



## **Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency**

NOACA  
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### **Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Stakeholder Liaison Services for the Great Lakes Hyperloop Feasibility Study.**

**Issue Date: June 14th, 2018**

**Close Date: July 13th, 2018**

The Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), is seeking responses to this request for qualifications (“RFQ”) in order to select a qualified stakeholder liaison/professional firm(s)/organization to assist NOACA on a task order basis on Great Lakes Hyperloop Feasibility study matters.

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## 1. ABOUT NOACA

NOACA is the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) and designated areawide water quality management agency for the counties of Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, and Medina in Ohio. In these capacities it:

- Works with other organizations to help address northeast Ohio's transportation, air quality, and water quality needs.
- Conducts metropolitan planning for various modes of transportation, including vehicles, freight, transit, bicycle, pedestrian, etc., while considering the transportation system's impact on the environment and land use.
- Prepares the region's long-range transportation plan and short range transportation improvement program, which is the region's capital budget for federally funded transportation projects.
- Conducts studies that address congestion, improve safety and strengthen community livability.

NOACA is directed by a 45-member Board of Directors, representing all five NOACA counties and the City of Cleveland, plus transit agencies, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority, Ohio EPA, and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT).

The NOACA region is home to 2.1 million people and over 150 units of government. The region is anchored by several urban core cities, the largest being Cleveland.

## 2. BACKGROUND

NOACA was approached by Hyperloop Transportation Technologies (HTT) with interest in pursuing implementation of a multi-regional Hyperloop corridor, inclusive of the northeast Ohio NOACA area. HTT is working with NOACA through a Public-Private Partnership (P3) arrangement to engage in a Hyperloop feasibility study that would examine potential alternatives, impacts and cost.

There has been significant worldwide research regarding a Hyperloop transportation system. The Hyperloop concept operates by sending specially designed capsules through a steel tube maintained at a partial vacuum. At up to 760 mph, Hyperloop allows for the inter-city transportation of people and freight at a fraction of the time currently available through other modes. The concept was first proposed in August 2013 and shared with the public to encourage technological advancement.

Hyperloop Transportation Technologies is an innovative company focused on realizing the Hyperloop through the use of unique, patented technology and an advanced business model of lean collaboration, open innovation, and integrated partnerships, and it is pursuing feasibility studies worldwide. Headquartered in Los Angeles, HTT also has offices in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, UAE; Bratislava, Slovakia; Toulouse, France; and Barcelona, Spain. Founded in 2013, HTT is a global team comprised of more than 800 engineers, creatives, and technologists in 52 multidisciplinary teams, with 40 corporate and university partners. To this end, it has worked regionally to create the Great Lakes Hyperloop Consortium, which currently includes 18 private,

public, academic, and not-for-profit partners and is expected to grow throughout this feasibility study. HTT has signed agreements in Slovakia, the UA, the Czech Republic, France, Indonesia, Korea, India, and now the United States.

The federal government, in particular NASA, has been studying Hyperloop for at least the past few years. The various components that make up Hyperloop have been studied for much longer and are already in existence in various forms and uses. This feasibility study is the logical next step as HTT refines the technology specifically for Hyperloop uses and government at the regional and state level advances the federal research to see if and how Hyperloop can be implemented.

HTT believes a Cleveland-Chicago route is an ideal opportunity for the first feasibility study and subsequent implementation in North America. Northeast Ohio has several manufacturing businesses capable of supplying the parts and constructing the Hyperloop. The terrain between the cities is largely flat and sparsely occupied, and in particular the Interstate 80/90 corridor offers a potentially viable route. NOACA has been working with the Ohio Turnpike Commission and will continue to do so throughout the feasibility study as necessary.

Ideally, the Cleveland-Chicago corridor will be the first of many throughout the Midwest and eventually link to the East Coast and Canada. NOACA believes that, like the railroads in the 1800s and Interstate system in the mid-1900s, Hyperloop can be a potentially transformative technology to spur development in Northeast Ohio by making it easier to move people and goods. The Scope of Services in Section Three further describes the analysis needed in order for NOACA to proceed accordingly if this vision is to become reality.

To date, there has been demonstrated interest by many parties including manufacturers, philanthropy, research, academia and other innovative government organizations in this venture focusing on the greater Cleveland area.

In January 2018, The NOACA Board approved resolution 2018-007 which authorize the NOACA Executive Director to enter into a Public-Private-Partnership (P3) agreement with Hyperloop Transportation Technologies, Inc. (HTT) to conduct a feasibility study for a multi-regional Hyperloop transportation corridor. This agreement was signed in February, 2018.

On Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup> 2018, The NOACA Board approved resolution 2018-019, which authorized the NOACA Executive Director to enter into a contract with Transportation Economics and Management Systems Inc. (TEMS), to complete the feasibility study with NOACA and HTT.

Transportation Economics & Management Systems (TEMS), Inc., is a DBE based out of Frederick, MD.

