

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

FRESNO COUNTY REGIONAL RAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

DUE THURSDAY, MARCH 13TH 2025, BY 5:00 P.M. PST

**Fresno Council of Governments
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 233-4148**

Additional background information on this proposal can be found on the
Fresno COG website!

www.fresnocog.org

February 2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FRESNO COUNTY REGIONAL RAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG), as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Fresno County, is requesting proposals from qualified consultants to develop a feasibility study that will analyze the potential for a zero-emission regional rail system in Fresno County, primarily connecting the communities of Fresno, Firebaugh, Kerman, Mendota, Reedley, San Joaquin, Fowler, Selma, Kingsburg, Sanger, and Dinuba (in Tulare County) primarily along the existing and underutilized San Joaquin Valley Railroad. The potential regional rail network that will be studied would have a connection to the future California High-Speed Rail system in downtown Fresno, as well as other regionally significant activity centers including the Fresno County Fairgrounds, and the Chaffee Zoo at Roeding Park. The study will include an analysis of zero-emission vehicle technology, existing rail infrastructure conditions, capital and operational cost estimation, and an implementation and phasing strategy, as well as a robust public engagement plan.

Background

Fresno COG, in partnership with the Fresno County Rural Transit Agency (FCRTA), was awarded a Caltrans Sustainable Communities Planning Grant in Fiscal Year 2024-25 to conduct a Fresno County Regional Rail Feasibility Study. By identifying feasible regional rail corridors with the greatest potential, this study will provide the transit operators and local governments with the analysis needed to apply for additional funding to implement a regional rail network in Fresno County. This study will feed back into Fresno COG's Regional Transportation Plan-Sustainable Communities Strategy as well as urban and rural short-range and long-range transit plans. These plans provide the foundation and justification for successful applications for funding through other grant programs. During the study's development, Fresno COG and its consultants will engage with the community and local stakeholders to receive input on how a regional rail network can support higher density land use development and more efficient mobility in the county. This project is expected to be completed in September 2026. The grant expires on June 30, 2027. Fresno COG and FCRTA, with the assistance of a consultant team, will be responsible for this project. The stakeholders in the Working Group include 10 local governments in Fresno County, the California High-Speed Rail Authority, community groups, tribal representatives, business representatives, and the general public.

Scope of Work

During the study's development, Fresno COG, FCRTA, and its consultants will engage with the community and local stakeholders to receive input on how a regional rail network can support higher density land use development and more efficient mobility in the county and includes but is not limited to:

Task 1: Collaboration and Community Engagement

- Convene the Regional Rail Feasibility Study Stakeholder Working Group which will meet regularly and review products (such as the Community Outreach Plan referenced below) and provide input throughout the process. The Regional Working Group include representatives from various participating local governments.
- Develop a Community Outreach Plan that outlines the format of the outreach activities and identifies specific outreach activities. The outreach plan should include workshops, community events and/or online platforms to solicit feedback from various stakeholders and the general public.
- Work with Fresno COG and FCRTA staff to create a project website to inform the communities about outreach meetings as well as the progress of the project
- Conduct effective publicity and outreach (in English and Spanish, with consideration of other languages as appropriate) to engage residents in each jurisdiction and drive attendance at the outreach events

Task Deliverables
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder Working Group Membership List • Meeting Minutes & Agendas • Outreach Materials • Outreach Memorandum

Task 2: Review Existing Plans, Policies, and Infrastructure Conditions

- Review the existing plans, policies, and relevant conditions necessary to analyze and assess the potential impact of the plan.
- Develop goals, policies and funding recommendations based on community input with reference to state, regional and municipal planning guidance.
- Verify data from previous Regional Plans and conduct field reviews to verify new developments or changed conditions for the regional rail network
- Review and evaluate connections to transit, including recent transit plans
- Conduct an existing infrastructure conditions evaluation along San Joaquin Valley Railroad and Union Pacific Railroad within the Study Area to determine the condition of existing rail infrastructure.

