

# **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

## **FRESNO COG REGIONAL VMT MITIGATION PROGRAM**

**DUE Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 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](http://www.fresnocog.org)**

**February 2026**

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

## FRESNO COG REGIONAL VMT MITIGATION PROGRAM

The Fresno Council of Governments (Fresno COG) is requesting proposals from qualified consultants to develop the regional VMT mitigation program framework that is feasible to implement in the Fresno County region.

### Background

SB 743 requires that level-of-service (LOS), used in measuring transportation impacts in CEQA, be replaced with another metric that will “promote reduction of greenhouse gas emission, the development of multi-modal transportation system and a diversity of land use development.” The Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI), previously known as Office of Planning and Research (OPR), recommended Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) as the new metric. It is calculated by multiplying the daily car trips expected to be generated by a new development by the distance of those trips to their destinations. Fresno COG developed the SB 743 Implementation Regional Guidelines in 2020, which provided tools for local governments to implement SB 743 should they decide to endorse the recommendations in the Guidelines. This guidelines was updated in 2025 with the update of regional travel demand model, known as Activity Based Model (ABM), used in this analysis. The SB 743 Implementation Regional Guidelines document is available at: <https://www.fresnocog.org/project/sb743-regional-guidelines-development/>. Since SB 743 came into effect on July 1, 2020, many jurisdictions in Fresno County have taken action to approve policies regarding SB 743 implementation.

One of the outstanding issues regarding the SB 743 implementation is VMT mitigation, for which there has not been clear guidance. Projects with significant VMT impacts can't move forward due to lack of defined, quantifiable, and feasible mitigation measures. While some agencies have already started exploring their own mitigation program, it is believed that a regional-level VMT mitigation program would be most effective in providing the pathways for VMT mitigation. In addition, not all the member agencies in the region have the resources needed to develop and implement the program on their own. The City of Fresno, however, implemented the VMT Reduction Program in November 2025 to reduce the VMT and its associated greenhouse gas emissions, while streamlining the environmental compliance process for development projects that generate vehicle trips. With the goal of developing a regional VMT mitigation program, Fresno COG conducted the first phase of VMT Mitigation Study in 2023 that focused on several programmatic approaches including VMT banking, VMT exchanges, and VMT mitigation impact fee programs. Several variations of these programs were also considered during the study- including hybrid VMT mitigation programs under which a jurisdiction can mix and match entire programs or elements of VMT banks, VMT exchanges, and VMT impact fee programs. Different options like Legality, Effectiveness, Geography, Administration, Equity, and Alignment were evaluated in terms of their potential to meet the identified needs of the region. Potential mitigation measures/projects to be programmed within the regional VMT mitigation program were considered including active transportation improvements, transit connectivity, mobility hubs, and transportation demand Management (TDM) projects. Now, the second phase will build on the findings of first phase and work on developing the regional VMT Mitigation Program Framework. Based on the outcomes of the first phase study, VMT banking was found to be the most appropriate program framework for implementation in Fresno region.

### Scope of Work

The consultant team will provide the following service as specified in the “TASKS”:

**TASK 1.** Convene a stakeholder committee that comprises of, but is not limited to, representatives from local governments, development communities, consulting firms that conduct traffic impact analysis, and any other interested entities or individuals.

<b>Deliverable</b>
<i>Stakeholder Committee Roster with contact information.</i>

**TASK 2.** Review the phase I VMT Mitigation Program study and emphasize the recommendations.

<b>Deliverable</b>
<i>Summary Memo of findings and recommendations from VMT Mitigation Program study Phase I.</i>
<i>Summary Memo of framework plan for Phase II program implementation.</i>

**TASK 3.** Organize a panel of practitioners and planners from the agencies who will share their experience and insights regarding their VMT mitigation programs.

<b>Deliverable</b>
<i>Roster of panel practitioners and planners with contact information.</i>
<i>Summary Memo of existing VMT Mitigation Program and its framework in the State, shared by the panel along with the recommendations for implementation in Fresno region.</i>

**TASK 4.** Explore the various regional VMT mitigation program options such as VMT mitigation bank, VMT mitigation exchange, regional VMT impact fees, etc., and evaluate the potential benefits and challenges of those options including their suitability for the Fresno region. Discuss the key considerations of additionality and equity.

<b>Deliverable</b>
<i>Summary Memo of regional VMT mitigation implementation frameworks based on recommendation from Phase I study.</i>
<i>Summary Memo of evaluation of various alternatives considering additionality and equity.</i>

**TASK 5.** Set up a framework for potentially implementing a regional VMT mitigation program in Fresno region. The framework could include, but is not limited to, discussion of implementation agency qualifications, CEQA requirement and implications for VMT mitigation, legal barriers, potential project list development, further nexus studies, and connection to the existing VMT mitigation bank in the region.

