REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Gretna Streetscaping Improvements
5th Street Corridor Feasibility Study
(Task A-2.16 GS; FY-16 UPWP)

Purpose
The Regional Planning Commission in coordination with the City of Gretna is preparing a streetscaping improvement plan for the 5th Street corridor from Richard Street to Franklin Avenue, a distance of approximately 0.6 miles. The purpose of this plan is to assist the City of Gretna in its efforts to revitalize 5th Street into a more vibrant main street of local and regional significance. One goal of the project is to beautify and improve the appearance of the 5th Street corridor and bring sidewalks up to ADA standards. Another goal is to improve the connectivity between the historic main street area with its shops and restaurants, and nearby neighborhoods. The geographic boundaries of this scope are Richard Street as the western boundary and Franklin Avenue as the eastern boundary. The overall study area will extend out approximately two blocks on each side of 5th Street in order to analyze land use and connectivity opportunities between the main street commercial area and adjacent neighborhoods.

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, and opportunities for pedestrian lighting and landscaping. This data will be used by the RPC to document accessibility needs and to help formulate a capital improvement plan to address these deficiencies as well as the overall appearance of the corridor. This data will also be used by the City of Gretna in preparing an application for capital project assistance under DOTD’s Transportation Alternatives Program.

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), Regional Planning Commission, 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 landscaping, streetscaping, and ADA accessibility improvements.

Task 2 – Existing and Proposed Land Use
The study area will extend along the 5th Street corridor between Richard Street and Franklin Avenue. 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 5th Street 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 bicycle and pedestrian linkages between adjacent neighborhoods and the 5th Street commercial area.
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 proposed enhancement of 5th Street would create needed site improvements along this main street including potential connections to City Hall, recreational facilities, and nearby neighborhoods. The streetscape and design analysis will consist of the following work activities:

1. Prepare overall conceptual designs with design alternatives to enhance the appearance of the corridor using site design elements such as new or upgraded sidewalks, pedestrian lighting, signage, landscaping, bike racks, water mitigation, and other measures to enhance 5th Street as a main street revitalization area and destination. The Consultant will coordinate with the PMC and LADOTD District 02 on the development and evaluation of these improvement measures.

2. Prepare overall visualizations of the proposed improvements and 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 benches, paving materials, bike racks, trash receptacles, trees and landscaping materials, and planters, 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 5th Street and 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 RPC in CAD and/or GIS format.

2. 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), among others.

**Budget:** $30,000

**Timeline:** 6 months