Task Deliverables
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop summary memo of goals, policies and funding recommendations • Develop summary memo of existing railroad infrastructure conditions

Task 3: Zero-Emission Rail Vehicle Technology Analysis

- Review of available commercial zero-emission rail vehicles that can be implemented in a regional rail network in California. Off-the-shelf passenger rail vehicles that are zero emission will be utilized in the technical ridership modeling and preliminary operations plan to understand the parameters of their operational capability

Task Deliverables
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop commercial zero-emission rail vehicle technology analysis memo

Task 4: Preliminary Operations Plan and Ridership Demand Modeling

- Develop a preliminary operations plan for the overall regional rail network that shows connectivity to the future California High-Speed Rail system, as well as local and regional public transit systems. This plan will include a conceptual schedule with run times between communities and connections between the different regional rail lines.
- The operations plan will describe all necessary railroad infrastructure needs to allow for the operations of the regional rail service, including the number of vehicles, maintenance facilities, station sidings, and layover tracks. This will be an input into ridership modeling, and preliminary capital and operational cost estimates.
- Development of a ridership demand modeling report which gives ridership demand ranges under low, medium, and high utilization scenarios for each station and segment to determine the feasibility of a regional rail network in Fresno County and to support the implementation strategy and phasing plan task. The modeling should also include quantitative data regarding vehicle miles travel (VMT) and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) reductions.

Task Deliverables
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preliminary operations plan• Ridership Modeling data

Task 5: Station Area Analysis and Environmental Screening

- Develop a memo which identifies station infrastructure needs and opportunities for right-of-way preservation. This will be an input into the preliminary capital and operation cost estimates.
- Develop an environmental screening memorandum to understand the potential environmental impacts of implementing a regional rail network. This will include a desktop analysis of available mapping and data, preparation of exhibits, and development of a brief memorandum of the environmental constraints and potential CEQA and NEPA requirements to inform the potential future environmental clearance phase of work and streamline future efforts.

Task Deliverables
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Station Area Analysis• Environmental screening memorandum

Task 6: Develop Preliminary Capital Cost and Operational Cost Estimates

- Consolidate information from the existing infrastructure conditions summary memo, zero-emission rail vehicle technology analysis memo, preliminary operations plan, and regional rail station siting analysis memo to develop a preliminary capital and operational cost memorandum. This will inform the implementation strategy and phasing plan.

Task Deliverables
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capital and Operations Cost Estimates

Task 7: Implementation Strategy and Phasing Plan

- Prepare an implementation strategy that includes a financial element which will detail project cost estimates, private and public funding options, and other relevant financial information for the Fresno County Regional Rail Feasibility Study.
- The plan will identify strategies that best position the project for future grant opportunities and to capitalize on public and private sources of funding, including a roadmap for the efficient implementation of project components.
- Project phasing will be tied to funding sources identified and will identify major milestones, goals, and deliverables for each phase. This will include a road map of steps and actions, railroad requirements, and regional rail service phasing strategy

Task Deliverables
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation Strategy Report with financial element

Task 8: Develop the Draft Plan and Publish the Draft for Public Review

- Develop and present the draft final plan with an executive summary to the FCOG and FCRTA staff and working group for review
- Publish the plan for 30-day public review.
- Final Plan with Stakeholder and public comments incorporated.

Task Deliverables
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft Plan• Public Review – list of comments• Final Plan with public comments incorporated.• Preparation for submittal to Caltrans in an ADA accessible electronic copy

Task 9: Presentation & Public Board Acceptance

- Develop and present the final plan with an executive summary to the FCOG Transportation Technical Committee, FCOG Policy Advisory and FCOG Policy Board for approval
- Incorporate comments from the committees into the final plan as needed

Task Deliverables
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PowerPoint presentation• Final report

COORDINATION

The consultant will take primary direction from the Fresno COG Project Manager. It is intended that all work will be completed within 17 months of negotiating a contract in accordance with the schedule component and that the consultant's work will begin immediately upon receiving a notice to proceed.

The selected consultant will best demonstrate the ability to deliver quality work on schedule and in a cost-effective manner, consistent with the tasks and deliverables in this RFP.

File copies of all correspondence, technical memoranda and reports should be delivered to the Fresno COG Project Manager in electronic format.

All data, maps and all other materials prepared or collected under this contract will become the property of Fresno COG. Provide monthly progress reports to the Fresno COG project manager. These monthly status reports will include descriptions of work tasks completed that month and will identify any issues that may affect project schedule or project deliverables.