TEMS (Transportation Economics & Management Systems, Inc.) is a leader in Operations Planning, Demand Forecasting, Economic Analysis, Infrastructure Management, and Systems Development. The company has developed a reputation in interstate modeling, particularly using

stated preference surveys that provide input to demand modeling systems applying proprietary computer software models and techniques.

Their clients include federal, state and local transportation agencies; railroad companies and transit authorities; international development organizations; investment and commercial banks; and a wide range of private sector companies throughout North America and abroad. TEMS has conducted more than 50 passenger rail, high-speed rail, and maglev studies in the United States.

### **3. SCOPE OF WORK**

NOACA aims to develop a feasibility study in cooperation with HTT to evaluate a potential development of the first commercial Hyperloop transport system in Ohio. Services comprise a feasibility evaluation for a Hyperloop transportation system between Cleveland and Chicago. HTT is an integral partner and is responsible for performance of tasks that are integral and necessary for coordination with NOACA and the Consultant in the completion of the study.

NOACA reserves the right to select more than one firm for liaison services pending qualifications.

#### **Scope of Service:**

We are seeking an organized, efficient, and communicative liaison to coordinate between NOACA, and various governments and other transportation entities between Cleveland and Chicago, with an emphasis on the Chicagoland area. This would include, but is not limited to: , Federal, State, Regional and Local governments, Toll Roads , advocacy groups, universities, research organizations, non-profits, business, labor and other leaders.. The “Stakeholder Liaison” will connect us and represents us to those entities as needed. Activities may include but are not limited to:

- Maintain thorough knowledge of the Hyperloop Feasibility Study (Study), as well as an understanding of how that impacts the other entities of contact
- Monitor, coordinate, and communicate strategic objectives of the study
- Organize and facilitate meetings to conduct business as appropriate
- Collaborate and communicate successfully with other entities outside of the Great Lakes Hyperloop Feasibility study partners
- Develop and foster relationships with the stakeholders and other entities
- Collect, analyze, and utilize data and feedback to identify opportunities to improve and advance relationships
- Compile reports about particular incidents, events, or updates regarding important issues for the Study

- Proactively solve conflicts and address issues that could occur between the Hyperloop Feasibility Study and other entities
- Promptly respond to incidents and other events as necessary
- Positively represent the Study within the community

**Preferred Experience Should Include:**

- Transportation management experience, including project management
- Knowledge of the political and regulatory environments along the proposed Cleveland-Chicago corridor, focused primarily on the Chicagoland area
- Knowledge of Governmental / Administrative Law
- Knowledge and experience with the conduct to transportation feasibility studies
- Successful track record in governmental relations
- Proven leadership in the transportation community and the community at large

The proposer shall provide documentation of professional liability/malpractice insurance coverage. Please provide three referrals from governmental organizations that are similar to NOACA in size and scope.

Please include an hourly rate for services.

## **4. PROCESS AND TIMELINE FOR SELECTION**

Electronic copies of the following documents must be submitted to NOACA by the submission deadline:

1. Cover letter with contact information and statement of interest
2. How the requirements on page five listed are met
3. References and/or letters of recommendation

**Inquiries**

All inquiries related to this RFQ are to be directed in email to:

Susanna Merlone  
[smerlone@mpo.noaca.org](mailto:smerlone@mpo.noaca.org)  
 NOACA

Information obtained from any other source is not official and should not be relied upon.

## Closing Date

Electronic submissions will be until 12pm on Friday, July 13th, 2018. Submissions are limited to 30mb. Please submit no more than 20 pages. Responses may not be sent by facsimile or post. Submissions should be emailed to [procurement@mpo.noaca.org](mailto:procurement@mpo.noaca.org). If you do not receive an automatic response, please call (216) 241-2414 extension 108.

## 5. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. NOACA, as an Equal Opportunity Employer, requires all consultants to affirm that they agree to abide by any and all applicable equal employment opportunity laws, whether state or federal, and to use best efforts to subcontract with Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) when possible. It is recommended that consultants attempt to achieve 12% letting of subcontracts to DBEs. This complies with requirements of NOACA for its efforts at minority participation. Consultants agree not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, age, creed, sex, sexual orientation or national origin, and agree to take affirmative action so that applicants are employed and that employees are treated during employment without regard for their race, color, religion, age, creed, sex, sexual orientation or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising, layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. Consultants further agree that they will insert the foregoing provision in all subcontracts in connection with services provided. Consultants further agree to comply with all requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., 49 C.F.R. Part 21.
- B. All submissions become public information and may be reviewed by anyone requesting to do so at the conclusion of the evaluation process.
- C. All submissions received by NOACA in response to this RFQ shall remain valid for 90 days from the date of submittal.
- D. NOACA reserves the right to cancel or reissue the RFQ or to revise the timeline at any time. NOACA may reject any submission if such action is believed to be in the best interest of the agency.
- E. NOACA is not liable for any costs incurred by firms seeking prequalification, or prior to execution of a TLCI contract with a TLCI sponsor.