

**RIO GRANDE VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
(RGVMPO) LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
(LRGVDC) 301 W RAILROAD WESLACO, TEXAS 78596**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) TITLE: Passenger Rail Feasibility Study

Introduction

The purpose of this Scope of Work is to outline the tasks and deliverables required for updating the Hidalgo County Commuter Rail Feasibility Study. The study was initially published in August 2011, and since then, there have been significant changes in the region's transportation landscape, necessitating an updated assessment to cater to the growing population's needs and the evolving economy. The Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (RGVMPO) intends to incorporate the entire RGVMPO Metropolitan Area Boundary (MAB) into a comprehensive passenger rail feasibility study. The ultimate goal of this project is to determine the best approach for implementing a modern and efficient passenger rail system in the Rio Grande Valley, thereby reducing traffic congestion and accommodating the transportation needs of the expanding population.

As per the US Department of Transportation 49 CFR Part 26 which mandates to comply with Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) requirements, the appropriate documentation has been included at the end of this RFP.

Schedule of Events**

RFP Release	Sunday, September 3, 2023
Deadline for Submittal of Questions	Friday, September 29, 2023 @ 4:00pm (CTZ)
Release of Response to Questions	Friday, October 6, 2023
Deadline for Submission of Proposals	Friday, October 27, 2023 @ 5:00 pm (CTZ)
Anticipated award date	Thursday, December 14, 2023 (subject to change)
Contract Begins	Upon acceptance of the award and starting date is agreed on
Anticipated contract completion date	Friday, December 27, 2024 (subject to change)

*The LRGVDC and RGVMPO reserve the right, in its sole discretion, to change the above dates. Notices of changes to items directly impacting the Original RFP or proposal process will be submitted to each consultant of record as having received an RFP. Any changes to the timeline will require RGVMPO Transportation Policy Board Approval according to established policy.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS:

Ten (10) original Technical Proposals and One Electronic must be sealed and submitted as the offeror's response, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals to:

(If hand delivered) Asst. Director of Bus. Operations
LRGVDC
301 W Railroad
Weslaco, Texas 78596

RFP Title: Passenger Rail Feasibility Study

(If Mailed) Asst. Director of Bus. Operations
LRGVDC
301 W Railroad
Weslaco, Texas 78596

RFP Title: Passenger Rail Feasibility Study

All proposals must be received in the offices of the LRGVDC no later than 5:00 P.M. Central Time, Friday, October 27, 2023. The RGVMPO/LRGVDC is not responsible for lateness or non-delivery of mail, carrier, etc., and the date/time stamp at the receptionist area of the LRGVDC shall be the official time of receipt. Proposals received late will not be returned.

Proposal contents considered confidential/proprietary by the Offeror, shall be clearly identified and subject to confirmation by the LRGVDC and RGVMPO. Should the material not be deemed confidential/proprietary, the Offeror may withdraw the designated materials from consideration prior to review and the evaluation process.

Part I GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Introduction

The RGVMPPO/LRGVDC, in close cooperation with the TxDOT, currently performs the transportation planning for the Metropolitan Area Boundary (MAB) within the Cameron, Hidalgo, and Starr County area.

The RGVMPPO/LRGVDC is seeking a qualified consulting firm to develop a **Passenger Rail Feasibility Study**.

Selected Respondent [“Selected Consultant” or “Consultant”, where singular includes plural of both terms] must be prepared to begin performance of any contract resulting from issuance of this RFP, after **December 14, 2023**.

1.2 The RGVMPPO/LRGVDC Responsibilities

The RGVMPPO/LRGVDC shall pay no costs or other amount incurred by any entity in responding to this RFP. The RGVMPPO/LRGVDC reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to select one or more qualified responses to this RFP without discussion of responses with respondents. The RGVMPPO/LRGVDC reserves the right to refuse and reject any and all submitted proposals and to waive any and all formalities or technicalities and to accept the proposal(s) considered the best and most advantageous to the RGVMPPO/LRGVDC.