Proposed Time Schedule

Activity	Date
Request for Proposals released	Thursday, February 13 th , 2025
Deadline for submitting questions	Friday, February 28 th , 2025, 5:00 p.m. PST (Responses Posted by Tuesday, March 3 rd)
Deadline for proposal submittal	Thursday, March 13 th , 2025, 5:00 p.m. PST
Selection Process (with potential interviews)	Week of March 24 th , 2025 – March 28 th , 2025
Anticipated Notice to Proceed	May 2025 (Tentative)
Anticipated Completion of project	September 2026

III. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Clarity and succinctness are essential and will be considered in assessing the consultant's capabilities. Proposals that show creativity and new ideas will be highly considered. All consultant proposals submitted in response to this request will be screened by a review committee. The committee will determine, through the screening process, which consultants will be invited to make formal presentations and be interviewed by the selection committee. The selection committee reserves the right to make a final selection without an interview.

The proposal must be received by email by **5:00 p.m. on March 13, 2025**. Proposals not received by email by that date and time *will not be considered*. A hard copy of the proposal can be mailed to Fresno Council of Government on the same day.

In order to simplify the review process and maximize the degree of comparative analysis, the proposal should be organized in the following manner:

A. Transmittal letter

The transmittal letter should be signed by an official authorized to bind the consultant contractually and will contain a statement to the effect that the proposal is a firm offer for 90 days. The letter accompanying the proposal will also provide the following: name, title, address, and telephone number of individuals with the authority to negotiate and contractually bind the company. The transmittal shall contain a statement of understanding of the RFP.

B. Table of Contents

Include identification of the material by section and page number.

C. Overview

This section should clearly convey the consultant's understanding of the nature of the work and the general approach to be taken to its performance. This section should include, but not be limited to, a discussion of the purpose of the project, the organization of the project effort, and a summary of the proposed approach.

D. Detailed Work Plan

The prospective contractor shall provide a schedule for completing the project, if different from the provided proposed project timeline (Appendix B), within the schedule set forth in this RFP. The schedule shall identify the major tasks to be undertaken and the time frame for each task.

This section should include the following components:

1. Task Description

Include a full description of each step to be followed in carrying out the project. The work description should be presented in sufficient detail (tasks, subtasks, etc.) to show a clear understanding of the work and the proposed approach.

2. Deliverables

A description of the format, content, and level of detail that can be expected for each deliverable.

3. Schedule

A schedule showing the expected sequence of tasks, subtasks, etc. should accompany the work description. Important milestones should be identified on the schedule.

E. Management Approach

This section should describe the firm's management approach. If the proposal is a team effort, the distribution of work among the team members should be indicated. Describe the organization of the management, the structure of the work assignments, and any specific features of the management approach that require special explanation. Designate by name the project manager to be employed who will oversee the project. **No substitutions of the identified project manager will be allowed without prior approval of Fresno COG.**

F. Budget and Billing Format

A cost analysis of the proposed budget will be done by Fresno COG staff. Under various circumstances the budget could be subject to Preaudit and/or the final cost subject to Post audit by Fresno COG or Caltrans division of Audits and Investigations. The allowability of individual items of cost will be determined by 48 CFR, Federal Acquisition Regulations System, Chapter 1, Part 31 et. Seq. The Contractor will also be required to comply with Title 2, CFR part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, and 2 CFR, Part 1201, Uniform Administrative Requirements Costs Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. The contractor should have an accounting system capable of segregating direct cost from indirect costs per the above cited regulations. The Contractor and Subcontractors will comply with all applicable laws and maintain books, documents, papers, and accounting records for a period of three years from the date of the final payment.

1. Method of Payment

The cost proposal must be prepared consistent with the method of services provided under this agreement and will be reimbursed, by one of, or a combination of the methods below. The proposer must clearly state the method used to prepare the cost proposal.

- Lump Sum payment
- Actual Cost plus Fixed Fee
- Specific Rates of Compensation

Lump Sum proposals will be paid per milestone of completed work or at the end of the contract upon acceptance of the final product. Actual Cost-plus Fixed Fee agreements shall be billed at actual payroll costs and include a fixed fee for profit. In agreements reimbursed by Specific Rates of Compensation, billing rates containing a component for profit will be negotiated that will not change during the term of the contract.

2. Project Budget

A maximum of \$327,000 has been budgeted for consultant services for this project.

