

July 7, 2006

TO: Interested consulting firms

FROM: Mercer County Regional Planning Commission
Jeremy Coxe, Assistant Director, Planning

SUBJECT: Request for letters of interest & qualifications

MCRPC requests letters of interest from qualified consultants or teams of consultants to develop a truck route plan in the City of Sharon, Mercer County, Pennsylvania. A description of the study is attached.

Each letter of interest must include the firm's Federal I.D. number, special requirements forms 254 and 255, and a submission of the firm's qualifications including:

- Description of the firm
- Relevant work experience, previous similar studies
- Experience and background of key personnel to perform the work

Three (3) copies of all material should be submitted to MCRPC at the above address by **4:00 PM, Friday, July 28, 2006.**

MCRPC will select a consultant based on the following qualifications and experience criteria:

- Experience in traffic studies & transportation facilities planning
- Experience in projects of similar scope and in an urban location
- Experience and qualifications of key personnel to perform the work
- Experience with federally-funded, PENNDOT-supervised projects

A technical and price proposal will be negotiated with the selected firm. The firm will be engaged via contract containing provisions typical of federally-funded projects.

MCRPC reserves the right to reject all letters of interest, cancel the solicitation requested under this notice, and/or re-advertise for these services. Please call Jeremy Coxe, Assistant Director, Planning, MCRPC, for more information.

Thank you.

City of Sharon Mercer County, PA Truck Route Plan

Summary

The Mercer County MPO – Mercer County Regional Planning Commission (MCRPC) – seeks funding for the City of Sharon to undertake a study that would identify appropriate truck route(s) through the city. In addition, as the route(s) are identified the study would take a preliminary look to identify any road improvements that may be necessary to facilitate safe and efficient movements into and out of the City

Need

The City of Sharon currently has a population of 16,328 according to the 2000 census. The city also continues to be the home of several large manufacturing plants that use semi-trucks as their main form of product movement. The City is typical of many older towns in Pennsylvania in that the street system was not developed to handle large amounts of truck traffic. In addition to the manufacturers located in the City several other large businesses are located out of the City, but use the local road network to travel through town.

The Shenango Campus of the Pennsylvania State University is also located in the City. The school is currently undergoing upgrades to the campus. One major concern for the school is that truck traffic currently moves through the middle of the campus. This has caused concern for safety of the students. This is one area of the City that would benefit from a signed truck route, and lower the risks associated with pedestrian/vehicular movements.

The City also has an immediate need to identify a truck route(s) due to fact that four (4) bridges located on primary roads within the Sharon are scheduled for replacement on the draft 2007-2010 TIP. As these bridges are replaced additional stress will be placed on the state and local roads in that there are very few detour routes available to move the traffic into and out of the City. There is an immediate and long term need for the plan in order to maintain a safe and efficient system.

In addition, there has also been discussion in the Shenango Valley of two possible transportation projects one in the City and the other located along PA 60 in the City of Farrell. The project located in Sharon would reconnect Budd Street to US62 and SR60. The other project, which has been lead by the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee, is a route more directly connecting SR60 to Ohio Route 82 in Brookfield Township, Ohio. The project if completed would allow for an alternative route away from downtown Sharon.

Goals

The plan will address several goals:

- Identify safe truck routes throughout the City.
- Identify the locations of signage placement.
- Identification of projects that would address safety and truck movement issues.
- Provide project costs and a time table for implementation of identified projects

Scope of Work

The end product will be a signed truck route network and a listing of projects that will facilitate safe and efficient movements. Work to be performed will include:

- Data collection and analysis
 - Traffic data collection including vehicle classification counts at various locations through out the City.
 - Identification of major employers within the City
 - Identification of current higher volume truck movements
 - Obtaining PENNDOT record drawings and GIS mapping
 - Geometric review of streets and intersections relative to truck movements
- Improvement project list
 - Identify locations along existing and potential truck routes for improvements such as widening, realignment, enlarging curb radii, grade adjustments, etc.
 - Identify potential costs
 - Identify appropriate signage locations
 - Identify alternate truck routes
- Project prioritization and implementation schedule

Timing

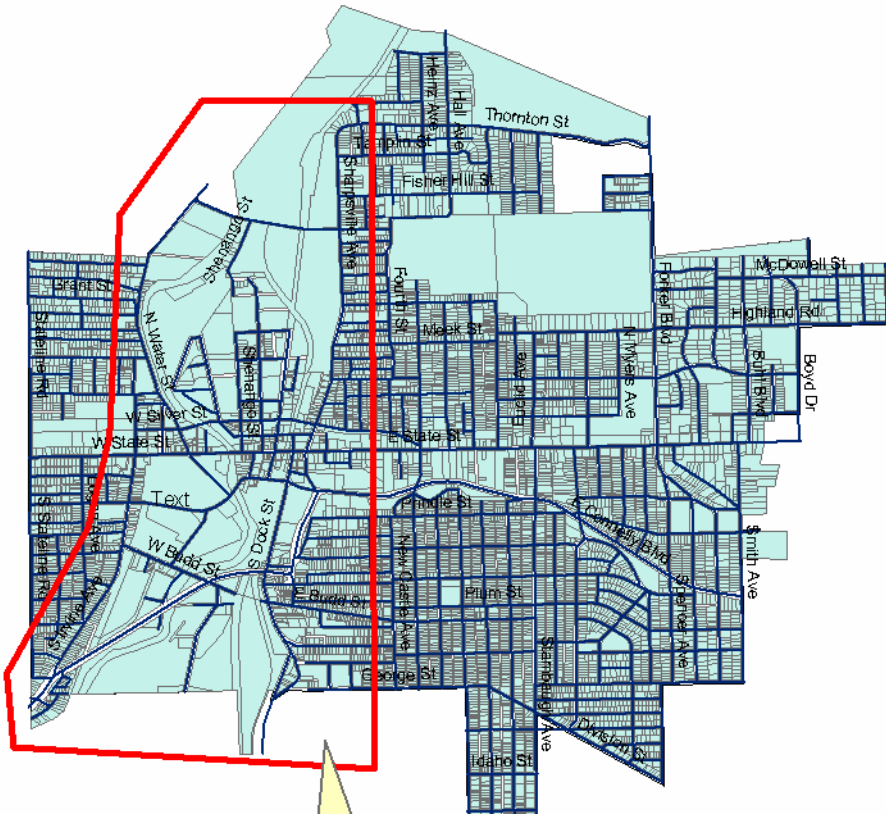
The truck route plan would be completed in six months from notice to proceed.

Available Funding

The estimated cost of the truck route plan is \$50,000 broken down as follows:

- \$50,000 – Truck route plan – Paid for by \$10,000 in-kind work by the MCRPC, and \$40,000 PennDOT funding.

Location Map City of Sharon Truck Route Plan



Primary Focus Area



Source: MCRPC