All proposals will become part of the RGVMPPO/LRGVDC’s official procurement files and will be available for public inspection. The RGVMPPO/LRGVDC will work with the Selected Consultant to help ensure that the **Passenger Rail Feasibility Study** will be of the highest quality and acceptable to the RGVMPPO/LRGVDC.

1.3 Respondent Responsibilities

Qualified, independent consultants are invited to submit proposals in accordance with this RFP. Proposals must address all specifications. Selected Consultant will organize the project under the direction of the RGVMPPO. Selected Consultant will be liable, both individually and severally, for the performance of all obligations under the Study and will not be relieved of non-performance of any subcontractor. Selected Consultant will be the sole point of contract responsibility. The LRGVDC will look solely to the Selected Consultant for performance of the **Passenger Rail Feasibility Study**.

1.4 Point of Contact

Questions concerning this RFP must be made in writing and addressed to the Asst. Director of Bus. Operations, LRGVDC, 301 W. Railroad, Weslaco, Texas 78596, or submitted by Email to lrgvdc@lrgvdc.org. Upon issuance of this RFP, employees and other representatives of the RGVMPPO/LRGVDC will not answer questions or otherwise discuss the contents of this RFP with any potential respondents or their representatives. Failure to observe this restriction may result in disqualification of any subsequent proposal. This restriction does not preclude discussions unrelated to this RFP.

1.5 Written Questions and Official Responses

All Inquiries and Questions concerning this RFP must be made in writing and addressed to the Asst. Director of Bus. Operations no later than **Friday, September 29, 2023 @ 4:00pm (CTZ)**. **Telephone inquiries will not be accepted.** Questions may be submitted via Email to lrgvdc@lrgvdc.org The LRGVDC will post its responses to the questions received by the deadline electronically on the LRGVDC's procurement web page <http://www.lrgvdc.org/procurement.html> on or about **Friday October 6, 2023**, or as soon thereafter as practical. The LRGVDC will email copies of its official responses to those respondents specifically requesting a copy by E-mail.

If the respondent discovers any ambiguities, conflicts, discrepancies, exclusionary specifications, omissions, or other errors in this RFP, respondent must immediately notify the Asst. Director of Bus. Operations. If a respondent fails to so notify the Asst. Director of Bus. Operations, such respondent submits a proposal at its own risk and under such conditions. If the respondent is awarded the contract, then it is not entitled to additional compensation, relief, or time by reason of the error or its later correction.

1.6 Deadline for Submission of Proposals; Copies

Ten (10) original Technical Proposals, one Cost Proposal, and one Electronic copy must be submitted to and received by the LRGVDC Asst. Director of Bus. Operations no later than **Friday, October 27, 2023 @ 5:00 pm (CTZ)**. Faxed responses are not acceptable. Proposals received after the deadline will not be accepted. The LRGVDC will not consider proposals from respondents that do not submit timely proposals. Respondents are solely responsible for verifying the LRGVDC's receipt of their proposals by the deadline specified above. Late proposals will not be considered under any circumstances.

1.7 Right to Amend, Modify or Withdraw the RFP

The RGVMPO/LRGVDC reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to amend, or modify any provisions of this RFP, or to withdraw this RFP, at any time prior to the award of **Passenger Rail Feasibility Study**, if it is in the best interest of the LRGVDC and RGVMPO. The decision of the RGVMPO/LRGVDC, or its designee, shall be administratively final in this regard.

1.8 Time

The times stated in this document refer to Central Time Zone (CTZ) where appropriate, unless otherwise stated in this document. The LRGVDC's regular office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (CTZ), Monday through Friday, except State and LRGVDC holidays.