3: Task Budget

A schedule of estimated costs to complete each task should add down to the total cost of the project (see Table 1 & 2 "Hypothetical"). The task budget should include a subsidiary breakdown by task of hours and billing rate charges. To ensure a full understanding of the resources committed to the

project the schedule should clearly indicate the amount of hours key personnel will be used in each task.

4. Budget and Cost Breakdown

The prospective consultant will prepare a detailed cost breakdown for the work to be performed during the project regardless of the method of reimbursement chosen. This will include all tasks required to complete the project including final reports and presentation.

a. Direct Labor Costs – A schedule of billing rates and hours worked by employee or category of employee is required of the prime contractor and all subcontractors. Billing rates shall be based on actual pay rates and should cover all costs associated with the employee (salary, benefits, and anticipated cost of living and/or merit increases during the term of the contract). Depending on the individual cost structure, overhead may be applied as a component of the billing rate or applied separately. The proposer should be prepared to validate billing rates with payroll registers, wage agreements, or other payroll documentation.

b. Overhead Rates – The overhead rate should include all indirect costs not readily assignable to cost objectives specifically benefited. Typically, an overhead rate is calculated on a company or division wide basis by segregating expenses into direct cost and indirect cost categories and then dividing the indirect costs by a direct cost base such as direct labor to arrive at an overhead rate. The overhead rate is then applied on a contract-by-contract basis to recapture the indirect costs that are not chargeable directly to a final objective such as general and administrative, facilities, equipment, supplies, accounting, maintenance, materials, etc. Some cost structures may be broken into various overhead rates that are applied to different bases. The proposer should be prepared to provide supporting documentation such as prior agreements with government agencies or audits of prior year activities to validate overhead rates structures.

c. Direct Cost – Direct costs are those incremental costs that can be identified specifically with a particular final cost objective. Although in some instances direct cost and indirect cost may include similar categories, incremental direct cost attributable to final objectives must be separated and not included in the overhead calculation. All direct cost specifically attributed to the project and not included in the billing rates must be itemized by budget category to be eligible for reimbursement. Once contractually authorized, direct cost budgets may not be substituted without prior written consent of FCOG. Travel expenses and per diem rates are not to exceed the rate specified by the State of California Department of Personnel Administration as specified by the California Department of Transportation's Travel Policy unless written verification is supplied that hotel rates were not then commercially available at the time and location required.

d. Sub consultant Fees – Sub consultants must provide the same cost data detail as the prime contractor (see Table I and Table 2).

e. Fixed Fee – A fixed fee is calculated as a basis of total direct and indirect costs. The State of California allows a 10% maximum fee.

The hypothetical cost format example given below is to illustrate required components of the cost proposal only and may have to be tailored to fit individual cost structures.

HYPOTHETICAL COST ESTIMATE

Table 1.- Direct cost by Task

Cost Items	Task 1	Task 2	Task 3	Total
1. Direct Labor	3,700	17,053	5,502	26,255
2. Overhead (___% of Line 1)	1,480	6,821	2,201	10,502
Total Salary Burden	5,180	23,874	7,703	36,757
3. Direct Expenses				
Telephone/FAX	35	28	15	78
Postage/Shipping	12	8	35	55
Graphics/Printing	11	11	75	97
Travel	350		500	850
Misc.	45	45	45	135
Total Direct Expenses	453	92	670	1,215
4. Subconsultant Fees *	4,244	22,276	2,726	29,246
5. Fixed Fee (___% of Lines 1,2,3)	764	1,524	1,132	3,420
Total	10,640	47,766	12,231	70,638 70,638

Table 2 - Project Task Costs by Key Personnel

Task No. and Description	Key Staff #1	Key Staff #2	Staff Support	Total Hours
Task 1. Establish Parameters	25	75		100
Task 3. Data Collection and Analysis		400	250	650
Task 4. Final Report and Presentation	15	50	175	240
Total Hours	40	525	425	990
Billing Rate	\$75.00	\$44.06	\$25.00	
Memo Total	3,000	23,132	10,625	36,757

* Subconsultants must provide required cost components found in Tables 1 & 2

G. Insurance Requirements

Without limiting Fresno COG's right to obtain indemnification from the consultant or any third parties, the consultant, at its sole expense, shall maintain in full force and affect the following insurance policies throughout the term of the contract:

