

Addendum #2

lrgvdc

From: lrgvdc
Sent:
To:
Cc:
Subject: Passenger Rail Feasibility Study
Importance: High

Good Afternoon,

Thank you for your interest in the RGVMPO RFPs. Responses to your inquiry are in red text below following the question.

Good afternoon,

Here are the responses to your questions, the responses are in red.

I would like to formally submit the following questions/inquiries regarding the RGVMPO Passenger Rail Feasibility Study:

- There is no mention of field work in the RFP. The previous study included a photographic survey, field survey, and more. How much field work is anticipated?
 - *The anticipated field work for this project aligns with the comprehensive approach undertaken in the 2011 Hidalgo County commuter rail feasibility study. Additionally, we are open to incorporating any advancements in technology or contemporary field work methodologies relevant to rail projects that have emerged since 2011.*
- Can you provide more specifics as to what is anticipated under task 4 as it relates to environmental impact?
 - *In Task 4, we anticipate delving into various aspects related to environmental impact. These may include, but are not limited to:*
 - *Estimating the carbon emissions during the construction phase.*
 - *Calculating the reduction in carbon emissions attributed to ridership.*
 - *Determining the timeframe required to offset carbon emissions generated during construction.*
 - *Creating a geographical map illustrating areas affected by noise and vibrations.*
 - *Identifying and assessing the impact of construction on natural habitats.*
 - *Projecting greenhouse gas emissions resulting from long-term maintenance.*
 - *Establishing a timeline for achieving net-zero emissions.*
- There is no mention of public engagement under section 2.1 other than integrating Public Participation and Stakeholder Engagement into the strategic plan and recommendations. Under section 4.1, one of the deliverables is a 'Stakeholder Consultation Report: A document detailing the feedback and input received from various stakeholders during the engagement process.' We are assuming there will be stakeholder outreach as a part of this effort but no public engagement and that the RGVMPO is just looking for public engagement strategies as a part of the strategic plan to be executed in a subsequent phase of the study. Please confirm if this is an accurate assumption and that there will be no public engagement.
 - *Public engagement is indeed a fundamental component of this project. A minimum of three public engagement events is required, with one to be conducted in each county within the Metropolitan Area Boundary of the RGVMPO. Additionally, we encourage attending more events if feasible to ensure comprehensive stakeholder outreach*
- If the previous assumption is incorrect and there will be public engagement, please specific what type and level of public engagement is expected from this effort?
 - *There will indeed be a public engagement component, the expected level of engagement entails activities such as:*

- *Participation in local festivals, events at university or college campuses, or areas with high foot traffic, where we would set up informational tables with study-related infographics.*
- *Facilitating opportunities for the public to complete surveys or provide feedback during these events.*
- Will there be a Project website? If so, will the RGVMPPO host this and the consultant will just provide content or is the consultant expected to host a project website?
 - *Indeed, the consultant is expected to host a project website. The RGVMPPO will likely feature a link to the project website on its own site and utilize social media platforms to share and promote the project. An example of how this might be structured can be found here for reference: <https://rgvmppo-resilience-and-sustainability-study-atginc.hub.arcgis.com/pages/english>*
- There is no mention of ridership forecasting under section 2.1. Please confirm that the RGVMPPO is not expecting ridership forecasting as a part of this study.
 - *Yes, ridership forecasting is an integral part of this study. It aligns with the updates being made to the 2011 study, where such forecasting was included in Chapter 5, specifically within the benefit analysis section.*

Thank you,

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council