REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)
Consultant Services to Undertake a Corridor Study
U.S. Route 6 in Woodbury, CT

Intent:
The Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) intends to engage a qualified multidisciplinary team to conduct a corridor study along US Route 6 in Woodbury, Connecticut. This firm will develop conceptual engineering drawings for spot improvements along the length of the corridor, focused on improved pedestrian and cyclist facilities while addressing comprehensive safety and traffic flow concerns. The development of concepts will be of sufficient detail to permit the project to advance to a design phase.

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) selected this corridor for study under its Corridor Study Program. The study will be overseen by a Project Advisory Committee comprising representatives from the municipal government, the community, and the NVCOG, as well as a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) including members of the NVCOG, municipal government, and CTDOT.

Background and Purpose:
US Route 6 is Woodbury’s primary north-south arterial, connecting Woodbury to the Town of Southbury and Interstate 84 to the south, and to the Town of Watertown and CT Route 8 to the north. US Route 6 also connects to State Route 64 which provides an alternate connector to Interstate 84 to the east through Middlebury, and to State Routes 317, 47, and 61, which lead west and north to Roxbury, Washington, and Bethlehem respectively. A segment of US Route 6 through the project area also serves as Woodbury’s Main Street, running through the Town’s two historic districts, one of which serves as the heart of the town.

The Town of Woodbury recently updated its Plan of Conservation and Development. During that process, many residents voiced concerns regarding pedestrian access and safety, and some expressed a desire for improved bicycle access. Others expressed concern about congestion on US Route 6. One of the goals set forth in Woodbury’s 2020 Plan of Conservation and Development is to expand and improve the Town’s sidewalk network. The 2020 Plan includes a map outlining where sidewalks exist and where sidewalks should be installed.

This corridor is notable for its share of crashes within the town. Three of the five traffic fatalities in Woodbury since 2015 have occurred along US Route 6, with one of those involving a pedestrian. These crashes demonstrate a need for enhanced safety features both for pedestrians and vehicles. These improvements should not only improve roadway safety but enhance the quality of the Town’s historic districts.
The study will focus on two main types of land use. For most of its length through Woodbury, US Route 6 passes by rural land, including several farms. In these sections the study will aim to provide cyclist facilities, traffic safety enhancements, and ensure continued operation of local and through traffic. At several points, however, US Route 6 serves as the town’s Main Street, passing through commercial districts and historic areas. In these sections, pedestrian traffic can be high, so additional focus will be placed on providing appropriate sidewalks and amenities to support this traffic and assist the town in growing its commercial base. Also, facilities to enhance bicycle travel will be important in these areas.

Information & Inquiries:
Updates and amendments to this RFQ can be found at http://nvcogct.org/content/vendors or can be obtained by contacting the NVCOG directly. Interested consultants are responsible for monitoring updates and amendments.

All inquiries regarding this RFQ must be submitted in writing via email to Rich Donovan, Transportation Planning Director, at RDonovan@nvcogct.org.

The NVCOG will respond to questions up to seven days before the deadline for responding to this RFQ. All questions and their responses will be posted at http://nvcogct.org/content/vendors. No contact with any other NVCOG staff, town personnel, or project partner, other than the authorized contact person, is allowed until such time as an award has been made.

Submission Requirements:
By responding to this RFQ, the prospective consultant represents that they have read, examined, and understand the anticipated work as described in the Scope of Services and can perform the work to achieve the objectives of this project. Prospective consultant firms or team must be currently pre-qualified by the Connecticut Department of Transportation in at least one of the following categories: Traffic and Safety Engineering, Modal Transportation Planning Studies, or Highway Design.

Proposers are asked to submit responses in two parts: Letter of Interest and Technical Response.

The Letter of Interest must specify the following:

- The name and address of the consultant(s).
- General Information on the firm and any proposed sub-consultants
- The name, title, telephone number and email address of the individuals within the firm authorized to commit the company to this contract.
- The name, title, telephone number and email address of the individual NVCOG should contact regarding questions and clarifications.
- A statement that the Consultant's response will remain in effect for ninety (90) days after acceptance of the Consultant’s proposal by NVCOG

The Technical Response must contain a description of the consultant’s proposed approach to performing the Scope of Services and demonstrate a commitment of sufficient staff resources with appropriate qualifications with specific reference to:

- Understanding and approach to Scope of Services.
- Description of any special services required.
• Description of services offered by the consulting firm or team that support the Scope of Services.
• Name and required services of any subcontractors, including those intended to be used to meet the required DBE or SBE goals established for this project.
• Resumes of key personnel proposed to work on the assignment with emphasis on relevant experience.
• A detailed organization chart.
• A description and status of comparable project experience.
• Three references from comparable types of projects.
• Pertinent examples of related work prepared by the consultant.

The proposer must provide three (3) paper copies and one (1) digital copy of their proposed scope and timeline, as well as all remaining documentation in one (1) digital copy. Paper submissions must be received in a sealed envelope bearing on the outside the name of each firm, full address, and the date and time proposal is due. All submissions shall be clearly marked “US 6 Corridor Study, Woodbury, CT”, and shall be delivered to:

Rich Donovan, Transportation Planning Director
Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments
49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor
Waterbury, CT 06702

The response must be received no later than 2:00 pm on Friday, December 16, 2022. Proposals received after the date and time prescribed shall not be considered.

