

Questions Regarding Willamette River Bridge Design Enhancement RFS

=== Questions Asked Before the Pre-Proposal Meeting ===

Q: Is the mandatory pre-proposal meeting really mandatory?

A: Yes, but only if you intend to submit as a Lead. If you can't attend, you can send a representative and this representative needn't be a partner or employee. The meeting serves three functions: (1) Gauge interest in this project, (2) Explain some of the ways this project will be different than most, and (3) provide an opportunity for networking and team-building between respondents. If you do not intend to submit as a Lead, you needn't attend the meeting. All registered RFS holders will receive the list of attendees from the pre-proposal meeting by 5:00 that Tuesday afternoon, complete with contact information. Again, this is to facilitate team-building and networking between disciplines.

Q: How local does a submitting ADT need to be?

A: The Selection Criteria makes reference to Oregon companies or individuals. This is in reference to the Lead; not to every member of the team. Specifically, the jurors will want to know how the proposer will accommodate face-to-face meetings that will be necessary from time to time, often without lots of advance warning. Local is important, but most of its importance derives from the high level of collaboration that will be required throughout the design process.

Q: If we don't intend to submit as a Lead, will there be any advantage to attending the pre-proposal meeting?

A: Maybe. We're making every effort to not penalize those who are unable to attend by distributing networking information within hours of the meeting. But the face-to-face contact with other respondents at the meeting may be valuable to you.

=== Questions Asked During the Pre-Proposal Meeting ===

Q: Civil and structural engineering will be provided by OBEC's design team, correct?

A: Mostly. If you design a sculpture, you'll have to do the necessary engineering for the structure itself, but the OBEC team will handle the engineering necessary for installing it. You will also be responsible for construction plans and working drawings, but those drawings won't have to meet all ODOT specs. Auto-CAD will suffice in most cases.

Q: You're asking us to focus on the enhancements more than the elements?

A: Correct. The elements are often prescribed by ODOT with very little room to improvise. But we can add to what ODOT requires. Railings or protective fencing are two good examples. As long as the safety requirements are met, ODOT's concerns can be reduced to how portions can be quickly and easily replaced after a crash.

Q: It looks like Phase 2 will require very close collaboration between the ADT and OBEC staff. Is that true?

Very true. And there's more. Stakeholder input is very important at every stage. Nobody will succeed in this project by going off and designing something and then unveiling it. Stakeholders have different expectations. For example, our OBEC team has been meeting every month with representatives from the parks, regarding the north bank and the Whilamut Natural Area. As a result, that bundle is further along on stakeholder input and has less budget for design. The documentation of those meetings will be available to the ADTs as it becomes relevant. Bundle 2 on the south side is less far along.

Q: At this point, you're not asking for designs. You're just measuring qualifications, right? You're collecting resumes.

A: We're looking for a little more than simply a resume. We're hoping respondents will show us a little bit of their attitude toward collaboration, and toward this project in particular, as well as an expression of their approach

Q: The fees don't seem to include site inspections, especially if it's a licensed architect who will stamp plans and the project may stretch into 2012.

A: You're right. If the final approved design requires regular site inspections, we'll re-examine and amend the fee structure to accommodate that need.

Q: ODOT has so many standards. Will they be more flexible than they have been in the past?

A: Yes. They have demonstrated an unusual level of flexibility in a wide range of conversations. This whole process of which you're now contemplating becoming a part is new territory for ODOT. They have encouraged it. The lack of flexibility you're likely to encounter is from the cities and ODOT with regard to maintenance. Since some areas are prone to vandalism and maintenance budgets are stretched already, low- or no-maintenance enhancements will be most attractive.

Q: Will OBEC also provide electrical engineering?

A: Yes.

Q: I'm a blacksmith. What about welding a railing?

A: Railings for areas under the bridges such as Canoe Canal and the south bank path can be ornamental and are not completely decided yet. Railings on the bridges must be crash-tested to gain ODOT safety approval. A likely scenario for bridge railing will be to use one of the two approved ODOT railing systems and then enhance it. Protective fencing is required over the UPRR tracks and it is open to design enhancement as well.

