

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

LTRC Project No. 20-1SS, SIO No. DOTLT1000330

The Future of the Louisiana Waterways Transportation System: A System Analysis and Plan to Move Commerce by Water

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Moving commerce by water in Louisiana is a critical component of the transportation system in Louisiana. In order to best plan for future development and investment, the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development's (DOTD) Office of Multimodal Commerce (OMC) is in need of developing a comprehensive, statewide waterways transportation system plan. In order to develop this plan, it is also necessary to analyze and document the impact and importance of waterborne commerce on the State of Louisiana, its transportation system, and the nation.

OBJECTIVE

The objectives of this research are to:

- 1) Analyze and document the impact and importance of waterborne commerce
- 2) Identify the type and value of waterborne commerce
- 3) Identify the improvements needed to achieve greater utilization of waterways
- 4) Identify opportunities for alleviating multimodal bottlenecks relative to waterways
- 5) Develop a draft Waterways Transportation Plan that can be included in the Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan.

RESEARCH APPROACH

LTRC is seeking the insights of proposers on how best to achieve the research objectives. Proposers are expected to describe research plans that can realistically be accomplished within the constraints of available funds and contract time. Proposals must present the proposer's current thinking in sufficient detail to demonstrate their understanding of the issues and the soundness of their approach to meeting the research objectives.

For each phase of the proposed research, itemize and discuss the tasks necessary to fulfill the objectives. These task-by-task descriptions are intended to provide a framework for conducting the research and identifying deliverables. *Refer to section 3.3.5 of the LTRC Manual of Research Procedures (2019 edition) for more guidance.*

The research shall address a broad range of issues related to waterborne commerce in Louisiana, such as, but not limited to, the following:

- Development of a layered web-based GIS map¹ with pertinent components of

¹ GIS map shall be developed in accordance with DOTD GIS standards and must not rely on subscriptions to external data sets or contracted services.

Louisiana’s navigable waterway systems. For each system, including coastal waterways identify (at least):

- River mile marker, depth, width, locks, dams, reach, major use, private terminals, public ports
- Condition of waterways, locks, and other infrastructure
- Federally authorized dimensions
- Historically maintained dimensions
- Navigable² river miles
- Identify businesses and terminals that depend³ on Louisiana’s navigable waterway system by industry type, company name, products, and
- Document the local, national, and international economic impact of the identified businesses and terminals using, at a minimum, the following:
 - Location on web based GIS map
 - Number of employees
 - Job class and average salaries
 - Federal, State, and Local taxes paid
- Identification of current and future system deficiencies for each navigable waterway system including, but not limited to:
 - Infrastructure rehabilitation/ replacement needs
 - Major navigation safety improvement needs
 - System bottlenecks
 - System expansion requirements
 - Intermodal connectivity
 - Dredge disposal issues
 - Security issues
- Identification of institutional constraints for each navigable waterway system including, but not limited to:
 - Federal, State, and Local laws and regulations
 - Project authorization and implementation processes
 - Funding
- Determination of existing economic conditions and the economic outlook (projections for 10 and 25 years) for each navigable waterway system including, at a minimum, the following:
 - Number of jobs directly related to each waterway system
 - Number of jobs indirectly related to each waterway system
 - Salary and job types by each waterway system
 - Tax revenue attributable to each waterway system
- Determination of trends and future demands for each navigable (or potentially navigable) waterway system in Louisiana including, at a minimum, 10 and 25 year projections.
- Identification of landside freight bottlenecks for each waterway system in Louisiana

² For the purposes of this study, “navigable” is defined as those waterways used on a day-to-day basis for commerce (e.g. commercial fisheries, harvest delivery, cruise activities, oil and gas operations, petrochemical, etc.).

³ Dependent on waterway is defined as 50 percent or more of business depends on a navigable waterway. Company information should be included in web based GIS map.

and development of a plan to reduce that congestion in conjunction with the Louisiana Statewide Transportation Plan (including Freight and Rail plans).

