



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
For Consultant Services**

**Berkley Riverfront Connectivity
Study**

Planning Sustainable Places Program

**Requested by
The Mid-America Regional Council**

October 3, 2022

Table of Contents

A. Purpose and Introduction.....	3
B. Creating Sustainable Places Initiative.....	3
C. Project Background	4
D. Scope of Services.....	4
E. Study Schedule	5
F. Proposal Submittal Requirements	6
G. Selection Procedure	8
H. Proposal Evaluation Criteria	9
I. Pre-proposal Meeting and Question Submittal.....	9
J. Contract Award	10
K. Project Budget	10
L. Period of Performance	10
Attachment A Summary of Attachments	11
Attachment B Affirmative Action Checklist.....	12
Attachment C Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion.....	13
Attachment D Certification Regarding Lobbying	14

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

A. PURPOSE AND INTRODUCTION

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) seeks consulting services to complete the Berkley Riverfront Connectivity Study for Port KC.

The PSP Program provides local governments with financial support to advance detailed local planning and project development activities in support of *Creating Sustainable Places, Connected KC 2050's* Activity Centers and Corridors framework, and the Mid-America Regional Council's adopted policy statement on regional land use direction. The subject project is one of 15 across the region chosen for funding through the Planning Sustainable Places Program.

B. CREATING SUSTAINABLE PLACES INITIATIVE

In October 2010, a consortium of more than 60 regional partners, led by the Mid-America Regional Council, received a \$4.25 million planning grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to advance the implementation of the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development, [Creating Sustainable Places](#).

Creating Sustainable Places is not only a regional vision and plan to guide how we grow and develop, but a strategy for moving our communities from planning to action. This strategy includes the following steps:

- Organizing for Success – Building on the region's strong track record of collaboration to provide leadership, coordinate outreach and education activities, broaden public understanding of and involvement in sustainability issues, and strengthen stakeholder capacity to address them.
- Enhancing Decision Making – Developing new tools, policies, and practices necessary to make sound investments and accelerate sustainable development.
- Demonstrating New Models – Applying these new tools to key corridors and activity centers through demonstration projects that can help transform the ways neighborhoods and communities grow and develop.

The 2013 Planning Sustainable Places Program (PSP) combined funds dedicated to the demonstration projects component of Creating Sustainable Places and the Livable Communities Surface Transportation/Bridge Program awards to provide local governments with financial support to advance detailed local planning and project development activities. The program received 37 applications and funded 18 projects.

The 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021 Planning Sustainable Places Programs (PSP) were funded solely through the Livable Communities Surface Transportation Program and thus funding was only available to jurisdictions and other government entities within the eight county MARC metropolitan planning organization boundary. In 2015, the program received 27 applications and funded 13 projects. In 2017, the program received 36 applications and funded 25 projects. In 2019, the program received 24 applications and funded 12 projects. In 2021, the program received 30 applications and funded 14 projects.

The Creating Sustainable Places Initiative and the region's long-range plan, *Connected KC 2050 (CKC 2050)* outline a need to focus efforts on promoting concepts consistent with

sustainable communities and place a focus on advancing site specific and project specific activities in support of these objectives. Projects awarded funding will be consistent with those goals.

The 2023 Planning Sustainable Places program will continue to serve as a single local government assistance program intended to specifically respond to these goals and facilitate the following objectives:

Program Objectives:

- Support the development and implementation of local activity center plans consistent with Creating Sustainable Places principles, identified regional activity centers, and the land use policy direction outlined in *Connected KC 2050*.
- Support localized public engagement and community consensus building.
- Support the identification and conceptualization of land use strategies, transportation projects, and related sustainable development initiatives that help to realize and advance the objectives identified in the Creating Sustainable Places initiative, *Connected KC 2050*, and the MARC Board's adopted policy statement on regional land use direction.
- Support the conceptualization, development, and implementation of Creating Sustainable Places projects.

Additional information about the [Planning Sustainable Places](#) program and the [Creating Sustainable Places](#) initiative can be found on the MARC website, www.marc.org.

The focus of this request for proposals (RFP) is to create a Sustainable Places Plan that addresses the following key priorities for Port KC:

- **Develop location and conceptual plans for grade-separated crossings of railroad tracks from Berkley Riverfront to Columbus Park for people walking or using active transportation**
- **Identify scenarios for future active transportation strategies against current and future conditions**
- **Robust engagement of stakeholders to build consensus and achieve the priorities above**

C. PROJECT BACKGROUND

Once a landfill for construction debris and the former site of a sand and gravel company, the Berkley Riverfront is now a lively green connection between Kansas City and the Missouri River. It is host to numerous cultural events and natural amenities. Additionally, it is the site of the future KC Current Stadium, Riverfront Streetcar expansion, and future residential and commercial expansion. However, barriers such as the BNSF, Union Pacific, and Kansas City Southern railroads; I-35; the Heart of America Bridge, and topography make accessibility by active transportation difficult.

