chairs of the counties in the region, recognized the need for a regional effort to address economic development as it relates to transportation, business attraction and retention, job access, and workforce development.

Review Process

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was circulated and posted on the CMAP website on July 28, 2021. On August 20, 2021 CMAP received proposals from Fourth Economy, Guidehouse, Life Happens, Plaka Associates, RW Ventures, and TIP Strategies.

Proposals were reviewed by CMAP staff, who scored each proposal independently. The criteria for selection included the following:

1. The demonstrated record of experience of the consultant as well as identified staff in providing the professional services identified in this scope of work, including addressing the topical issues identified in the Project Background and Scope of Services sections.
2. Prior performance of previous CMAP contracts was considered. Consultants who are or have been seriously deficient in current or recent contract performance in the absence of evidence to the contrary or circumstances properly beyond the control of the consultant were presumed to be unable to meet these requirements.
3. The consultant's approach to preparing the Final Plan that addresses the priorities identified in the Project Background and Scope of Services sections.
4. The consultants approach, methodology, past experience and demonstrated record of engaging stakeholder, developing plans, and reaching group consensus as well as plans or portions of plans that have been implemented by past clients.
5. The quality and relevance of the examples of similar work with an emphasis on work performed for regions of a similar size and complexity. Demonstrated success in helping large groups of independent stakeholders build consensus for strategies to address common shared areas of need.
6. The consultant's integration of and proposed strategy alignment with the principles of ON TO 2050 into the proposal.
7. Cost to CMAP, including consideration of all project costs and per-hour costs.

Table 1 below shows the raw average score of each firm that submitted a response to the RFP.

Table 1. RFP 257 Proposal Scores

Criteria	Maximum Score	Fourth Economy	Guidehouse	Life Happens	Plaka Associates	RW Ventures	TIP Strategies
Record of experience	20	16.3	17.0	10	17	18.7	20
Prior performance on CMAP contracts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Consultant's approach to Final Plan	25	15	15.7	10	15	17.7	21.0
Consultant's approach to stakeholder engagement	25	15	18.3	10	15	17.7	21
Quality and relevance of examples of similar work	5	5	5	0	5	5	5
Consultant's integration and alignment to ON TO 2050	5	15.7	9.3	5	15.7	16.3	15.3
Cost to CMAP	20	17.46 (\$191,735)	4.89 (\$685,000)	5.37 (\$624,000)	20 (\$167,425)	14.56 (\$230,000)	18.10 (\$185,000)
Total	100	85.5	70.22	42	89	89.9	99.4

Recommendation for Contractor Selection

After interviews, the Selection Committee decided that the TIP Strategies team presented the strongest approach, team member experience, and expertise to perform the tasks outlined in the RFP. The TIP Strategies proposal was particularly strong in their approach to developing a market analysis and engaging industry leaders to ensure an equity lens throughout the duration of the project. Their approach addresses each task thoroughly in a manner that is achievable within the project time frame.

It is recommended that the Board approve a contract with TIP Strategies for the not-to-exceed amount of \$185,000. Support for this project will be provided from the FY22 Operating budget.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval