REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Harahan Streetscaping Improvements
(Task A-2.16H; FY-16 UPWP)

Purpose
The Regional Planning Commission in coordination with the City of Harahan is conducting a feasibility study for sidewalk and landscaping improvements for the purpose of linking the town center with nearby neighborhoods and commercial areas. The study will inventory sidewalk conditions on Jefferson Highway to identify new or missing sections necessary to comply with American Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. Another goal of the project is to beautify and improve the appearance of the corridor and improve the connectivity between the main street area with its shops and restaurants, and nearby neighborhoods. The geographic boundaries of this scope will be finalized in consultation with the Mayor, but they generally extend from the town center area west along Jefferson Highway to Colonial Club Drive, a distance of approximately 0.8 miles.

The technical Consultant will assist the RPC in the collection, evaluation, and GIS mapping of data, including sidewalk types and condition, ADA ramps and deficiencies, crosswalk refurbishment, and opportunities for corridor landscaping. This data will be used by the RPC to document accessibility needs and to help develop a capital improvement plan to address these deficiencies as well as the overall appearance of the corridor. In addition, the Consultant will develop a conceptual plan and cost estimate for bike/ped improvement in the vicinity of Royland Park. These data sets will be used by the City of Harahan in preparing an application(s) for capital project assistance under DOTD’s Transportation Alternatives Program and other potential funding sources.

Task 1 – Project Management Committee (PMC)
RPC will establish a Project Management Committee (PMC) to guide the study and evaluation process. PAC members will include the Mayor’s Office and the Department of Public Works, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (District 02), the Regional Planning Commission, and other stakeholders as identified during the course of the study. The PMC will oversee the work in progress, review inventory findings, and assist in the development of the recommended sidewalk, ADA accessibility, and landscaping improvements.

Task 2 – Existing and Proposed Land Use
Working in coordination with Harahan/RPC, the Consultant will prepare a generalized land use map of the study area showing both existing and proposed land uses in order to analyze connectivity issues and opportunities between the town center and adjacent neighborhoods. Any previous planning studies, reports, etc. provided by the PMC will be used as the basis for identifying proposed land use changes within the study area. The land use information (existing and future) will be used in part to identify needed pedestrian and bicycle linkages between the town center and adjacent neighborhoods.
Task 3 – Conduct Deficiency Analysis
The Consultant will conduct a complete field visual inspection of all sidewalks within the study area. This examination will include an assessment of sidewalk width and condition as well as a review of handicap ramps for compliance with current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) design standards. This evaluation will include coordination with RPC and LADOTD District 02 on the results of the field survey and evaluation and development of quantities and cost estimates for needed improvements.

Task 4 – Conceptual Planning and Design
The conceptual design analysis will consist of the following work activities:

1. Prepare overall conceptual design plan using site design elements such as new or upgraded sidewalks, signage, striping, landscaping, bike racks, water mitigation, and other measures to enhance the Harahan town center area as a destination. The Consultant will coordinate with the PMC on the development and evaluation of these improvement measures.

2. Prepare overall visualizations of the proposed improvements and conceptual design alternatives, helping the community understand the design intent by using before and after graphic perspectives for important nodes and before and after graphics in plan view for the study area. A public informational meeting will be held to provide information and receive comments on the alternatives. Specific site elements and alternatives with associated costs will be detailed for review, including such items as striping, signage, paving materials, bike racks, trash receptacles, trees and landscaping materials, etc.

Task 5 – Prepare Preliminary Plans
1. The Consultant will present a draft set of project plans to the PMC at a project meeting. Assume that the PMC members may request field visits to the study area. At this meeting, the Consultant will advise the PMC members on the study findings and draft recommendations that are appropriate and feasible for the overall study area.

2. PMC members will be given three weeks, if necessary, to finalize their review comments based on the Consultant presentation and technical findings. The Consultant will include and address PMC comments in the preparation of the draft Feasibility Study.

Task 6 – Prepare Draft Report
1. RPC will distribute the draft Feasibility Study (ten copies) to the PMC membership and call a final review meeting, if necessary, for the PMC to select the preferred package of landscaping and improvement measures for the study area.

2. Prepare detailed conceptual plans for the chosen alternative with associated costs, including all site elements, i.e., landscaping, streetscaping, sidewalks, signage, and ADA improvements, as needed.
Task 7 – Submit Stage 0 Feasibility Study

1. Consultant shall finalize recommendations and prepare the Stage 0 Feasibility Study, documenting the information and analysis described above. All studied alternative(s) will be described in the Stage 0 Report, including the preferred alternative as selected by the Project Management Committee. The Stage 0 Report will include completed Stage 0 checklists (ref. LA DOTD Program Development and Project Delivery System Manual, Chapter 4: Stage 0 Standard Operating Procedure, Checklist for Stage 0-Preliminary Scope and Budget Worksheet, and Stage 0 Environmental Checklist). Ten printed copies of the report and 10 disks in electronic format (pdf including all maps and visualizations) will be submitted by the consultant to the RPC for distribution. All survey and engineering work will be submitted to the consultant to the RPC in CAD and/or GIS format.

2. RPC will work with the City of Harahan and LADOTD District 02 to advance recommended improvements towards project level design and implementation using various funding sources including STP>200K and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), among others.

Budget: $30,000

Timeline: 8 months