Part II PROJECT SCOPE

2.1 Scope of Services

The primary objectives of this project are as follows:

1. Update the existing Hidalgo County Commuter Rail Feasibility Study to account for changes in demographics, population growth, and economic development in the region.
2. Assess the feasibility of implementing a comprehensive passenger rail system that encompasses the entire RGVMPO Metropolitan Area Boundary, including the newly incorporated populated areas of Starr County.
3. Identify potential transportation alternatives and viable routes for the passenger rail system, considering the current transportation infrastructure, population distribution, and projected growth in the region.
4. Evaluate the sustainability, economic viability, and environmental impact of the proposed passenger rail system.
5. Formulate a strategic plan and recommendations for the RGVMPO to progress from the feasibility study phase to the construction phase in the near future integrating Public Participation and Stakeholder Engagement
6. Explore alternative dedicated funding structures for the Regional Transit Authority as authorized by House Bill 71 during the 86th Legislative Session in 2019, which was signed by the Governor of Texas.

3.1 Evaluation Process

The RGVMPO will establish a Technical Proposal Review Committee (TPRC). The TPRC will be comprised of employees of the RGVMPO and may include other impartial individuals who are non-RGVMPO employees. (i.e. TxDOT and Technical Advisory Committee Members, etc.)

The TPRC members will independently review all proposals for compliance and thoroughness. Upon completion of the independent reviews each TPRC member will individually score each proposal. Then the TPRC will meet to collect all scores and aggregate the scores from all members and rank the technical proposals.

After the technical proposals have been ranked, the TPRC will have the option to interview the top three (3) consultant(s) or recommended the consultants to present their proposal at the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). After the interviews have been conducted, the TPRC will then prepare and make a recommendation of the top three (3) ranked Technical Proposals to the TAC. After the recommendations have been presented to the TAC, the Transportation Policy Board will have the final decision on the selection of the Technically Preferred Consultant.

3.2 Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria will consist of three parts.

3.2.1 Scoring of the Technical Proposal

Scoring of the Technical proposal will be based on a one hundred (100) point scale and will be conducted by the Technical Proposal Review Committee.

The scoring of the proposal will follow the below criteria:

Planning Project Proposal Scoring Criteria	
Project Understanding	25%
Scope of Services	25%
Project Managers/Staff Qualifications	20%
Knowledge of Rio Grande Valley	15%
Firm Qualifications/Consultant References	10%
Project Schedule	5%

Based upon the scores received from this review process, firms will be short-listed. The firms listed in the short-list may be notified as to when they will be requested to participate in the second part of the evaluation process.

3.2.2 Oral presentation and Question and Answer Session

The top three (3) ranked firms may be contacted to provide an oral presentation and to provide responses to a question and answer session.

3.2.3 Final Tabulation

Based upon the aggregated scoring of the written technical proposal, oral presentation, and responses to the question-and-answer session, the top-ranking firm(s) will be recommended, in order of ranking, to the Policy Board for approval of the selected firm.

The Policy Board has the final decision on approving the recommendation of the Technical Committee's ranking of firms.

3.3 Selection Process

Upon selection of an apparent Selected Consultant by the Transportation Policy Board, the RGVMPPO/LRGVDC staff will proceed with the contract negotiation and attempt to finalize a contract with the apparent Selected Consultant. The RGVMPPO anticipates that these negotiations will involve very few issues and will be expedited; however, if a contract cannot be successfully negotiated within a reasonable period of time, contract negotiations will be terminated, and negotiations with the next highest-ranked respondent may commence. This process may continue until a contract is signed or this RFP is withdrawn. However, the LRGVDC and the RGVMPPO reserves the right, in their sole discretion and at any time upon failure of negotiations, to reissue or withdraw this RFP rather than continue with negotiations. The RGVMPPO reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

As soon as possible thereafter the execution of a written contract with the Selected Consultant, all other respondents will be provided with formal notification.

Part IV DELIVERABLES AND PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

4.1 Project Deliverables

- a) Updated Commuter Rail Feasibility Study: A comprehensive report summarizing the findings of the updated study, including data analysis, route options, potential alternative modes, and feasibility assessment results.
- b) Stakeholder Consultation Report: A document detailing the feedback and input received from various stakeholders during the engagement process.
- c) Strategic Plan: A clear and actionable plan outlining the path from the feasibility study phase to the construction phase, including suggested timelines, milestones, and funding considerations.
- d) Presentation Materials: Presentations to be delivered to the RGVMPPO Technical and Policy Committees summarizing the study's key findings and recommendations.