The Port KC Berkley Riverfront Connectivity Study will identify strategies to create high-

quality connections between the Riverfront and its adjacent neighborhoods: Columbus Park, the River Market, East Bottoms, and Pendleton Heights. The study's recommendations should include location and conceptual plans for grade-separated crossings of railroad tracks for people walking or using active transportation as well as land use, development, and curb management strategies to support dynamic, walkable neighborhoods.

D. SCOPE OF SERVICES

Public Engagement

Robust public engagement is an essential element of the Plan. An equitable public engagement process is required to meet the needs of Port KC and the requirements of the Planning Sustainable Places program. Engaging with all the area's residents, employees, and visitors is a key priority of this study to understand needs and demands for improved connections and to ensure that improvements proposed by the plan will be well-used and contribute to neighborhood vibrancy. The study anticipates several methods of engaging with the community, including:

- **Advisory Committee** – This committee will consist of key stakeholders, residents, and area businesses. The committee will prioritize recommendations and refine engagement methods to reach all area residents and other key voices.
- **Walking Audit** – This will provide an opportunity to educate key stakeholders on barriers to connectivity and identify key destinations and routes in the study area.
- **Interactive Mapping** – In-person events are preferred for two-way engagement opportunities, but a virtual forum is necessary for stakeholders who cannot attend in person. Interactive mapping will be used to gather online comments and provide a forum for virtual engagement.
- **Pop-Up Events** – These events along the Riverfront will engage with visitors to the area and provide and attract those who may not otherwise engage with the study.

Guinotte Manor is an affordable housing community owned and operated by the Housing Authority in the Columbus Park neighborhood. Engagement with the residents of Guinotte Manor is vital to the success of this study, which should provide recommendations for improved connections to opportunities and transit. The Housing Authority will provide use of the Guinotte Manor community room for hosting community meetings to ensure that Guinotte Manor residents are able to easily participate in the study.

Deliverables: public engagement plan, meeting preparation and materials for the advisory committee, walking audit materials and summary, interactive map, materials for pop-up events.

Infrastructure Planning

The Berkley Riverfront Connectivity Study will provide detailed planning and coordination to identify strategies for removal of barriers and to create high-quality connections between the Riverfront and its adjacent neighborhoods: Columbus Park, the River Market, East Bottoms, and Pendleton Heights. Consideration should be given to future developments such as the new KC Current Stadium, planned commercial and residential developments, and the KC Streetcar expansion when developing scenarios for future strategies. Key elements of this plan include:

- Analyzing origin/destination data for bicycle and pedestrian traffic in the area and route choice study of current active transportation users;
- Building scenarios of future active transportation strategies against current and future conditions;
- Developing location and conceptual plans for grade-separated crossings of railroad tracks for people walking or using active transportation; and
- Recommending improved connections to Columbus Park, the River Market, East Bottoms, and Pendleton Heights as well as land use, development, and curb management strategies to support dynamic, walkable neighborhoods.

Deliverables: origin/destination data, route choice study, scenario plans, conceptual plans, project recommendation list.

Berkley Riverfront Connectivity Study

The final deliverable will be a comprehensive connectivity study for the Berkley Riverfront. This study should utilize public engagement and planning strategies to make recommendations for future connections between the Riverfront and surrounding neighborhoods.

Deliverables: final connectivity study, presentation of the final connectivity study to the Port KC Board of Commissioners.

E. STUDY SCHEDULE

Milestone	Date
RFP Released	October 3, 2022
Pre-Bid Workshop	October 12, 2022, 3 pm CDT
Proposals Due	October 28, 2022, 3 pm CDT
Review of Proposals	October 31 – November 9, 2022
Interviews	Week of November 28, 2022
Negotiate Scope	December 5 – 9, 2022
MARC Board Authorization	December 20, 2022
Execute Contract	December 21, 2022 – January 4, 2023
Notice to Proceed	Within two weeks after receipt of signed contract

F. PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for consideration, **one electronic** copy of the response to the RFP must be received by the Mid-America Regional Council no later than 3:00 pm CDT, on **October 28, 2022**. Late submittals will not be considered and will be returned to submitter unopened. The font should not be smaller than 12 point. Covers, cover letter (single page max) and table of contents are not included in the 6-page limit. Further details regarding page counts follow:

Item	Page Requirements
1. Proposed Project Approach	Six single letter sized pages total for items 1 and 2. Two to three pages of the six must detail the public engagement process.
2. Proposed Public Engagement Strategies	
3. Qualifications	Item 3 not included in the page count for items

	1 and 2. Three single sided pages or their equivalent max for narrative of qualifications. Three additional single pages total for resumes. Listing of relevant work within last 5 years not to exceed three pages.
4. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal	Not included in proposal page count.
5. Affirmative Action Checklist	Not included in proposal page count.
6. Certificate Regarding Debarment	Not included in proposal page count.

