
SHORELINE TRAIL ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Frequently Asked Questions

Final as of October 4, 2021

Below please find questions and answers regarding the Request for Proposals for the selection of a professional landscape architect or engineering firm to design landscaping and historical monuments/amenities along the Shoreline Trail, which runs abuts for former Bethlehem Steel site in the City of Lackawanna. Please note that some questions are paraphrased for clarity.



Q1 / What is the project budget for design?

The budget range is between \$100,000 to \$120,000.

Q2 / Does the project include construction?

No. The Shoreline Trail Enhancement Project is for Design/Predevelopment only.

Q3 / Will the Informational Meeting Agenda be available to participants following the meeting?

Yes. The Informational Meeting Agenda and all other supplemental materials related to the RFP will be posted to https://www.ecidany.com/requests_for_proposals following the September 21st meeting.

Q4 / Does the ILDC and/or Erie County possess industrial artifacts/historical materials from the Bethlehem Steel site that can be utilized for proposed monuments?

The ILDC/Erie County does have some artifacts currently in their possession. A list of potential artifacts will be provided to the selected Consultant at project commencement. The Consultant

will be expected to coordinate with Tecumseh and the Steel plant Museum on the potential additional artifacts to be relocated to the Shoreline Trail site for placement. The Consultant will be responsible for developing a removal/ transportation plan to remove and relocate items from their current locations and transport them to the Shoreline Trail for placement.

Q5 / Will the Renaissance Commerce Park branding efforts be made available?

Yes. The 19 Ideas Branding Report will be made available to the selected Consultant.

Q6/ What is the completion date for the design phase of the project?

The proposed project schedule is 12-16 months with a project completion deadline of April 2023.

Q7/ Can the M/WBE participation be combined for a total of 30% rather than 15% assigned to MBE and 15% to WBE?

All proposals must work toward a utilization goal for New York State-certified minority business enterprise of 15% and women business enterprise of 15%. Contacts with prime and subcontractors count toward the M/WBE participation goal.

Q8/ When was the Shoreline Trail extended from Dona Street to Madison, which is identified in the RFP as the project terminus?

Currently the trail ends at Dona Street; however, there are plans to extend the trail to the proposed Madison Avenue entrance in the near-term, where a trailhead will also be constructed.

Q9/ Are all proposed improvements limited to Erie County's 50-foot right-of-way?

Yes. The area near the proposed trail head will have additional space for improvements.

Q10/ Is the property cap a demarcation or physician line? CORRECTED 10/1/21

The cover system is to be comprised of a minimum of 12 inches of clean soil, stone or NYSDEC-approved materials, with a demarcation layer (i.e., geotextile fabric, orange poly netting, or similar nondegradable visual demarcation) in all areas that are not paved or covered by concrete or structures. Areas within the trail right-of-way to be impacted by project construction included a cover system complying with the SMPs.

Q11/ Will the area containing the proposed improvements have access to utilities (water, electric) for maintenance purposes.

No. Consultants should propose landscaping options that require low maintenance.

QUESTIONS ADDED 10/4/21

Q12/ Page 2 of the RFP includes a bulleted list presenting the intent of the project; The eighth bullet reads *“Address areas which are difficult to maintain”*; Have these areas been identified and/or quantified?

The area is generally located in the eastern portion of the parcel, immediately adjacent to Route 5. The area is characterized by varying slopes of 4 – 13,' at a steep angle between the area where the trail is located and Route 5, which presents a difficult to mow section. It has not been quantified.

Additionally, the area from Route 5 to the backside of the utility pole is NYSDOT ROW.

Q13/ Page 2 of the RFP includes a bulleted list presenting the intent of the project; The eleventh bullet reads *“Create a cohesive site identity which is complimentary to the branding and marketing of the Renaissance Commerce Park, formerly the Bethlehem Steel site and Shoreline Trail”*; Are any Renaissance Commerce Park branding and marketing materials available to reference?

Yes. The 19 Ideas Branding Report will be made available to the selected Consultant.

Q14/ Page 3 of the RFP defines Task 2: Environmental Quality Review and lists a Draft Environmental Impact Statement as a deliverable, if necessary. Are consultants to submit this as an optional task in the proposed scope of services; and, should consultants provide alternate prices or conditional proposed fees (one fee including the DEIS and a separate fee for the event of a negative declaration)?

The action is expected to be classified as an unlisted action under SEQR.

Q15/ Page 3 of the RFP defines Task 3: Final Construction Drawings and Specification Documents and states, *“the Contractor or its consultant(s) shall develop final Landscape Design Plan construction drawings and specification documents and other supporting materials.”*; Can *“other supporting materials”* be more-specifically defined?

This would be dependent on the specifics of the final scope, however it should be interpreted as materials necessary for a construction contractor to properly construct or install what is designed.