Part V TECHNICAL PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

The required contents and limitation for preparation of the technical proposal are described in this section. Failure to provide the requested information or adhere to any state limitations may result in disqualification of the submitted proposal. A total of ten (10) original copies of the technical proposal, One Cost Proposal, and One Electronic version must be submitted to the address given in the cover letter.

5.1 Requirements

The required contents for the Technical Proposal are presented below in the order they should be incorporated into the submitted document.

5.1.1 Understanding of the Proposed Project

This section should demonstrate the consultants' understanding of the project needs, the work required, and any local issues or concerns.

This description should be concise, candid, and is limited to 3 pages in length.

5.1.2 Proposed Work Plan

The consultant should present the proposed work plan necessary to complete the work itemized under the scope of service. The proposed work plan should address each of the specific work elements described in the scope of service, but the consultants may propose additional work beneficial to completing the update of the **Passenger Rail Feasibility Study**. Where appropriate, the methodology to be used to accomplish a specific task should be described. There is no page limitation for this section, but consultants are encouraged to be concise.

5.1.3 Schedule

A proposed schedule for completing each task should be provided. For each review proposed by the consultant, the schedule shall reflect the maximum allowable review time available to maintain the proposed schedule. The schedule shall also reflect expected dates for deliverables.

5.1.4 Firm Qualifications

This section should include a description of the firm's most recent or applicable transportation corridor study projects. For each project, a client contact name and phone number should be included for reference purposes. Additionally, the names of the personnel proposed for this project who participated in the listed projects should be provided. This project list is limited to 5 pages.

5.1.5 Personnel and Staffing

The consultant should provide an organizational chart for the project and a summary paragraph of the project work to be performed by each proposed staff member. Biographic summaries that highlight the experience relevant to the specific project responsibilities should be provided for all proposed personnel.

This section should highlight personnel's experience with corridor studies. There is a one (1) page limitation for each biographic summary provided.

5.1.6 Required Certification and Submittal

This section will contain any certification(s) and assurance(s) as required by TxDOT, the RGVMPO and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). If the firm wishes to claim DBE credit the proposal must contain a DBE certificate.

5.1.7 Tools, Equipment and Supplies

The consultant shall provide tools, equipment, supplies, materials, employees, management, and any other item or services as may be necessary in order to enable the consultant to provide the services required under the scope of service.

5.2 Items available to the Selected Consultant

The items available to the consultant from the RGVMPO are as follows.

- 2011 Hidalgo County MPO Commuter Rail Feasibility Study
- House Bill 71 – Signed and Authorized by the Governor of Texas in 2019
- Bicycle Plan, Pedestrian Plan, Transit Plan
- Travel Demand Model
- GIS Files
- Other relevant maps, plans, studies, and data as required

Part VI TECHNICAL PROPOSAL FORMAT

6.1 Introduction

Proposals must be complete; failure to provide all required information may result in disqualification of the proposal. Conciseness and clarity of content is required; vague and general proposals will be considered non-responsive and will result in disqualification. Proposal pages must be numbered and contain an organized table of contents corresponding to the section and pages.

The objectives of the technical portion of the respondent's proposal are to demonstrate:

- The experience and expertise of respondent's personnel and respondent's subcontractor personnel to complete all required deliverables under the Contract.
- Respondent's ability to logically plan and complete their reviews; and
- Respondent's ability to successfully deliver their review results.

Respondent must demonstrate their understanding of the critical elements of a performance review by specifically addressing and describing respondent's approach to providing the required, service and deliverable listed; the staffing and state resources that will be devoted and required to fulfill each task; the proposed time schedule required to complete each task.

6.2 General Organization of Proposal Contents

6.2.1 Transmittal Letter

Respondent must submit with its proposal a transmittal letter that identifies the entity submitting the proposal and includes a commitment by the entity to provide the services required by the LRGVDC and the RGVMPO. The transmittal letter must state

that the proposal is valid for ninety (90) days after the deadline for delivery of the proposals to the LRGVDC. Any proposal containing a term of less than ninety (90) days for acceptance from this deadline will be rejected as nonresponsive.

