

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

AGENDA ITEM 8

From: Staff

Date: September 16, 2016 Council Meeting

Subject: Chain of Lakes Blueway Trail Project Consultant Agreement

Introduction

The purpose of this item is to request Council approval to execute a new contract for professional engineering and related services for the Chain of Lakes Blueway Trail project. Funding for this work is pursuant to a grant from the Department of Economic Opportunity, which requires all work to be completed by June 30, 2017.

Overview and Analysis

For the past several years, Council has been assisting the Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Palm Beach County local governments with the planning and design of a boat lift at the C-51 Canal to enable access for vessels between the “Chain of Lakes” and the Lake Worth Lagoon. The project location map (Exhibit 1) and concept sketch (Exhibit 2) are attached. The C-51 Canal lies on the border of the cities of West Palm Beach and Lake Worth, and the Chain of Lakes includes a series of inland lakes in central Palm Beach County (e.g., Lakes Ida, Eden, Osborne, Clarke, and Pine Lake), all of which are connected by waterways and canals. Within the C-51 Canal, a saltwater control structure, installed in the 1970s, currently prevents boating access between the two waterways. A preliminary analysis completed by Council on behalf of the MPO in 2015 concluded a boat lift to move motorized and non-motorized vessels around the control structure was a feasible method to reintroduce access between the two waterways. This improvement would expand mobility, improve recreational and fishing opportunities, and provide economic enhancement in the area.

In the past legislative session, the State of Florida appropriated \$286,900 to Council through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for engineering tasks related to advancing the project, including selection of a qualified engineering firm through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process; and preliminary engineering, surveys, data collection, and project design appropriate to ultimately support a permit application for the project once additional funding is identified. All work must be completed by June 30, 2017. Staff developed an RFQ for engineering services with the assistance of Council’s attorney. The RFQ was issued on August

1, 2016 and was listed in a variety of newspapers and websites (Exhibit 3). The RFQ called for applications to be submitted by 2:00 PM on August 22, 2016. Council received a total of six responses to the RFQ.

An RFQ Selection Committee was established with representatives from the City of Lake Worth, Palm Beach County, Town of Lake Clarke Shores, Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County, and West Palm Beach Fishing Club. With assistance from staff, the Committee met on August 29, 2016 to review the applications and rank the applicants based on their relevant experience, personnel qualifications, project approach, and team resources. The Committee is scheduled to meet again on September 12, 2016 to hear presentations from the three top-ranked applicants and provide a final ranking of firms. Committee members are planning to ask each of the candidates a standardized set of interview questions, further review the applicants' submittal packages, and provide final numerical scores for each applicant. The scores will be tabulated to provide a final ranking of applicants, with a recommendation to execute a contract with the top-ranked firm.

Conclusion

Improving access within regional waterways will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the transportation network, expand ecotourism potential, and enhance opportunities for economic development and quality of life. The Chain of Lakes Blueway Trail project and boat lift concept for the C-51 Canal could serve as a model to enhance connectivity in other locations within the region and across the state.

Recommendation

Council should authorize the Executive Director, in consultation with Council's attorney, to execute a contract with the top-ranked engineering firm on behalf of Council.