Selection Process:
The NVCOG will follow a Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) process for selecting the preferred Consultant(s). Consultants or consortia of consultants will be asked to demonstrate expertise and experience in all skill areas that may be appropriate to the work required in the Scope of Services. All RFQs received will be reviewed and evaluated by the selection committee that may comprise representatives of the NVCOG, Town of Woodbury, and other stakeholders. A minimum of three and up to five prospective consultants will be selected and requested to participate in an interview and presentation to the selection committee.

The proposals and consultants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
• Corporate experience and capacity.
• Understanding of work to be performed.
• Project organization and staff commitment.
• Professional expertise of team.
• Prior experience relative to project.
• Completeness, feasibility, and quality of scope of services and project schedule.
• Clarity and conciseness of presentation.

The selected consultant will be notified of their selection within 14 days from the culmination of the interview process and contract negotiations will commence immediately upon notification. A 30-day fee negotiation period will be provided for the selected consultant and NVCOG to finalize the contract fees,
The selection committee will develop an independent estimate for the defined scope of work prior to receipt or review of the most highly qualified consultant's cost proposal. The independent estimate shall serve as the basis for negotiations of the fee for services. At the end of the 30-day negotiation period, the contract shall be awarded. If a negotiated fee cannot be mutually agreed to by both parties, the NVCOG will terminate negotiation and begin negotiation with the second ranked firm.


Other Requirements:

Freedom of Information
Respondents are advised that any and all materials submitted in response to this RFQ shall become the sole property of NVCOG and shall be subject to the provisions of Section 1-210 of the Connecticut General Statutes (re: Freedom of Information).

Incurred Costs
This RFQ does not commit the NVCOG or any of its Municipalities to award a contract or to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this request. Neither the NVCOG nor its member municipalities will be liable in any way for any costs incurred by respondents in replying to this RFQ.

Insurance
The NVCOG requires Consultants to provide and maintain adequate professional liability for errors and omissions in the minimum amount of Two Million Dollars ($2,000,000) and automobile liability insurance in the minimum amount of One Million Dollars ($1,000,000). The Consultant(s) and subcontractors shall carry workman’s compensation insurance. Proof of adequate insurance must be included in the bid application.

Personnel
The Contractor shall provide the professional services identified in this Scope of Services and requested by the NVCOG. The proposal must identify the person or persons who will be responsible for conducting the work as listed in this scope of services, and include a copy of each person's resume, experiences with municipal/government clients and listing of references.

The NVCOG is requesting that a senior experienced person be the primary representative for your firm in actually performing the services.

Length of Service
It is expected that the agreement and work covered by this RFQ and Scope of Services shall extend for eighteen (18) months from the date of execution of an agreement between the NVCOG and the consulting firm or team with an NVCOG option to extend the agreement by one year. No delivery of services shall start without written contract issued by the NVCOG.
Contract/ Agreement
The successful bidder shall enter into a contract with the NVCOG and agree to abide by all state and federal contractual requirements. By signing the agreement with the NVCOG, the Consultant agrees to perform work as specified in the Scope of Services and accepts the terms and conditions set forth in the contract.

Acceptance or Rejection by the NVCOG
The NVCOG reserves the right to accept or reject any or all responses submitted for consideration, to waive any informalities and/or technicalities, or to negotiate separately in any manner necessary to serve the best interests of the NVCOG. Respondents whose responses are not accepted shall be notified in writing.

Amending or Canceling RFQ
The NVCOG reserves the right to amend or cancel this RFQ, prior to the due date and time, if it is deemed to be in its best interest to do so.

Affirmative Action
The NVCOG and its member municipalities participating in this RFQ are equal opportunity employers and require an affirmative action policy from all consultants as a condition of doing business with the NVCOG or its member municipalities, as per Federal Order 11246. By responding to this RFQ, all consultants agree to this condition of doing business with the NVCOG or its member municipalities and, should they choose to audit for compliance, the consultant agrees to cooperate fully.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)/Small Business Enterprise (SBE)
It is the policy of NVCOG to practice nondiscrimination based on race, color, sex, or national origin in the award or performance of this contract. All firms qualifying under this solicitation are encouraged to submit a proposal and selection will be based on and conditioned upon satisfying the requirements described in this RFQ and Scope of Services. These requirements apply to all proposers, including those who qualify as a DBE or SBE. Contracts awarded under this RFQ will be required to meet state and regional DBE or SBE goals.
SCOPE OF WORK
US ROUTE 6 CORRIDOR STUDY, WOODBURY

Project Description
US Route 6 is Woodbury’s primary north-south arterial, connecting Woodbury to the Town of Southbury, and Interstate 84, to the South, and to the Town of Watertown and CT Route 8 to the North. US Route 6 also connects to State Route 64, which provides an alternate connector to I-84 to the East, through Middlebury, and to State Routes 317, 47 and 61, which lead west and north to Roxbury, Washington, and Bethlehem, respectively. US Route 6 also serves as Woodbury’s Main Street, running through both of Woodbury’s historic districts, one of which is also the heart of the town. This central area sees significant pedestrian use, while stretches north and south of the town center see more bicycle traffic. The project will study how to ameliorate persistent safety concerns and reduce conflicts among automobiles (including trucks and farm equipment), pedestrians and cyclists in a manner that is in keeping with the Town’s historic character and how to improve connectivity to local schools and to parks that are in proximity to US Route 6.