DELIVERABLES

The proposal shall include project deliverables for appropriate tasks. Deliverables shall be due as defined in the proposal. The proposal shall include at a minimum the following deliverables:

- Monthly status meeting with the PRC (web-based or conference call)
- Web-based GIS map of Louisiana’s navigable waterway systems
- Draft Waterways Transportation Plan
- Interim Report and Presentation to the PRC
- Final Report, Technical Summary, and summary presentation
 - The researcher shall provide a final report that documents the entire research effort. A Final Draft Report, Technical Summary document (two pages), and summary presentation to the PRC are due three (3) months prior to the project completion date for review and approval. The final report shall direct and recommend future steps toward the incorporation/implementation of the research into department policy (i.e. Statewide Transportation Plan, etc.), and include recommendations on other areas that could be further expanded in subsequent research projects.
- Annotated presentation file (Powerpoint) summarizing the entire research effort that can be tailored for specific audiences for follow-up presentations to be given by others

SPECIAL NOTES

- A. LTRC research projects will be conducted in accordance with the LTRC Manual of Research Procedures, 2019 edition.
(http://www.ltrc.lsu.edu/pdf/2016/LTRC_RESEARCH_MANUAL_FINAL.pdf)
- B. Any work that is anticipated to be required from LTRC or DOTD shall be specifically detailed in the proposal.
- C. Any surveys or questionnaires developed by the research team shall be reviewed and approved by the PRC prior to distribution.
- D. LTRC projects are intended to produce results that will be applied in practice. It is expected that the implementation of the results of this research into practice will evolve as a concerted effort during this project. The final report must contain an implementation plan to include, as a minimum, the following:
 - a. The “product” expected from the research;
 - b. A realistic assessment of impediments to successful implementation;
 - c. The activities necessary for successful implementation; and
 - d. The criteria for judging the progress and consequences of implementation.
- E. To assist in the implementation process, the investigators of this research shall present the final results to LA DOTD officials in an oral presentation to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at LA DOTD Headquarters after acceptance of the final report.
- F. The proposal should include travel to meet with the Project Review Committee for a

“kick off” meeting, presentation of interim report, and presentation of the final report at a minimum. Funds budgeted for travel shall be limited to what is necessary for the conduct of the research. Funds shall not be budgeted for conference travel. Funding for technology transfer of research results are available upon request subject to LTRC approval and available funds.

- G. LTRC’s mission includes the support of higher education in Louisiana. Consultant and out-of-state institutions submitting proposals are encouraged to cooperate and collaborate with Louisiana universities for the purpose of sharing of knowledge and increasing transportation expertise in the academic community.
- H. Graduate assistance stipends are allowed. Tuition reimbursement or tuition remission rates applied to stipends are not allowed.
- I. To equitably answer any questions regarding this Request for Proposals, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) website will be updated with questions and answers and related documents regarding the project. <http://webmail.dotd.louisiana.gov/agrestat.nsf/WebAdvertisements?OpenPage>
LA DOTD makes these documents available for informational purposes only to aid in the efficient dissemination of information to interested parties. LA DOTD does not warrant the documents against deficiencies of any kind. The data contained within this web site will be periodically updated. Interested parties are responsible to be aware of any updates. Questions regarding this RFP should be submitted in writing to the LTRC contact person. Questions must be received by close of business seven calendar days prior to deadline date.
- J. Consultants and business entities shall be registered with the Secretary of State in order to be able to work in Louisiana prior to award of contract. <http://www.sos.la.gov/tabid/1011/Default.aspx>
- K. If Sub-Consultants/Entities are used, the Prime Consultant/Entity must perform a minimum of 51% of the work for the overall project.
- L. LTRC reserves the right to withhold invoice payments for delinquent deliverables as defined in the proposal.

ESTIMATED COST OF RESEARCH

\$250,000 - \$300,000

ESTIMATED COMPLETION TIME

12 - 18 months (*includes 3 months for review and approval of final report - i.e. draft final report due in 9 – 15 months*)

LTRC PRIMARY CONTACT

Kirk Zeringue, P.E.
LTRC, Special Studies Research Administrator
225-767-9169
kirk.zeringue@la.gov

AUTHORIZATION TO BEGIN WORK:

October 1, 2019 (estimated)

PROPOSAL FORMAT

All proposals are required to be formatted according to LTRC Manual of Research Procedures. Chapter 3, provides guidance on proposal development. A copy of the Manual may be downloaded from our website (<http://www.ltrc.lsu.edu/publications.html>).

PROPOSAL SELECTION

The Project Review Committee selected for this project will review, evaluate and rank all proposals received using the criteria established on the attached proposal review form.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS

Submit proposals in one of the following manners: (1) Electronically in PDF format, or (2) 10 hard copies. Proposals must be received by LTRC by 12:00 PM (Noon), Wednesday, September 4, 2019.

Electronic Copy Proposals should be submitted to:

Samuel B. Cooper, Jr, Ph.D., P.E.

Samuel.Cooper@la.gov copying

Sheri Hughes

Sheri.Hughes@la.gov

Hard Copy Proposals should be submitted to:

Samuel B. Cooper, Jr. Ph.D., P.E.

Director

Louisiana Transportation Research Center

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