Attachments

EXHIBIT 1 PROJECT LOCATION MAP

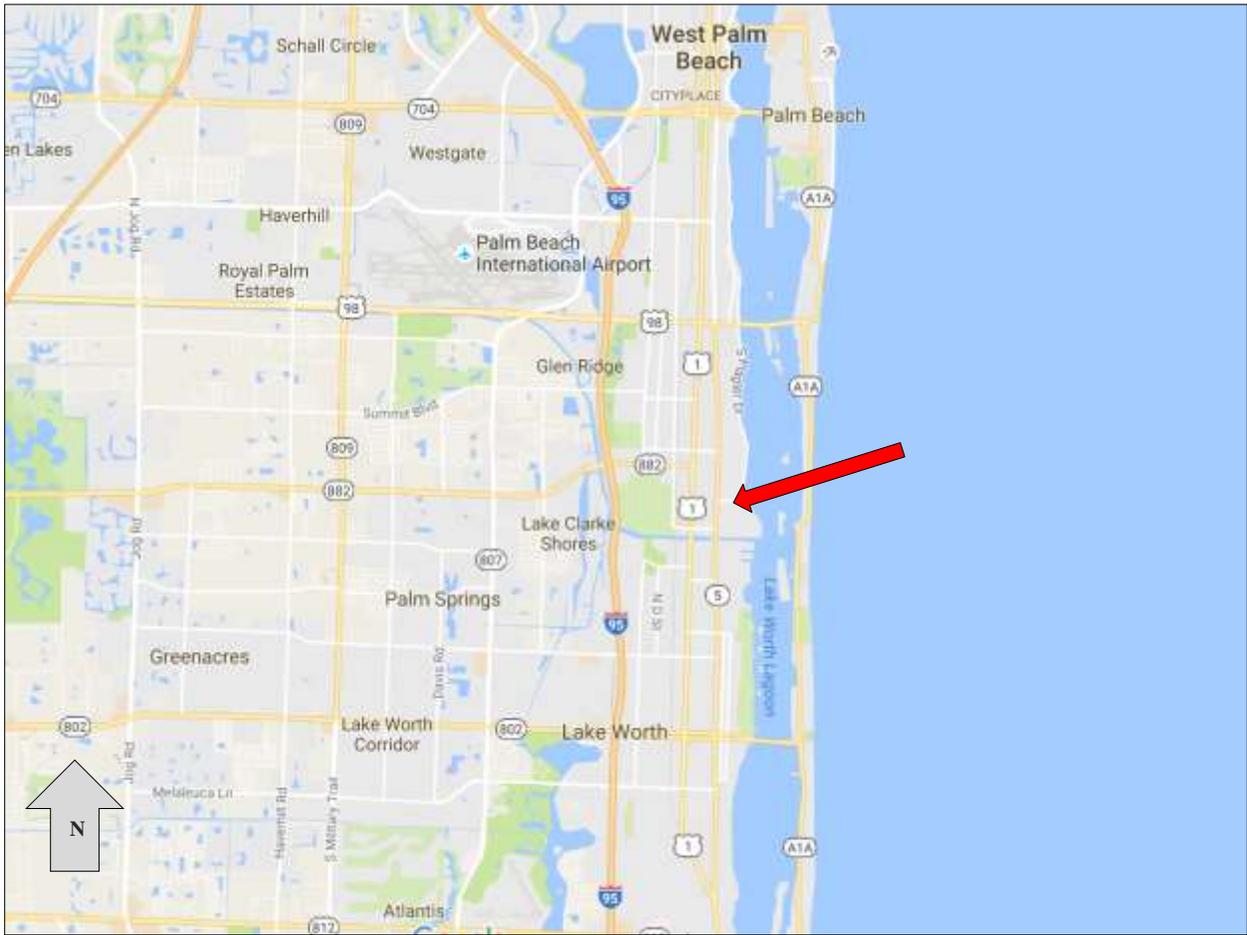


EXHIBIT 2 PROJECT CONCEPT SKETCH

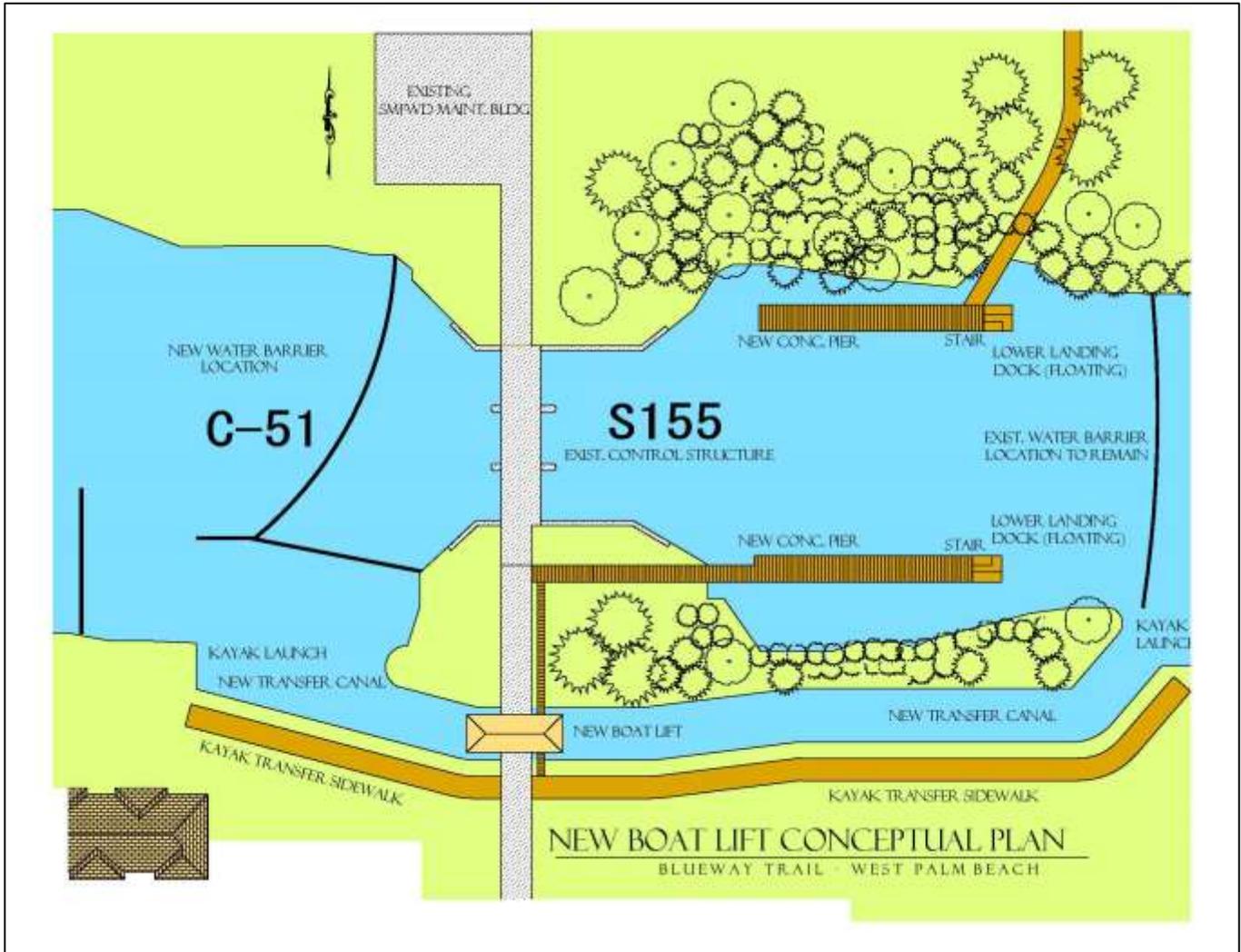


EXHIBIT 3 REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES

Notice is hereby given by Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council ("TCRPC") in accordance with section 287.055 of the Florida Statutes, of its decision to publish a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for professional engineering services related to the Chain of Lakes Blueway Trail Project.

The project scope of work can generally be described as the production of draft design and engineering documents sufficient to address the requirements of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit application checklist for a boat lift, fishing piers and non-motorized boat facilities along the C51 Canal near the S155 water control structure commonly referred to as the Chain of Lakes Blueway Trail Project. The work may include, as necessary for preliminary design and permitting: surveying; geotechnical analysis; hydraulic analysis; channel scour study; civil design; structural design; preliminary environmental review; and appropriate illustrations, exhibits and support materials. The scope of services expected from the Proposers does not include preparation and submittal of a permit application to the permitting agencies.

Deadline for written questions related to the RFQ is 2:00 pm August 12, 2016. Due date for submitting an RFQ proposal is 2:00 pm August 22, 2016. Copies of the RFQ can be obtained from:

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Addendum to Agenda Item 8

DRAFT
Subject to Modifications

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Additional Information

The Request for Qualification Selection (RFQ) Committee met on September 12, 2016 to hear presentations from the three top-ranked firms. Based on the selection criteria in the RFQ, the selection committee provided a final ranking for respondents to the RFQ as follows:

RESPONDENT NAME	FINAL RANKING
Taylor Engineering	1 st
Keith & Schnars	2 nd
Calvin Giordano	3 rd