If mailing a flash drive or CD/DVD, the envelope should be addressed to:

Mid-America Regional Council
Attn: Beth Dawson
600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, MO 64105
Fax: 816-421-7758

If emailing your submission, please email to Taylor Cunningham at tcunningham@marc.org and Beth Dawson at bdawson@marc.org. If you email the file, it is your responsibility to ensure that the proposal has been received and not blocked by a spam filter or rejected due to file size. To confirm receipt of the file, contact Beth Dawson at bdawson@marc.org or 816.701.8325, and Taylor Cunningham at tcunningham@marc.org or 816.701.8228 prior to 3:00 pm CDT, on **Friday, October 28, 2022.**

Questions should be directed to Beth Dawson at bdawson@marc.org and 816-701-8325 or Taylor Cunningham at tcunningham@marc.org or 816.701.8228. DO NOT CONTACT PORT KC REGARDING THIS REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS, YOU WILL BE DIRECTED TO BETH DAWSON AND TAYLOR CUNNINGHAM.

All questions must be received by noon CDT on October 19, 2022. All questions will be posted to a Question and Answer page on the MARC website by close of business on October 21, 2022. A link to that page will be posted on the RFP page, <https://www.marc.org/about-marc/funding-and-rfps>.

The following items must be addressed in all proposals:

1. **PROPOSED PROJECT APPROACH:** Responses should include a proposed approach to the project that includes the proposer's understanding of the project's objectives and local context, tentative schedule for project completion, a description of your approach to each of the tasks listed in Section D, description of all project deliverables and tentative public engagement process. Please provide your staff capacity for meeting the project requirements. Identify the key team members who are likely to be assigned to this contract if your proposal is selected along with a description of their roles and responsibilities. State approximate date your business/firm is available to begin work on the Project. Provide a list of subcontractors to be included on the consultant team, along with a brief description of their qualifications and services they are likely to perform.
2. **PROPOSED PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES:** Responses should include a proposed approach to public outreach and engagement including process, meetings, tools, and techniques to be utilized for engaging the community and key stakeholders in

this project.

3. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Proposals should indicate general and specific qualifications of the proposer in disciplines appropriate to this project and specifically convey the role of the proposer in each case cited. An emphasis and priority in evaluation will be placed on firms with qualifications and experience that have resulted in successful implementation of comparable projects. A brief narrative (three pages maximum) may also be included regarding the firm's capabilities to carry out this project, including special assets, areas of expertise, analytical tools, data sources, etc. to which the firm may have access.

Proposals shall also include:

- a. A listing and summary of similar projects undertaken within the last five (5) years, by proposing firm and/or its subcontractors, showing contract amounts, description of work performed, client contact persons, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses (3 single pages maximum);
 - b. Resumes of key professional staff who will be assigned to this project (3 single pages maximum);
 - c. Description of the existing and anticipated workload of individuals assigned to this project during the period of this study. Any reassignment of designated key staff shall not occur without mutual consultation and the consent of the Mid-America Regional Council and Port KC.
 - d. References. (3 – 4 including contact name, phone number and email address)
4. **DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) GOAL:** Studies funded in part by USDOT are required to follow 49 CFR part 26 Disadvantage Business Enterprise Program (DBE). The proposed study has a minimum DBE goal of 22%. Required attachment for consultant acting as DBE.
 5. **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION CHECKLIST:** If applicable, proposers must complete and enclose with their proposal company's Affirmative Action Plan (see Attachment B Affirmative Action Checklist). Required for all contractors, primary or sub, who have 50 or more employees. If you have 49 or less employees, then please note this requirement doesn't apply to your firm.
 6. **CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT:** Each proposer is required to certify by signing the "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion" (Attachment C). "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion" is a certification that the proposer is not on the U.S. Comptroller General's Consolidated Lists of Persons or Firms Currently Debarred for Violations of Various Contracts Incorporating Labor Standards Provisions. Required of primary only.
 7. **CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING:** See Attachment D. Required for primary only.

G. SELECTION PROCEDURE

The review committee shall adhere, as closely as possible, to the following review schedule. The sponsor reserves the sole right to change this review schedule to meet the needs of the review committee.