The transmittal letter must be signed by a person legally authorized to bind the respondent to the representations as set forth in the response. In the case of a joint proposal, each part must sign the transmittal letter. Respondent also must indicate, in its transmittal letter, why it believes that it is the most qualified respondent to provide the requisite services.

6.2.2 Executive Summary

Respondent must provide an executive summary of its proposal and a representation that the proposal addresses all of the requirements of this RFP. The executive summary must not exceed four (4) pages and must represent a full and concise summary of the contents of the proposal. The executive summary must not include any information concerning the cost of the proposal. Respondent must identify any services that are beyond those specifically requested. If respondent is providing services that do not meet the specific requirements of this RFP, but in the opinion of the respondent are equivalent or superior to those specifically requested, any such differences must be noted in the executive summary. However, failure to provide the services specifically required may result in disqualification of the proposal. The executive summary must include the consultant's understanding of the project.

6.2.3 Proposed Subcontractor(s) Identifying Information and Statements

Proposals must identify any subcontractors, and outline the contractual relationship between Selected Consultant, respondent and each joint respondent or proposed subcontractor. Respondent must also, if selected for award of the contract, provide the LRGVDC with a copy of any proposed subcontract at least thirty (30) days in advance. The LRGVDC reserves the right, in its sole judgment and discretion, to approve or disprove any such subcontract. Respondent must provide statements from each of its proposed subcontractors, signed by an individual authorized to legally obligate each subcontractor, attesting to the fact that it will provide the services as represented in respondent's proposal. Respondent must disclose, at the LRGVDC's request, any information regarding proposed subcontractors.

Part VII COST PROPOSAL FORMAT AND REQUIREMENTS

7.1 Cost Submittal

Cost Proposal to be submitted in a separate and sealed envelope. Respondent must include with its proposal all proposed costs for the Plan, including personnel costs, travel, and all other out of pocket expenses required to perform the Plan. Respondent must include in its cost proposal all costs and expenses associated with its attendance at and participation in, all meetings as requested in this RFP. Proposed costs must be detailed by proposed respondent and subcontractor personnel to provide services under the Plan Contract. Selected Consultant must provide any equipment, software, data communication lines, or other materials required to complete the Project.

The LRGVDC reserves the right in its sole discretion, to require the Selected Consultant to post a performance bond. The total cost subject to evaluation will not include the cost of a performance bond.

7.2 Cost Proposal Requirements

The technically preferred respondent must identify each person and their firm (respondent or subcontractor); the proposed hourly rates and number of hours for each person by content section; the total number of hours, fees, and other expenses for each person; and the total costs. The Cost Proposal must include all costs that the respondent proposes to be authorized for payment by the LRGVDC under the Plan contract. Cost Proposal will be broken down and include a breakdown Profit Rate from Overhead.

Additionally, the base hourly rates proposed by the main contractor by labor discipline must fall within a standard deviation (+/- 25%) of the acceptable rates obtained from the US Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics by National Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates. For example, the average hourly rate for a traffic engineer (Occupation Code 17-2199) is listed as \$51.83, so the the proposed rate must be between \$38.87 - \$64.79. Please see the following link for the allowable range for the hourly rates for all applicable occupations:

https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_stru.htm

Part VIII GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

8.1 Rejection of Proposal Response

The LRGVDC may reject a proposal response if:

- The consultant misstates or conceals any material fact in the proposal.
- The consultant does not strictly conform to law or the requirements of the RFP.

The LRGVDC may reject any and all proposal responses and may reject any part of a proposal response. The LRGVDC may also waive any irregularities in any response whenever it is deemed in the best interest of the LRGVDC to do so.

8.2 Withdrawal or Modification of Proposal Responses

Proposal responses may be withdrawn or modified prior to the deadline for submission if the request to do so is in writing and on the letterhead of the consultant. Persons bearing such requests must show positive identification of authorization to submit the request. Proposal responses and requests for withdrawal or modification received after the deadline for submission of responses will not be accepted.

