



NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: NOACA Board of Directors

FROM: Grace Gallucci, Executive Director

DATE: June 3, 2016

RE: **Resolution No. 2016-014: Scenario Planning Applications Suite**

ACTION REQUESTED

The Board of Directors is asked to approve authorization for the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Tierra Plan, LLC to develop NOACA's Scenario Planning Applications Suite in the amount not to exceed \$115,970.

The Finance and Audit Committee recommends this action.

BACKGROUND/JUSTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ACTION

NOACA is seeking to develop an enhanced GIS analysis platform with scenario planning tools and is in the midst of a procurement to contract an organization to develop such a platform for the agency. This platform will aggregate data, and based on user queries, analyze and output data. This project was initially called the "Big Data" Project, and as it was refined in the development process, it was decided that the name "Scenario Planning Applications Suite" was more appropriate as the project is more about developing useful tools for the agency and public in a more robust GIS infrastructure than it is about aggregating substantial amounts of data into a single depository.

The scenario applications suite platform will provide current information within a specific geography on transportation, land uses, employment, population, infrastructure capital plans including transportation and 208 Water Quality plans, and air and water environmental issues. It will be a dynamic tool that will integrate information about Northeast Ohio to be used for planning purposes.

The platform is intended as a technical tool to:

- Enable communities and the public to make better investment decisions relating to transportation and air and water quality.
- Increase efficiency and data sharing between public agencies in the region for data relating to transportation, land use, and air and water quality.
- Enable analysis of transportation corridors.
- Identify patterns and expose inefficiencies within transportation infrastructure.

- Integrate land use and development plans of urban and rural areas for transportation purposes.
- Enable easy access to public data relating to transportation and air and water quality in the five counties, with the capability to expand to additional counties in the region.
- Ensure that planned transportation and air and water projects, regardless of funding and sponsoring agency, can be queried by the public.
- Improve the transparency of and access to data on the region.
- Provide a fiscal impact tool to provide communities a means to obtain a rough cost estimate for new services and maintenance for a proposed development or transportation project; and,
- Map and query all capital and planning projects for transportation, air quality and water quality.

The new platform will be a resource for NOACA staff, community officials, and the general public. Currently, the NOACA GIS data system is static. Layers can be viewed graphically, and layers can be clicked to reveal some of the underlying data, such as PID numbers, population, and traffic counts, etc. The new platform would allow all of the NOACA data to be queried and analyzed to reveal the geographic relationships behind these disparate data layers. Overall, the enhanced analytical capacities of the new platform are intended to contribute to a better understanding of existing conditions and trends and maximize the use of existing infrastructure in making decisions about future investment and development of Northeast Ohio.

An original Request for Proposals (RFP) was released on December 9th and proposals were due on January 19th. NOACA received five proposals ranging in cost from \$184,000 to \$649,037. After reviewing proposals and the wide array of costs, NOACA staff decided to narrow the project scope and reissue the RFP in March. The December "Big Data" project RFP, which required collection of vast amounts of data, was renamed The "Scenario Planning Applications Suite" project to more accurately reflect the changed scope of the RFP.

The new RFP was released on March 21, 2016 and proposals were due on April 21. NOACA received two proposals. Vendors were scored on four criteria: project approach, experience, cost and qualifications. After evaluating the proposals, the NOACA review team interviewed and selected Tierra Plan LLC.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The proposed contract will be executed for one year commencing on or around July 1, 2016 and ending on or around July 1, 2017, at a cost not to exceed \$115,970. This project has been approved in the FY2016 OWP at an amount of \$116,320.

CONCLUSION/NEXT STEPS

Following Board approval, staff will work with Tierra Plan, LLC to implement the Scenario Planning Applications Suite.

GG/sm/mz/2906b

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
NORTHEAST OHIO AREAWIDE COORDINATING AGENCY

WHEREAS, the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina, and the areawide water quality management agency for the same region; and

WHEREAS, NOACA is committed to developing meaningful planning tools to support transportation planning in the region, where such tools may be utilized by NOACA staff, community officials, and members of the public in furtherance of sound planning for the region; and

WHEREAS, the skills of a professional consulting firm are needed to manage and develop this complex project; and

WHEREAS, NOACA, through its FY2016 Overall Work Program (OWP) and Budget, has set aside funding for a consulting firm to assist with the scenario planning applications and tools; and

WHEREAS, NOACA's procurement policy requires that these consulting services be obtained through a competitive process following all applicable federal, state, and local policies and regulations, which was accomplished through a Request for Proposals issued on March 21, 2016, with proposals received on April 21, 2016, of which the firm of Tierra Plan, LLC was the best proposal against the defined evaluation criteria.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, consisting of 45 principal officials serving general purpose local governments throughout and within the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina that:

Section 1. The Executive Director is hereby authorized to enter into a contract for services with the firm of Tierra Plan, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$115,970.

Section 2. The Executive Director is authorized to transmit certified copies of this resolution to appropriate federal, state, and local agencies.

Certified to be a true copy of a Resolution of the
Governing Board of the Northeast Ohio Areawide
Coordinating Agency adopted this 10th day of June 2016.

Secretary: _____

Date Signed: _____

6/10/16