Milestone	Date
RFP Released	October 3, 2022
Pre-Bid Workshop	October 12, 2022, 3 pm CDT
Proposals Due	October 28, 2022, 3 pm CDT
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MARC Board Authorization	December 20, 2022
Execute Contract	December 21, 2022 – January 4, 2023
Notice to Proceed	Within two weeks after receipt of signed contract

Review will be conducted by a committee made up of representatives from Mid-America Regional Council and representatives selected by Port KC. Interviews will take place with short-listed firms.

H. PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

The proposals submitted by each Contractor, Firm, or Contractor Team, will be evaluated by the selection committee according to the following criteria:

- Experience and availability of key personnel [20%];
- Experience on similar projects [15%];
- Approach to community engagement [20%];
- Project understanding [15%];
- Project approach and solutions to critical issues [15%];
- Ability to accomplish project within desired timeframe [15%].

I. PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING AND QUESTION SUBMITTAL

MARC will host a hybrid pre-proposal meeting for all interested consultant teams to ask questions and gain clarity around any elements or requirements of this RFP.

When: Wednesday, October 12, 2022, at 3 pm
Where: Mid America Regional Council, Board Room
600 Broadway, Ste. 200
Kansas City, Mo. 64105

To attend the meeting virtually, please register via:

<https://www.marc.org/event/planning-sustainable-places-project-rfp-workshop>

All questions/requests for clarifications must be submitted in writing to MARC by October 19, 2022, at noon CST.

Please submit questions in writing to **Beth Dawson** at bdawson@marc.org and **Taylor Cunningham** at tcunningham@marc.org.

MARC will post all questions, answers, and clarifications to <https://www.marc.org/about-marc/funding-and-rfps>.

J. CONTRACT AWARD

From the firms expressing interest, a committee will review the submittals and rank the firms. Short listed firms will be notified to schedule an interview.

The remaining firms will be notified by letter after the agreement is approved by the Board.

Awarding of the final contract is subject to the acceptance of the grant by the MARC Board and a signed funding agreement between Port KC and MARC.

K. PROJECT BUDGET

The award of this contract will be based on a **qualifications-based selection process** that may include in-person interviews followed by the successful negotiation of costs and fees. The selected firm should be prepared to provide cost and fee information within two days of their notification of selection for negotiation. If Port KC cannot come to an agreement with the first-choice firm on costs and fees, then Port KC may choose to terminate those negotiations and begin negotiations with the second firm on the scoring list or terminate all negotiations and issue another RFP for these services at a later date. The budget maximum is \$185,000.

L. PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: End date of October 31, 2023

Both the project budget and the period of performance are subject to change based on the availability of funds or other unforeseen events or activities.

ATTACHMENT A
SUMMARY OF ATTACHMENTS

1. Complete the AFFIRMATIVE ACTION CHECKLIST Attachment B.
2. Complete the CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING Attachment C.
3. Complete the CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY, AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION Attachment D.

ATTACHMENT B

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION CHECKLIST

Federal regulations require that any firm of 50 or more employees soliciting an assisted federally funded contract must have an affirmative action program. If applicable, please provide a brief response to the following items that would typically be covered in any such program. You may provide a copy of your program and reference appropriate pages.

1. Date plan was adopted
2. Name of Affirmative Action Officer
3. Statement of commitment to affirmative action by the chief executive officer
4. Designation of an affirmative action officer, of assignment of specific responsibilities and to whom the officer reports.
5. Outreach recruitment
6. Job analysis and restructuring to meet affirmative action goals
7. Validation and revision of examinations, educational requirements, and any other screening requirements.
8. Upgrading and training programs
9. Internal complaint procedure
10. Initiating and insuring supervisory compliance with affirmative action program
11. Survey and analysis of entire staff by department and job classification and progress report system
12. Recruitment and promotion plans (including goals and time tables)

ATTACHMENT C

CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION

This Certification is required by the regulation implementing Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, 29 CFR Part 98 Section 98.510, Participants' responsibilities. The Regulations are published as Part II of the June 1985, Federal Register (pages 33, 036-33, 043)

Read instructions for Certification below prior to completing this certification.

1. The prospective proposer certifies, by submission of this proposal that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participating in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.
2. Where the prospective proposer is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective proposer shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Date Signed – Authorized Representative

Title of Authorized Representative

Instructions for Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion:

1. By signing and submitting this agreement, the proposer is providing the certification as set below.
2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the proposer knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department, or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

ATTACHMENT D

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersign, to any person influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of a federal agency, Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for attempting to influence an officer or employee of any federal agency, Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal or Federally assisted contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form – LLL, “Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,” in accordance with its instructions.

. The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents of all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grant, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 32, US Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

(Name of Entity)

(Name and Title of Authorized Official)

(Signature of above Official)

(Date)