8.3 Clarification/Exceptions to Proposal Specifications

Any consultant in doubt as to the true meaning of the specifications, or other proposal documents or any part thereof, may submit a request for clarification to LRGVDC on or before **Friday, September 29, 2023 @ 4:00pm (CTZ)**. All such requests shall be made in writing and the person submitting the request shall be responsible for its prompt delivery.

Any interpretation of proposal documents, if made, will be by Addendum duly issues. A copy of such Addendum will be posted on the LRGVDC procurement website <http://www.lrgvdc.org/procurement.html>. The LRGVDC will not be responsible for any other explanation or interpretation of the specifications made or given prior to the award of the contract.

Prospective consultants are advised that the required bidder's conference is the forum through which prospective consultants are invited to offer comments and suggestions for consideration by the LRGVDC.

8.4 Protest Procedures

A written complaint must be sent by certified mail to LRGVDC's Asst. Director of Bus. Operations within seven (7) business days and shall identify the following:

- Name, mailing address and business phone number of the complainant
- Appropriate identification of the RFP being questioned
- A precise statement of reasons for the protest
- Supporting exhibits, evidence or documents to substantiate any claims

The protest must be based on an alleged violation of LRGVDC's procurement procedures, a violation of Federal or State law (if applicable), or a violation of applicable contract agreements to which LRGVDC is a party. Failure to receive a procurement contract award from LRGVDC, in and of itself, does not constitute a valid protest. LRGVDC will provide a response to the protest within fourteen (14) business days that clearly states its position regarding the protest.

8.5 Commencement of Work

Commencement of work will begin once the Notice to Proceed has been issued.

8.6 Inquiries and Administrative Guidance

Questions on this RFP must be sent to the following email:

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

Emailed to lrgvdc@lrgvdc.org

Copies of all correspondence of a contractual nature should be sent clearly marked on both the document as well as the covering envelope with the RFP Name.

Deadline for questions and inquiries will be **Friday, September 29, 2023 @ 4:00pm (CTZ)**. LRGVDC will issue replies and any other changes by addendum (amendment) and will be posted on the LRGVDC procurement website <http://www.lrgvdc.org/procurement.html>. All such addenda (amendments) issued by LRGVDC prior to the time that proposals are received shall be considered part of the RFP, and the respondents must be required to consider and acknowledge receipt of such in their proposals.

Only replies by formal written addenda (amendments) must be binding. Oral and other interpretations or clarifications will be without legal effect. The respondent must acknowledge receipt of all addenda (amendments) by completing and emailing the Addendum Response Form to LRGVDC at lrgvdc@lrgvdc.org.

The information provided herein is intended to assist consultants in the preparations of proposals necessary to properly respond to this RFP. The RFP is designed to provide interested consultants with sufficient basic information to submit proposals meeting minimum requirements but is not intended to limit a proposal's content or to exclude any relevant or essential data there from. Consultants are at liberty and are encouraged to expand upon the specifications to evidence service capability under any proposal.

Part IX **LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
CONTRACT FORM**

Contact for Contract Administration

For use in the event that your firm receives a contract as a result of this RFP, please designate on the attached form, the person whom the LRGVDC may contact, during the period of the contract, for prompt action on matters pertaining to your administration of the contract.

AUTHORIZED ADMINISTRATOR:

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NO.: _____ FAX: _____

INTERNET EMAIL ADDRESS: _____



Contact for Authorized Negotiator

The person designated below will be authorized to negotiate terms, conditions, and pricing on behalf of your firm until a contract is awarded and can contractually commit your firm.

AUTHORIZED NEGOTIATOR:

This person is authorized to contractually commit your firm.