Q: I'm an Interpretive Planner. I'm wondering how the bundles will relate to one another?

A: This is something we've thought and talked about a lot. The prime role for the Design Enhancement Panel is to "protect the whole" and make sure each bundle design is fitting into that whole. There has been talk about doing a mini-charrette with all the ADTs together very early in the process. But you can see that everything is very compressed, time-wise. You should also know that we're always just a step or two ahead in our planning. This whole process is very new.

Q: Are you assuming a licensed architect or landscape architect will be chosen as each bundle's Lead?

A: No. We've chosen not to prescribe what discipline will make the best Lead.

Q: Will you assign artists to teams?

A: We talked about it, but decided we would facilitate those connections, but not engineer the outcomes. We discussed having a "speed-dating" opportunity here for that sort of networking, and you're free to hang around afterwards to do that. In the end, we chose to keep it as open as possible. We will also distribute the list of attendees from this meeting by end of the day.

Q: I'm interested in habitat restoration. Has that been considered?

A: Yes, very much so. So much, in fact, that a good bit of that work has already been done. It was necessary for permitting and other regulation-related reasons. We have a hand-out today that sums up the land-use constraints in each area. You'll also see plenty of that sort of information in the 11x17 matrix that was appended to the RFS. Please understand that matrix is a living document. It's gone through countless changes.

Q: Will OBEC be requiring commercial-grade liability insurance from each Lead?

A: Yes, but the levels of coverage will not be as robust as the one we provided as an appendix. I can't tell you right now how low those levels will be, but our intent is for that to not be the barrier that keeps good respondents away.

Q: Are you expecting architects or landscape architects to have their own artist on staff?

A: Collaboration will be a central value in the selection process and also throughout the project. A Lead who doesn't want to add somebody new to their team isn't likely to succeed.

Q: Can artists who are not here also network with possible Leads?

A: Absolutely. That's what we hope to see.

Q: The Selection Criteria mentions Oregon firms or individuals. Can you add somebody from out of state to your team?

A: Yes. The important gauge we'll use is how you'll handle the need for a face-to-face meeting without much advance warning.

Q: Looking at the Scope of Work, I'm wondering about the difference between an artist and an artisan. An artist would probably design their art in their studio and deliver it, but an artisan may end up working alongside the bridge contractor.

A: You're right. Those are two very different scenarios, and we didn't want to assume which would be best in this instance. It's another indicator of how fluid this process is and will continue to be. Here's a third scenario that falls between those two. An artist

might design a form-liner for concrete. The artist designed the mold, but the contractors are the ones pouring the concrete into it.

Q: How do we know which members to put on our team without knowing the design yet?

A: That's tricky, isn't it? You'll have to anticipate needs and what will be attractive to the Design Enhancement Panel and the key stakeholders. Again, this shows how fluid the whole process has been. It may even become necessary to add an artist later, or some other key discipline. As a design concept emerges, it might reveal a need for a skill you didn't anticipate. If that happens, we'll all adapt and add the missing skill to the team.

Q: Will you identify the artists for us on the RFS holders list, so we can better network with teams as they form?

A: Yes, we will try to do that.

Q: Is a budget for implementation set?

A: Overall budgets for the three bundles are listed in the matrix. The design process will help us get more specific about the amount for each element within the bundles.

=== Questions Asked Since the Pre-Proposal Meeting ===

Q: We have the link to the Design Workshop Summary Report. Can we also receive the full documentation, including Part 2?

A: Yes, it's a large document. About an inch thick on paper, 65 MB in PDF format. We can mail you a CD, you can pick it up locally (call Don Kahle at 424-2424 to make arrangements), or you can download it from an LCOG FTP site. Here's the link:
<ftp://ftp.lcog.org/Outgoing/ODOT/Charrette%20Process%20FINAL%20072709.pdf>

Q: I don't plan to be a Lead. Can I join multiple teams?

A: Yes. The jurors have chosen not to manage this aspect, though you may want to be sure each Lead you partner with understands that you are joining multiple teams. Some Leads may prefer that not to be the case, but we'll leave that for you and them to negotiate between yourselves.