Q16/ Pages 3 and 5 of the RFP both identify project stakeholders, though the representative stakeholders listed are not consistent from one page to the next (the list on Page 5 does not include NYSDEC or the Steel Plant Museum); Additionally, Page 5 of the RFP, in Section III.B. Scope of Services mentions project steering committee, and Section III.B.1.a mentions Project Advisory Committee; Are the stakeholders, project steering committee, and Project Advisory Committee all the same committee, or are their multiple committees with overlapping representatives? If separate, what representatives are included in the Project Advisory Committee? Please clarify quantity and role(s) of stakeholder, project steering, and project advisory committee(s).

The consultant is expected to work with one project steering committee (aka project advisory committee listed on page 3) to achieve the project goals identified in the RFP.

Q17/ Page 6 of the RFP includes a paragraph “c.” (continued from Section III.B.1 on previous page) that presents: “Consultant shall refine the selected alternative, develop preliminary design details, make product selection, at the level adequate to produce a preliminary opinion of probable construction costs, and recommended project implementation schedule. Based on the selected alternative, the ECIDA will conduct a public process to determine if and when the final project design and construction will be completed.” Is there a potential that final design and construction will not occur? How should consultants proceed with developing a recommended implementation schedule if the potential that final design and construction may not occur, exists?

Final design will occur following public feedback, implementation will be based on the scope and may need to be phased.

Q18/ Page 6 of the RFP includes two consecutive paragraphs defining “Phase 2 – Design Development”, which presents a “Preliminary Design Report” but also references “a set of drawings and details to a level of 30% and 90%”; and the next paragraph defining “Construction Document Preparation”, which indicates that “Consultants shall provide 30%, 60%, and 90% design documents”. Please clarify if a set of drawings to a level of 90% is to be included in the Preliminary Design Report, and, if so, if they’re duplicative of the 90% set that is to be provided in Section III.B.3.

Phase 2 design development: a preliminary design report should be produced to 30% only. Proposers should disregard the reference to “preliminary design report” to 90%.

Construction document preparation - “Consultants shall provide 30%, 60%, and 90% design documents” is correct.

Q19/ Page 6 of the RFP, in Section III.B.2, references an irrigation plan (as a required deliverable), yet page 2 of the RFP, in the bulleted list of items presenting the intent of the project, includes *“Utilize native vegetation that requires low maintenance”*. Will the project require design/incorporation of an irrigation system?

Page 6 of the RFP, in section III.B.2 reference to an irrigation plan should be deleted. An irrigation system design is not an expected deliverable.

Q20/ As presented on page 6 of the RFP, *“The site is within the NYSDEC Brownfield Clean-up Program, review of potential improvements by the NYSDEC is required.”*. Has NYSDEC assigned a Project Manager to the Brownfield Clean-up Program, and if so, can consultants be informed of who that PM is?

The specific DEC employee assigned to this project would be at the discretion of DEC.

Q21/ The RFP presents two separate listings of the anticipated approach/ scope of work. Page 3 presents a *“three-phase approach”* that includes: *“Task 1: Draft Conceptual Landscape Design Plan, Standards and Preliminary Cost Estimates”*; *“Task 2: Environmental Quality Review”*; and *“Task 3: Final Construction Drawings and Specification Documents”*; Page 5 of the RFP includes a recommended Scope of Work that includes: *“Phase 1 – Preliminary Design Report”*; *“Phase 2 – Design Development”*; *“Construction Document Preparation”*; and *“Bidding Phase Services for Landscape Construction”*. The approach and recommended Scope of Work appear to include duplicative, though not identical, efforts, with each the three-phase approach and recommended Scope of Work including items/ tasks that are not included in the respective previous or subsequent portion of the RFP (i.e. the three-phase approach includes environmental quality review [SEQR], whereas the recommended Scope of Work does not, explicitly; and the recommended Scope of Work provides greater detail for the design development and construction documents task[s] and the Bidding Phase Services for Landscape Construction task, whereas the three-phased approach does not). Can the anticipated scope of work be further clarified?

The items listed under B. scope of services on pages page 5 - 6 should be considered tasks for price proposal.

Q22/ Does the ECIDA anticipate requiring or requesting construction administration and/or construction inspection services, or will the consultant’s responsibilities conclude upon completion of the Bidding Phase Services for Landscape Construction task?

The contract associated with this RFP is for Design/Predevelopment only.

Q23/ Is there an anticipated design budget that can be shared at this time?

The budget range is between \$100,000 to \$120,000.

Q24/ Is there an anticipated construction budget that can be shared at this time?

No

Q25/ Is the *Shoreline Trail Enhancement Project – Designing Landscaping & Historical Monuments/Amenities* intended to be a continuation of the recent efforts of designing and implementing the Shoreline Trail from the limits of the City of Buffalo to Madison Avenue in the City of Lackawanna? Are there any “lessons-learned” garnered from these recent efforts that can be shared with consultants developing proposals?

The proposed improvements will enhance/improve the recently constructed Shoreline Trail along the former Bethlehem Steel site and influence improvements along future trail sections from Dona Street to Woodlawn Beach State Park. The proposer should be mindful of the additional work required to site monuments/ landscaping on a Brownfield Cleanup parcel.