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NO.: _____ FAX: _____

INTERNET EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Sec.	Contract Clause	Applicability to type of Contract
1.	Fly America Requirements	When Transportation Paid FTA Funds
2.	Buy America Requirements	Value > 100k for Goods, Rolling Stock
3.	Seismic Safety Requirements	New Construction / Additions
4.	Energy Conservation Requirements	All
5.	Lobbying	Construction, A/E, Services, Rolling Stocks
6.	Access to Records and Reports	Construction, A/E, Services, Rolling Stocks
7.	Federal Changes	All
8.	Recycled Products	Value > 10K In Fiscal Year
9.	Davis-Bacon and Copeland Anti- Kickback Acts	Construction > \$2000
10.	Contract Work Hours and Standards Act	Construction >\$2000, Stock, Operational > \$2500
11.	No Government Obligation Third Parties	All
12.	Program Fraud and False or Fraudulent Statements and Related Acts	All
13.	Termination	Value > 10k
14.	Government-Wide and Suspension (Non-procurement)	Value > 25k
15.	Privacy Act	All
16.	Civil Rights Requirements	All
17.	ADA Access Requirements	All
18.	Patent and Rights in Data	Research Projects Only
19.	Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)	All
20.	Incorporation of FTA Terms	All
21.	Metric Requirements	Sealed Bid Procurements, Stock, Construction
22.	Conformance with National Architecture	Contracts and Solicitations ITS projects only
23.	Corridor Preservation	Right of Way Development
24.	Veterans Employment	Capital Projects

A. DBE PROGRAM COMPLIANCE FORMS

49 CFR PART 26

The following Proposal conditions apply to this United States Department of Transportation assisted contract. Submission of a proposal by a prospective Contractor shall constitute full acceptance of these Proposal conditions.

REQUIRED CONTRACT CLAUSES (49 CFR 26.13) UTILIZATION OF DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council will ensure that the following clauses are included in each DOT assisted contract and subcontract:

- I) Policy - It is the policy of LRGVDC that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises shall have the maximum practicable opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts. Consequently, the DBE requirements of 49 CFR Part 26, do apply to this agreement. Proposers shall use sufficient and reasonably good faith efforts to carry out this policy in the award of their subcontracts to the fullest extent, consistent with the efficient performance of this contract.
- II) DBE Obligation - The contractor agrees to ensure that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises as defined in 49 CFR Part 26, Subpart D, have the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts and subcontracts. In this regard, all contractors shall take necessary and reasonable steps in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26 to ensure that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises have the maximum opportunity to compete for and perform contracts. Contractors shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin or sex.
- III) Contract Goal - If the contractor is not a DBE, then the Proposer/proposer agrees that the DBE goal for this Contract will be met by subcontracts or by joint ventures with DBE's. The goal set forth for this Contract is 3% of the final Contract price, including amendments and modifications. The amount of DBE participation will be determined by the dollar value of the work performed and/or supplies furnished by DBE firms as compared to the total value of all work performed and/or supplies furnished under this Contract. The contractor shall have met this goal if the contractor's DBE participation meets or exceeds this goal.

In cases where work is added to the contract by modification such that additional DBE participation is necessary to meet this goal, the Contractor shall increase the participation of one or more firms listed on the —Schedule of DBE Participation or submit additional DBE firms to meet the goal. In cases where work is deleted from the Contract, the goal shall be applicable to the new Contract amount. The Contractor shall be permitted to meet the goal by revising its DBE participation, provided, however, that the revision shall not result in DBE participation that is less than the original goal.

- IV) Compliance - All Proposers, potential contractors, or sub-contractors for this contract are hereby notified that failure to carry out the policy and the DBE obligation, as set forth above, shall constitute a breach of contract which may result in non-selection; termination of the contract; or such other remedy as deemed appropriate by LRGVDC. Agreements between a Proposer/proposer and a DBE, in which the DBE promises not to provide sub-contracting quotations to other PROPOSERS/PROPOSERS, are prohibited.

- V) Sub-contract Clauses - All Proposers and potential contractors hereby assure that they will include the above clauses in all sub-contracts which offer further sub-contracting opportunities.
- VI) Acceptable Good Faith Efforts - “Good faith efforts” means efforts to achieve a DBE goal or other requirements of LRGVDC’s DBE Program Plan which by their scope, intensity, and appropriateness to the objective, can reasonably be expected to fulfill the goal program requirement. If any Proposer fails to meet the DBE goals for this solicitation, the Proposer shall submit, with the Proposal, proof of good faith efforts, using the guideline listed in Appendix A of 49 CFR 26, along with a written statement of efforts made and reasons for not meeting said goals.

