

SCOPE OF WORK

CITY OF GRETNA WESTBANK EXPRESSWAY (US 90) ACCESS ROADS AND PRIMARY INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS STAGE 0 FEASIBILITY STUDY RPC Task A-2.20 WBE: FY-20 UPWP

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to conduct a Stage 0 Feasibility Study along the Westbank Expressway (US 90) access roads and primary intersections between General De Gaulle Drive and the western boundary of the City of Gretna. Primary intersections and approaches to the Expressway include the following: Whitney Avenue, Hancock Street, Stumpf Boulevard, Lafayette Street and Huey P. Long Avenue.

RPC, in concert with the City of Gretna, will assess the feasibility of improvements that align with Gretna Comprehensive Plan, Oakwood Smart Growth Plan, Jefferson Parish Bicycle Master Plan and the forthcoming Louisiana Strategic Adaptations for Future Environments (LA-SAFE) Plan. RPC and the City are interested in identifying improvements within existing rights-of-way (ROW) that diminish the Expressway's presence as a major physical barrier for the Westbank and improve overall connectivity between both sides of the highway. RPC and the City want to evaluate improvements that balance the demand for all roadway users, especially bicycles and pedestrians, while taking advantage of opportunities for flood risk reduction best practices and other opportunities to incorporate sustainability and resilience features.

Applicants shall demonstrate their aptitude in transportation planning, civil engineering, landscape architecture and other aspects of sustainability and resilience design practices while incorporating and being consistent with LADOTD design guidelines. The RPC and City of Gretna are seeking a consultant(s) that are capable of proposing improvements that satisfy multiple infrastructure demands while meeting LADOTD design review standards that can be ultimately implemented in the field. The consultant(s) should be able to provide recommendations for the ROW that are achievable while creating a potential template for other communities to incorporate into similar transportation projects.

Proposed Study Area

The Study Area includes all access roads and intersections along the Westbank Expressway (US 90) between General De Gaulle Drive and the westernmost jurisdictional boundary of the City of Gretna (approximately 2.3 miles). Intersections with US 90B that will be evaluated include, but are not limited to Whitney Avenue, Hancock Street, Stumpf Boulevard, Lafayette Street and Huey P. Long Avenue.

Task 1 – Project Management Committee Kickoff (PMC Meeting 1)

RPC will establish a Project Management Committee (PMC) to guide the study and evaluation process. PMC members will include the Mayor's Office, Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (District 02), Regional Planning Commission, Jefferson Parish (Engineering and Planning) representatives and other stakeholders identified during the course of the study. The PMC will oversee the work in progress, review inventory findings and plans and assist in the formulation of recommended improvements.

Task 2 – Existing and Proposed Land Use

The study area will extend along Westbank Expressway between General De Gaulle Drive and the westernmost boundary of the City of Gretna, including the primary intersection approaches detailed above.

Working in coordination with the City, the Consultant will prepare a generalized land use map of the corridor showing both existing and proposed land use in order to analyze connectivity issues and opportunities between all neighborhoods that share the Expressway as a major physical barrier within the study area. 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 and recommendations for changes to the supporting land development regulations. The land use information (existing and future) will be used in part to identify needed bicycle and pedestrian linkages and other improvements between neighborhoods adjacent to the Westbank Expressway within the study area.

Task 3 – Conduct Deficiency and Opportunity Analysis (PMC Meeting 2)

The Consultant will conduct a complete field visual inspection of 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. Additionally, this examination will address all other deficiencies and opportunities for other non-motorized traffic improvements as well as opportunities to incorporate sustainability and resilience best management practices (BMPs) – for instance, evaluating the feasibility for water retention/storage underneath the Expressway that improves local urban ecology while diminishing the physical presence of the elevated Expressway or the installation gateway features that incorporate green infrastructure and improving the pedestrian network, while defining the City’s downtown entrance to Huey P. Long relative to the Expressway. Numerous other deficiencies and opportunities exist within the study area. This evaluation will include coordination with RPC, the City 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 – Analysis of Potential Improvements (PMC Meeting 3)

The proposed enhancements/ improvements along this segment of Westbank Expressway and primary intersections would create needed site improvements along what is currently a major physical barrier, both aesthetically and for non-motorized traffic, that distinguishes the two primary areas of the City of Gretna – those collectively defined as being either north or south of the Westbank expressway. **Analysis will consist of the following work activities:**

- a. Prepare overall conceptual designs with alternatives to enhance the appearance of the corridor using site design elements such as new or upgraded sidewalks, pedestrian lighting, signage, landscaping, bike racks, stormwater mitigation features, and other measures to enhance the study area. The Consultant will coordinate with the PMC on the development and evaluation of these improvement measures.
- b. Prepare overall visualizations of the proposed improvements and 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. Specific site elements and alternatives with associated costs will be detailed for review, including such items as benches, paving materials, bike racks, trash receptacles, trees and landscaping materials, and planters, etc.
- c. The Consultant should be prepared to provide a phased list of improvements based on RPC, CITY and DOTD priorities depending on full program improvement recommendation budget feasibility.
- d. A public informational meeting will be held to provide information and receive comments on the alternatives. The Consultant will work with the stakeholders to conduct one public

meeting with supporting materials whose format, location and participants will be determined at a later date.

Task 5 – Prepare Conceptual Improvements (PMC Meeting 4 and Public Meeting 2)

- a. The Consultant will present a draft set of conceptual improvement 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 study area.
- b. 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.
- c. The Consultant will work with the stakeholders to conduct one public meeting whose format, location and participants will be determined at a later date.

Task 6 – Prepare Draft Feasibility Report (PMC Meeting 5)

- a. RPC will distribute the draft Stage 0 Feasibility report (ten copies) to the PMC membership and call a final review meeting, if necessary, for the PMC to review package of landscaping and improvement measures for the study area.
- b. Prepare final conceptual plan for a single alternative with associated costs, including all site elements, i.e., landscaping, streetscaping, sidewalks, signage, and ADA improvements, and sustainability and resilience features; as needed.

Task 7 – Submit Stage 0 Feasibility Study

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 RPC in CAD and GIS format.

RPC will work with City of Gretna 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), or any other Federal, State and local programs that the RPC and City can position to support the recommendations of the Stage 0.

Budget: \$75,000
Timeline: 8 months