Request For Proposals
Atlanta Regional Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO)
Plan and Regional ITS Architecture Update

Questions and Answers

1. Subtask 1.2 states that the consultant should be prepared to hold in-person, online, and hybrid meetings. What proportion or number of meetings does ARC anticipate being held in person with the TAC, TSMO Subcommittee, or other public and private sector entities engaged under Task 2 (Stakeholder Engagement)

A.   TCC, TAQC, and Board meetings will be held in-person. The method for other meetings will be determined with the selected consultant team when the contract is finalized.

2. On page 12 (Task 4, second paragraph), the second sentence states: "This should include explanation as to what makes any given case study demonstrably successful or unsuccessful." What does "case study" refer to? The term is not identified elsewhere in the RFP as a deliverable or existing resource.

A.   Case study refers to examples culled from the external peer review.

3. Task 4 calls for an assessment of progress in areas specified in the 2016 ARC CMM. Is the consultant expected to use its own judgment in making this assessment, or is a CMM reassessment with stakeholder input expected?

A.   ARC doesn't expect a reassessment. The consultant is expected to make an evidenced based judgement using collected data. Stakeholder input may be collected and applied as deemed appropriate.

4. Can ARC provide or reference the specific minimum accessibility standards mentioned in Tasks 2 and 7? Does ARC have branding, accessibility, or digital publication standards beyond ADA compliance that must be adhered to?

A.   ARC can supply branding and publication guidance to the selected consultant. ADA guidance on accessibility is available here: Fact Sheet: New Rule on the Accessibility of Web Content and Mobile Apps Provided by State and Local Governments | ADA.gov

5. To which deliverables do the minimum accessibility standards apply?

A.   "PDF files of all public documents should meet or exceed minimum accessibility standards."

6. Does ARC possess a copy of the electronic database (RAD-IT) used to develop the most recent version of the Regional ITS Architecture? If so, will this file be made available to the selected consultant? Is the database (RAD-IT or other) used to develop the regional ITS architecture available?

A.	No, ARC does not have an electronic database for RAD-IT.

7. How does ARC envision the updated TSMO Plan influencing funding decisions within future TIP cycles?

A.	ARC would like funding policy guidance based on best practices.

8. Is ARC seeking incremental refinement of the 2020 Plan, or is there openness to a more transformative restructuring of regional TSMO governance and program delivery?

A.	ARC seeks the new plan to be guided by researched information and appropriate best practices and is open to new approaches.

9. Does ARC have updated regional performance data (e.g., safety, reliability, emissions) that should be used to refresh the TSMO business case, or should the consultant develop updated performance baselines?

A.	Consultant will be expected to draw on available data to update TSMO business case.

10. Page 2, page limit: Do certification forms count towards 30 page max? Or perhaps, 'end sheets' refers to the certification forms?

A.	Certification forms do NOT count against the 30-page maximum.

11. Regional ITS Architecture Components, 2. Inventory: Please confirm that ARC's intention is to have an inventory of projects (not elements) as part of the geospatial interface.

A.	ARC's intention is an inventory of projects, not elements.

12. Example Consultant Agreement, page 9 of 13, 30. Certification: Does this contract have a stated DBE goal to meet under this effort? What is the most recent ARC DBE Utilization Plan and where can we find the form?

A.   There is no required DBE goal for this contract. DBE Utilization Plan is not required

13. Example Consultant Agreement, page 9 of 13, 30. Certification: What is the most recent ARC DBE Utilization Plan and where can we find the form?

A.   DBE Utilization Plan is not required

14. There is a broken link on the ITS architecture website (Resources > ITS Architecture). Where was this link supposed to go?

A.   ARC is updating the website, here are two links (for ITS Architecture, ITS Resources):
Architecture Reference for Cooperative and Intelligent Transportation
ITS Architecture and Standards | ITS Joint Program Office

15. The consultant shall include a geospatial interface for the inventory of projects on the architecture website. (Task 3.1, pg. 11) Please further define the geospatial interface. What is ARC's vision for the geospatial interface?

