Project Description

In accordance with MAP-21’s emphasis on pedestrian safety and development of alternative modes of transportation, the Regional Planning Commission is undertaking an evaluation of sidewalk conditions and needed ADA improvements along the US 61 (Airline Highway) corridor in Laplace between LA 3188 (Belle Terre Blvd.) and the intersection with US 51. The project is being carried out in coordination with St. John Parish and LADOTD District 62 office. The technical Consultant will conduct a field evaluation and develop quantities and cost estimates for this 1.3 mile section identifying new or replacement sidewalks, ADA compliance needs, and potential bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements at major intersection locations. Tasks to be performed by the Consultant include:

TASK 1: PROJECT TIMELINE & KICK-OFF MEETING

The Consultant will prepare a draft project schedule including major milestones (PMC meetings, site visits, draft reviews, final report submission, etc.). The timeline will be submitted at a project kick-off meeting that will include the Consultant, RPC, LADOTD District 62, the St. John Parish President and St. John Department of Public Works. Other stakeholders will be invited as may be necessary. The kick-off meeting will take place within two (2) weeks of the Notice to Proceed.

TASK 2: PROJECT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Consultant will assist RPC in establishing and supporting a Project Management Committee to guide the technical work effort and to review the Consultant’s work products. The PMC will include the RPC, the St. John Department of Public Works, DOTD District 62, and representatives from other parish officials and organizations as deemed appropriate. The Consultant will provide all necessary agendas, handouts and exhibits in advance of the PMC meetings for RPC review and approval and prepare summary minutes of the meetings.

The PMC will meet three times during the course of the study effort: at the kick-off meeting, to review inventory findings, and to discuss study recommendations. In addition, the Consultant will as necessary conduct meetings with elected officials and other local leaders and organizations in the area to discuss the project’s purpose and need and project-related opportunities and concerns. The Consultant will receive prior approval from RPC prior to initiating these contacts and prepare summary meeting minutes for review and discussion with the PMC. It is anticipated that new improvements may require further detailed study or analysis through LADOTD and/or RPC prior to consideration for advancement.
TASK 3: SITE INVESTIGATION, DATA COLLECTION, & ANALYSIS

The Consultant will conduct a complete field visual inspection of all sidewalks and landscaping 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 62 on the results of the field survey and evaluation and development of quantities and cost estimates for needed improvements. Site visits will be conducted and supplemental data collected as necessary in order to gather and record information regarding utilities, poles, traffic signals, signage, pavement markings, curb types, and other obstructions which may need to be relocated in order to accommodate pedestrian sidewalk improvements and ADA facilities within existing rights-of-way. It is anticipated that certain proposed (new) improvements will require further detailed study or warrant analyses by LADOTD and RPC which is outside the scope of the present study effort.

TASK 4: CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION

Working with the PMC, the Consultant will prepare a conceptual improvement plan to bring existing or missing sidewalks and ADA ramps into compliance with current standards, including typical sections, minor geometric improvements (including median construction or driveway modification to enhance the safety of crossing pedestrians and bicyclists), restriping of existing crosswalks, replacement signage, and other measures to bring the existing sidewalks up to standard and into ADA compliance. The plans (which will be in GIS format) will identify utilities and other potential obstructions that could influence the concept’s feasibility, timing, costs, and ability to implement proposed sidewalk and ADA improvements. Suggestions for new crosswalks or pedestrian signals will be identified, but these items will need to be addressed as separate follow-on study efforts in accordance with state procedures and warrant analysis requirements.

The Consultant will work with St. John Parish and LADOTD Landscaping Division on developing landscaping and other streetscape improvements along the corridor and within state and parish owned public rights-of-way. These plans will be developed in coordination with LADOTD to insure compliance with the latest edition of DOTD Policy For Roadside Vegetation Management.

The Consultant will prepare visualizations of the proposed improvements and design alternative(s), 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. The Consultant should anticipate that one public informational meeting may be required to provide information and receive comments on the proposed improvements. The Consultant will develop quantities and unit cost estimates for the study section including
estimated cost of final design and potential funding sources to improve existing sidewalks and ADA ramps, including existing striping and signage replacement, and corridor landscaping. It is anticipated that the St. John Parish may elect to submit this project for funding consideration through LADOTD’s Transportation Alternatives Program.

**TASK 5: DRAFT REVIEW**

A draft of the report (ten copies) with all documentation described above will be submitted to RPC for distribution to the PMC for review by, at the latest, 75% of project completion. The report will include the conceptual layout of each analysis section. The report text will briefly describe the purpose and need for the project and include a detailed conceptual layout of recommended sidewalk improvements, ADA ramp locations, and other supporting measures, i.e., existing crosswalk striping, and proposed landscaping improvements, as agreed to by the PMC. The draft report will be submitted to the PMC for review and in a format suitable for transmittal by RPC to LADOTD. DOTD Stage 0 and environmental checklists will be included in the draft and final report.

**TASK 6: FINAL DELIVERABLES**

Following review and approval of the draft submission, the Consultant will provide RPC with ten (10) bound copies of the Final 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 recommended by the Project Management Committee. The Stage 0 Report will include completed Stage 0 checklists (ref. LADOTD 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.

RPC will work with St. John Parish and LADOTD District 62 to advance recommended improvements towards project level design and implementation using various funding sources including STP>200K attributable funds and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), among others.

**TIMELINE**

| Eight Months |

**Budget**

| 40,000 |