1. Comprehensive general liability insurance with coverage of not less than \$2,000,000 combined single limit per occurrence for bodily injury, personal injury, and property damage. Comprehensive general liability insurance policies shall name Fresno COG, its officers, agents, and employees, individually and collectively, as additional insured, but only insofar as the operations under the terms of the contract are concerned. Such coverage for additional insured shall apply as primary insurance or self-insurance and any other insurance, maintained by Fresno COG, its officers, agents, and employees, shall be given excess only and not contributing with insurance provided under the consultant's policies herein.
2. Comprehensive automobile liability insurance with limits for bodily injury of not less than \$25,000 per person, \$250,000 per accident, and for property damages of not less than \$50,000, or such coverage with a combined single limit of \$250,000.
3. Professional liability insurance of at least \$1,000,000.
4. Worker's compensation insurance as required by law.

This insurance shall not be canceled or changed without a minimum of thirty (30) days advance written notice given to Fresno COG. The consultant shall provide certification of said insurance to Fresno COG within twenty-one (21) days of the date of the execution of the contract. Such certification shall show, to Fresno COG's satisfaction, that such insurance coverages have been obtained and are in full force; that Fresno COG, its officers, agents, and employees will not be responsible for any premiums on the policies; that as and if required such insurance names Fresno COG, its officers agents, and employees individually and collectively as additional insured (comprehensive and general liability only), but only insofar as the operations under the contract are concerned; that such coverage for additional insured shall apply as primary insurance and any other insurance, or self-insurance, maintained by Fresno COG, its officers, agents, and employees, shall be excess only and not contributing with insurance provided under the consultant's policies herein; and that this insurance shall not be canceled or changed without a minimum of thirty (days) advance, written notice given to Fresno COG.

In the event the consultant fails to keep in effect at all times insurance coverage as herein provided, Fresno COG may, in addition to other remedies it may have, suspend or terminate the contract upon the occurrence of such event.

H. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Certification

DBE Bidders Listing (Attachment B) must be completed for all contractors and subcontractors regardless of DBE affiliation.

The Fresno COG fully anticipates that it will consistently meet and exceed its adopted DBE overall goal under 49 CFR Part 26 using Race-neutral measures exclusively.

Only DBE firms currently certified per 49 CFR Part 26 will participate as DBEs in our program. Such certification must be issued by Caltrans, FHWA, FTA, DOT, MPO, City, County, or State in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26. All contractors or subcontractors claiming to be a certified DBE must provide a valid DBE certification.

Fresno COG will not deny award to contractors on the basis of DBE participation, who demonstrate that they have used good faith efforts to achieve DBE participation.

Contractors must provide the following information with the initial proposal or before entering into a contractual agreement with Fresno COG:

1. The name, addresses, & phone number of all bidding firms.
2. NAICS code by firm.
3. The dollar amount of participation by each firm.
4. Proof of DBE certification if claimed.
5. Written confirmation named DBE's will participate.
6. If DBE participation is not achieved, evidence of good faith efforts may be required.

Prime contractors are required to maintain records and document payments to all subcontractors for three years following the performance of the contract. These records will be made available for inspection upon request by any authorized representative of Fresno COG, Caltrans, FHWA, FTA or DOT. This reporting requirement also extends to any certified DBE subcontractor. The contractor shall maintain records showing the name and address of each subcontractor, the date of payment, and total dollar figure paid to each subcontractor.

Fresno COG will safeguard from disclosure to third parties information that may reasonably be regarded as confidential business information, consistent with federal, state, or local laws.

I. Conflicts of Interest

The prospective contractor shall disclose any financial, business, or other relationship with Fresno COG that may have an outcome on the selection.

J. Summary of Qualifications

Proposals shall include a summary of the firm's qualifications, including resumes of assigned staff. Include the name and qualifications of all professional personnel to be employed, a resume for each professional, a statement indicating how many hours each professional will be assigned to the contract and what tasks each professional will perform. Staffing assignments should be specific enough to demonstrate understanding of skills required and commitment of proper resources. **The selected consultant will not substitute members of the project team without prior approval of Fresno COG.**

K. Signing of Proposal/Authorization to Negotiate

The proposal shall be signed by an official authorized to bind the proposer and shall contain a statement to the effect that the proposal is a firm offer for a 90-day period. The proposal shall also provide the following: name, title, address, and telephone number of individuals with authority to negotiate and contractually bind the company.