A.   "Geospatial interface" refers to a web-based user interface to visualize the inventory spatially and should be guided by best practices and accessible through the ITS Architecture website.

18. Are biweekly PMT meetings expected to be in-person, virtual, or hybrid?

A.   PMT meetings will primarily be held virtually, although the kickoff meeting will be held in person.

19. Does ARC have target participation metrics for surveys or engagement events?

A.   Consultant is expected to follow best practices. Details will be discussed with the selected consultant team.

20. Will ARC require presentation materials for Board adoption meetings?

A.   Yes

21. Is the contract anticipated to be lump sum or cost-plus-fixed-fee?

A.   Contract will be a Firm-Fixed price

22. Are DBE participation goals established for this contract?

A.   There is no required DBE goal for this contract. DBE Utilization Plan is not required

23. Since this is described as a third generation TSMO document, how does ARC define success for this update beyond compliance with federal architecture requirements?

A.   The consultant may propose measures of success as part of the proposal and is expected to make evidence-based judgements using best practices.

24. What were the most significant implementation gaps identified since adoption of the 2020 TSMO Plan that ARC wants this update to directly address?

A.   The consultant shall investigate this during the project and is expected to make an evidence-based judgement using best practices.

25. Is ARC seeking incremental refinement of the existing framework or a structural rethinking of how TSMO is institutionalized regionally?

A.   ARC seeks the new plan to be guided by information gathered in other tasks including appropriate best practices and is open to new approaches.

26. What level of specificity does ARC expect in the final action plan under Task 6? Conceptual policy recommendations or near-term implementation roadmaps with sequencing and resource implications?

A.   ARC seeks recommendations based on results gathered from previous Tasks. These areas should include program and policy plan updates, incorporation into plans, and effective communications.

27. What were the primary reasons the previous TSMO Subcommittee became inactive, and what conditions must change to ensure sustained engagement going forward?

A.   The reasons were varied and can be discussed with the selected consultant.

28. Does ARC envision the TSMO Subcommittee as advisory only, or as a body with influence over programming and TIP evaluation processes?

A.   This can be discussed with the selected consultant and should be guided by best practices gathered from previous Tasks.

29. What level of engagement does ARC expect from private sector technology firms in Task 2.2? Informational interviews or structured partnership exploration?

A.   Informational interviews to "understand the vision, concerns, and opportunities the private sector sees in the region."

30. Are there politically sensitive stakeholders or jurisdictions that require tailored engagement strategies?

A.   This can be discussed with the selected consultant and should be guided by best practices.

31. Does ARC have preferred peer regions already identified, or should the consultant define selection criteria?

A.   The consultant may propose selection criteria as part of the proposal using evidenced based judgement. Preferred regions may be selected in conjunction with ARC staff.

32. For the Capabilities Maturity Model reassessment, is ARC expecting a formal FHWA style facilitated CMM workshop process or a consultant led analytical review?

A.   "The consultant shall use the ARC regional public, private, and peer regional information gathered in Task 2 to assess the competency and preparedness of the current TSMO-ITS program and policies. This should include a look at the 2016 ARC Capabilities Maturity Model (CMM) recommended "Actions to Advance to the Next Level" and an assessment of the progress made in the specified areas."

33. How much quantitative benchmarking does ARC expect versus qualitative policy comparison?

A.   ARC is looking for the consultant team to propose what they view as the proper balance given time and resources

34. Should benefit cost analysis for TSMO strategies be updated at a strategy level only, or at corridor specific deployment case study level?

A.   ARC seeks updating at a strategy level. We are not looking for corridor specific deployment, though there may be analysis at the corridor level. The final method will be determined with the selected consultant team when the contract is finalized.

35. Is ARC seeking a standalone executive document for elected officials, or a companion summary integrated into the final report?

A.   Task 7 designates a separate Executive Summary deliverable

36. Will public presentations to the ARC Board be required as part of final adoption?

A.   Yes. ARC will work with the selected consultant