<b>Deliverable</b>
<i>Summary Memo of finalized regional VMT mitigation program framework for Fresno County and its plan.</i>
<i>Summary Memo of coordination effort within the region considering the CEQA requirement and legal implications in relation to existing legal challenges around the State.</i>
<i>Development of VMT reduction project types.</i>
<i>Summary Memo of tying this program with the existing VMT mitigation program in the region.</i>

**TASK 6.** Work with Fresno COG and stakeholder committee to identify the potential mitigation measures that will be included in the program, as the types of measures included will influence the type of program that should be considered. Develop the cost estimates for the projects and programs, also estimating the potential VMT reduction associated with the projects and programs.

<b>Deliverable</b>
<i>Development of potential VMT reduction project list.</i> <i>Summary Memo with quantification on cost and benefits of potential VMT reduction projects.</i>

**TASK 7.** Develop and address how a potential VMT mitigation framework would approach the ongoing monitoring, data collection, and verification of VMT reduction. Provide On-call services, as needed, to support the implementation after the establishment of the framework under a separate On-call contract.

<b>Deliverable</b>
<i>Program implementation and monitoring plan/tool.</i> <i>Preliminary On-call contract plan after the development of VMT reduction implementation program.</i>

**TASK 8.** Develop a draft report and publish the report for the public review.

<b>Deliverable</b>
<i>Draft plan and summary of comments from Stakeholder committee, COG staff.</i> <i>Public comments.</i>

**TASK 9.** Present the report to Fresno COG's Transportation Technical Committee, Policy Advisory Committee, and Policy Board for acceptance.

<b>Deliverable</b>
<i>PowerPoint Presentation</i> <i>Final Plan and Implementation tool.</i>

## **COORDINATION**

The consultant will take primary direction from the Fresno COG Project Manager. It is intended that all work will be completed within 12 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. Two hard copies of the final report should be made available to Fresno COG upon completion of the project.

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**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
Request for Proposals released	February 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2026
Deadline for submitting questions	March 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2026, 5:00 P.M. PST (Responses to be posted by March 9 <sup>th</sup> )
Deadline for proposal submittal	March 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2026, 5:00 P.M. PST
Oral interviews/selection process	Tentatively the week of April 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2026
Anticipated Notice to Proceed	June 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2026
Anticipated Completion of project	June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2027; depending on COG Board approval and contract signing

### **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 electronic copy of the proposal must be received via email by **March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. Proposals not meeting the above requirement by that date and time *will not be considered*.

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 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. The Scope of Work should be followed in identifying the tasks and the time frame for each task. Minor adjustment to the scope of work will be accepted subject to Fresno COG's approval.

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.**

Include the name and qualifications of all professional personnel to be employed, a resume for each professional (included in an appendix), 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.**

## 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 49 CFR, Part 18, and Uniform Administrative Requirement for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments. 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 **\$310,000** 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 costs 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

<b>Table 1 - Direct cost by Task</b>				
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

<b>Table 2 - Project Task Costs by Key Personnel</b>				
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 an 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 an award to contractors on the basis of DBE participation, who demonstrate that they have used good faith efforts to achieve DBE participation.

Contractors selected on the basis of DBE participation 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 will participate.
6. If DBE participation is not achieved, evidence of good faith efforts must be provided.

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, 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 themselves 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**

Proposal must be received via email by **5:00 P.M. PST on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. 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:

Santosh Bhattarai, Project Manager  
[bhattarai@fresnocog.org](mailto:bhattarai@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 by March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 5:00 P.M. to:

Santosh Bhattarai, Project Manager  
[bhattarai@fresnocog.org](mailto:bhattarai@fresnocog.org)  
Fresno Council of Governments  
2035 Tulare Street, Suite 201  
Fresno, CA 93721

All questions and answers will be posted on the Fresno COG website at:  
<https://www.fresnocog.org/doing-business-with-fresno-cog/> by March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**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.



## Attachment C

# BUDGET AND COST SCHEDULE TEMPLATE

TASKS	(Name)		(Name)		(Name)		Total Task Hours	Total Task Cost
	(Role)		(Role)		(Role)			
	(Hourly Billing Rate)		(Hourly Billing Rate)		(Hourly Billing Rate)			
Task	Hours	Cost	Hours	Cost	Hours	Cost		
<b>Tasks Subtotal</b>								

**DIRECT COSTS**

Direct Cost		Amount
<b>Direct Costs Subtotal</b>		

**SUBCONSULTANTS**

Subconsultants		Total Cost
<b>Subconsultants Subtotal</b>		

<b>PROPOSAL GRAND TOTAL</b>		
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