L. Attachments

Attachments to be included at the end of the proposal are as follows (as attached herein):

- Attachment A: Title VI Assurance
- Attachment B: DBE Participation

- Attachment C: Budget and Cost Breakdown

IV. PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL

A. Preparation of Proposal

The proposal shall be formatted in accordance with the requirements specified in *Section III: Proposal Requirements* of this RFP. Proposal forms shall be executed by an authorized signatory as described in *Section III-K: Signing of Proposal/Authorization to Negotiate*. All proposals shall be prepared by and at the expense of the proposer.

B. Examination of RFP Document

The proposer shall be solely responsible for examining, with appropriate care, the RFP, including any addenda issued during the proposal period. The proposer shall also be responsible for informing itself with respect to any and all conditions which may in any way affect the amount or nature of the proposal, or the performance of the work in the event the proposer is selected. Failure of the proposer to examine and inform itself in this manner shall be at the proposer's own risk and no relief for error or omission shall be given.

C. Submission of Proposal/Period of Acceptance

The proposal must be received by email by **5:00 p.m. on March 13th, 2025**. Proposals not received by email by that date and time *will not be considered*. A hard copy of the proposal can be mailed to Fresno Council of Government on the same day. Proposals should be emailed to and sent to

Paul Herman, Project Manager
pherman@fresnocog.org
Fresno Council of Governments
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721

All proposals will remain firm for a period of ninety (90) days following the final date for submission. All proposals will become the sole property of Fresno COG and a part of its official records without obligation on the part of Fresno COG.

This RFP is not to be construed as a contract of commitment on the part of Fresno COG. Fresno COG reserves the right to reject all proposals, to seek additional information from each proposer, or to issue another RFP, if deemed appropriate.

D. Modification or Withdrawal of Proposals

Any proposal received before the date and time specified above for receipt of proposals may be withdrawn or modified by written request of the proposer. To be considered, however, the modified proposal must be received by the proposal due date and time specified previously.

All verbal modifications to these conditions or provisions are ineffective for proposal evaluation purposes. Only written changes issued by proposers to Fresno COG are authorized and binding.

E. Rejection of Proposals

Failure to meet the requirements for the request for proposals will be cause for rejection of the proposal. Fresno COG may reject any proposal if it is conditional, incomplete, or contains irregularities or inordinately high-cost rates. Fresno COG may waive an immaterial deviation in a proposal. Waiver of an immaterial

deviation shall in no way modify the Request for Proposals document or excuse the proposer from full compliance with the contract requirements if the proposer is awarded the contract.

V. CONSULTANT SELECTION

All consultant proposals submitted in response to this request will be screened by a selection committee. The committee will determine, through the screening process, which consultants will be invited to make formal presentations and be interviewed by the committee. **The selection committee reserves the right to make a final selection without an interview.**

The actual award of the contract will be by the Fresno COG Policy Board. Proposal opening does not constitute the awarding of a contract. The contract is not in force until it is awarded by Fresno COG and executed by the Fresno COG designees.

VI. PROPOSER OBJECTIONS

A proposer may object to any of the terms or provisions set forth in the RFP's Scope of Work or to the selection of a particular proposer on the grounds that Fresno COG's procedures, the provisions of this RFP, or applicable provisions of federal, state, or local law have been violated or inaccurately or inappropriately applied by submitting Fresno COG a written explanation of the basis for the objection. Deadlines for submittal of objections are:

- No later than two weeks prior to the date proposals are due, for objections to RFP provisions; or
- Within three working days after the date on which contract award is authorized or the date the proposer is notified that it was not selected, whichever is later, for objections to proposer selection.

If the proposer does not state any objections, Fresno COG will assume that the RFP scope of services are acceptable to the proposer and have been fully factored into its response. If the proposer intends to negotiate with Fresno COG concerning any part of the scope of services that the proposer finds objectionable, the proposer must provide specific language in its response that will address or cure its objections.

VII. FRESNO COG RIGHTS

Fresno COG may investigate the qualifications of any proposer under consideration, require confirmation of information furnished by a proposer, and require additional evidence of qualifications to perform the work described in this RFP.