General Instructions

IMPORTANT! READ CAREFULLY!

All Proposers/contractors shall complete and submit, with their Proposals, DBE Forms 1, 2, and 3.

Each subcontractor listed on DBE Form 1 shall complete and sign DBE Form 2 and DBE Form 3 as a DBE Subcontractor.

Business Contractors seeking to participate as DBEs must be certified at the time of Proposal submittal. Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council does not certify DBEs. Please check with your state's DBE office.

Proposers who fail to achieve the contract goal(s) stated in the Proposal document must provide (with the Proposal) an explanation as to why the goal was not achieved and documentation demonstrating that a "Good Faith Effort" was made by the Proposer as outlined in DBE Form 4.

Contractors may duplicate as many forms as needed. All DBE Program questions should be directed to the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council, 301 W. Railroad, Weslaco TX, 78596. Submit all questions via email to lrgvdc@lrgvdc.org.

DBE Forms 1, 2, and 3 must be submitted with the Proposal in order to be eligible to receive a contract award. If there are sub-contractors listed, the sub-contractor must fill out DBE Form 3.

The Proposer must provide documentation and explanation as to why the DBE goal as was not achieved by filling out DBE Form 4.

LRGVDC FORM (A)

DBE FORM 1

Passenger Rail Feasibility Study

DBE SCHEDULE OF DBE PARTICIPATION

Name of Proposer: _____

Project: _____

Project No.: _____

Proposal No: _____

Total Proposal Amount: _____

NAME OF DBE SUBCONTRACTOR	ADDRESS	TYPE OF WORK SUBCONTRACTE	DBE	SUBCONTRACT VALUE
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$

DBE PARTICIPATION TOTAL VALUE \$

The attainment of DBE participation goals for this contract will be measured as a percentage of the total dollar value of the contract.

The undersigned will enter into a formal agreement with the DBE Subcontractors identified herein for work listed in this schedule conditioned upon execution of a contract with _____.

LRGVDC

FORM (A) DBE FORM 2

Passenger Rail Feasibility Study

DBE SUBCONTRACTOR IDENTIFICATION

(Reproduce as necessary)

I HEREBY DECLARE AND AFFIRM THAT I AM THE_(Title - Owner, President, etc.) and duly authorized representative of_(Name of Firm) and I hereby declare and affirm that I am a certified DBE.

(Signed)

(Printed)

This firm has current DBE certification from the following agencies and/or state(s):

A copy of the current certification letter notifying the firm that it has been DBE certified must be attached to this form.

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FORM (A) DBE FORM 3
Passenger Rail Feasibility Study

LETTER OF INTENT TO PERFORM AS A SUBCONTRACTOR

To: _____ (Name of General Contractor Proposing)

PROJECT:

The undersigned intends to perform work in connection with the above project.

The status of the undersigned is confirmed on the attached DBE Contractor Identification (DBE FORM 2).

The undersigned is prepared to perform the following described work in connection with the above project:

(Specify in detail, work items or parts thereof to be performed)

at the following price: \$_____.

The undersigned agrees to enter into a contract with you to perform the above work, if you are awarded the prime contract.

Date

Telephone No.

Name of DBE Subcontractor

By: _____
(Firm Address)

(Signature)

Name: _____
(City and State)

(Typed)

Title: _____

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FORM (A) DBE FORM 4
Passenger Rail Feasibility Study
UNAVAILABILITY CERTIFICATION

I, _____, of _____

certify on the dates below that I invited the following DBE Subcontractor(s) to Proposal work items to be performed on **2024**

Date of Request	DBE	Name of Subcontractor	Items Sought
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

The following Subcontractors submitted Proposals, which were not the low responsible Proposal:

- _____ \$ _____
- _____ \$ _____
- _____ \$ _____
- _____ \$ _____
- _____ \$ _____