Fresno COG reserves the right to:

1. Reject any or all of the proposals if it deems such action is in the public interest;
2. Issue subsequent Requests for Proposals;
3. Cancel the entire Request for Proposal;
4. Remedy technical errors in the Request for Proposals process;
5. Appoint an evaluation committee to review the proposals;
6. Seek the assistance of outside technical experts in proposal evaluation;
7. Approve or disapprove the use of particular subcontractors;
8. Establish a short list of proposers eligible for interviews after review of written proposals;
9. Negotiate with some, all, or none of the respondents to the RFP;

10. Solicit best and final offers from all or some of the proposers;
11. Award a contract to one or more proposers;
12. Accept an offer other than the lowest price offer; and
13. Waive informalities and irregularities in proposals and the bid process.

This RFP does not commit Fresno COG to enter into a contract, nor does it obligate Fresno COG to pay for any costs incurred in preparation and submission of proposals or in anticipation of a contract. All proposals will be subject to public disclosure as required by the California Public Records Act.

Fresno COG reserves the right to investigate the qualifications of all firms under consideration to confirm any part of the information furnished by a proposer, or to require other evidence of managerial, financial, or other capabilities which are considered necessary for the successful performance of the contract.

VIII. RFP QUESTIONS

All questions on the RFP should be submitted in writing via email by February 28th, 2025 to:

Paul Herman, Project Manager
Fresno Council of Governments
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201
Fresno, CA 93721
pherman@fresnocog.org

All questions and answers will be posted on the Fresno COG website at:
<https://www.fresnocog.org/business-fresno-cog/>.

Attachment A

TITLE VI ASSURANCE

The Council of Fresno County Governments, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000d-4 and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21 Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs of the Department of Transportation issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority businesses enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or nation origin in consideration of an award.

DBE/WBE BIDDERS LISTING

1. All contractors/subcontractors bidding on the project must provide the requested information.
2. Bidders claiming DBE status must attach a copy of a current Certification issued pursuant to 49 CFR Part 26.
3. Bidders claiming DBE status must attach written affirmation that they will participate in the project.
4. Each bidder must designate if Gross Annual Receipts are greater than or equal to \$750,000.

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2. Bidders claiming DBE status must attach a copy of a current Certification issued pursuant to 49 CFR Part 26.
3. Bidders claiming DBE status must attach written affirmation that they will participate in the project.
4. Each bidder must designate if Gross Annual Receipts are greater than or equal to \$750,000.

Attachment C

BUDGET AND COST SCHEDULE TEMPLATE

	(Name)		(Name)		(Name)			
	(Role)		(Role)		(Role)			
TASKS	(Hourly Billing Rate)		(Hourly Billing Rate)		(Hourly Billing Rate)		Total Task Hours	Total Task Cost
Task	Hours	Cost	Hours	Cost	Hours	Cost		
Tasks Subtotal								

DIRECT COSTS

Direct Cost		Amount
Direct Costs Subtotal		

SUBCONSULTANTS

Subconsultants		Total Cost
Subconsultants Subtotal		

PROPOSAL GRAND TOTAL		
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California Department of Transportation
Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program
COST AND SCHEDULE

Grant Category	Sustainable Communities
Grant Fiscal Year	FY 2024-25
Project Title	Fresno County Regional Rail Feasibility Study
Organization (Legal name)	Fresno Council of Governments
Disclaimers	Agency commits to the Cost and schedule below. Any changes will need to be approved by Caltrans prior to initiating any Cost and Schedule change or amendment Use only whole dollars in the financial information fields. No rounding up or down and no cents. Use the Local Match Calculator to ensure Local Match Calculator (posted on-line)
Reimbursements/ Invoicing	Does your agency plan to request reimburse <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 66.58% Does your agency plan to use the Tapered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Match approach for invoicing purposes?

Task #	Task Title	FY 2024/25												FY 2025/26												FY 2026/27												
		J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	
01	Project Administration (no more than 5% of total grant funds)																																					
02	Consultant Procurement																																					
1	Collaboration and Community Engagement																																					
2	Review Existing Plans, Policies, and Infrastructure Conditions																																					
3	Zero-Emission Rail Vehicle Technology Analysis																																					
4	Preliminary Operations Plan and Ridership Demand Modeling																																					
5	Station Siting Analysis and Environmental Screening																																					
6	Develop Preliminary Capital Cost and Operational Cost Estimates																																					
7	Implementation Strategy and Phasing Plan																																					
8	Develop a Draft Plan and Publish for Public Review																																					
9	Presentation and Policy Board Acceptance																																					
Totals																																						