The proposed study area is US Route 6 from the town lines of Southbury in the south (mile marker 24.59) to Watertown in the north (mile marker 32.36), a length of 7.77 miles. Though the study may look at the full length of the corridor, a particular focus will be placed on the Town’s two historic districts, areas of high crash rates, and areas identified by the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) as being critical to the study. The project location map is attached.

Over the years, residents have expressed concerns about safety and traffic congestion along US Route 6, including concerns with pedestrian access and lack of bicycle facilities. This study is intended to assess current traffic operations and vehicular and non-motorized safety and identify possible remedial actions to improve safety and traffic flow while maintaining the character of the Town of Woodbury.

Task 1: Project Management
The NVCOG will provide project management and administration of the project contract. Tasks include coordinating with and serving as the liaison with CTDOT, preparing and processing invoices, and preparing progress reports. The selection of the project consultant engineer (CE) will follow a Qualification Based Selection process. Once the project is underway, bi-weekly coordination conference calls will be held between the NVCOG and consultant team to discuss progress and resolve any issues that may affect the schedule.
**Project Consultant Tasks:**

Task 1A: Participate in bi-weekly coordination conference calls via Teams or similar platform

Task 1B: Maintain a regularly updated project schedule

**Project Consultant Deliverables:**

1. Bi-weekly conference calls

**NVCOG Deliverables:**

1. Project management and administration
2. Coordination and point-of-contact with CTDOT project team

**Task 2: Advisory Committees**

Two advisory committees will be convened to provide oversight and technical support throughout the conduct of the study:

- Project Advisory Committee
- Technical Advisory Committee

The NVCOG will form a Project Advisory Committee (PAC) to provide oversight, direction for the study and monitor the planning process. The PAC will comprise government, business, and civic representatives from the community. The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) will be invited to participate on the PAC. The Project Consultant will participate in PAC meetings, share documents, prepare display graphics, and coordinate PAC activities. NVCOG will be responsible for scheduling PAC meetings and will prepare PAC agendas and reports of meetings.

The PAC will help refine the project scope and define the limits of the study, as well as, inform discussions on current corridor conditions, corridor improvements, and transit options. The NVCOG will be responsible for the following activities of the PAC and will lead PAC meetings:

- Set study goals and objectives
- Guide PAC meetings and provide guidance and direction of the study
- Work program development
- Set PAC meeting agendas, prepare meeting material and documents
- Prepare reports of meetings

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will be created that includes NVCOG planning and engineering staff, CTDOT planning, engineering and project development representatives, and Woodbury municipal staff. This committee will review and comment on draft documents and recommendations and work to ensure that recommendations of the study are in line with CTDOT requirements and goals for the corridor and that the project can move forward to design upon completion. TAC members will be included in bi-weekly update meetings.
Project Consultant Tasks:
Task 2A: Participate in three PAC Meetings: at project initiation, to report on existing conditions and deficiencies and to present alternative analyses and preferred alternatives.

Task 2B: Present findings and lead discussion on existing conditions at PAC meeting.

Task 2C: Present preliminary engineering study findings and recommendations to the TAC and respond to TAC comments as received.

Task 2D: Setup correspondence/communications tools and protocols, including webpage, Teams and Zoom.

Task 2E: Prepare displays and graphics, as needed, to facilitate discussions.

Project Consultant Deliverables:
1. Present deliverables to PAC
2. Three PowerPoint presentations to PAC regarding findings and recommendations

NVCOG Deliverables:
1. Convene PAC and TAC
2. PAC and TAC meeting agendas and reports of meetings

Note: all draft deliverables for this study – reports, documents, presentations, technical memoranda - will be provided in an MS Office format. Data files will be in MS Excel format. Any maps developed for the study will be in an ESRI format and provided as a graphic that can be readily inserted in an MS Word document.

Task 3: Public Outreach & Engagement
The project consultant will initiate and assist NVCOG in conducting a proactive public outreach and engagement process. The purpose of this task is to engage the public in a discussion regarding the future of the corridor and how future improvements to the roadway can better and more safely integrate user needs. The Team will engage the public throughout the study. As part of this task, the project consultant will conduct interviews and engage residents and community stakeholders through an online survey. Two public information meetings will be held; attendees will be asked to offer opinions and suggestions at each meeting. The Study Team will consider and respond to all comments. The NVCOG will create and maintain a project webpage on the NVCOG website. A final 30-day public comment period will be held following a draft of the final report, during which the consultant will address and respond to all comments received.

Project Consultant Tasks:
Task 3A: Follow the project Public Outreach & Engagement Plan developed by NVCOG and CE.
Task 3B: Conduct two public outreach meetings, one at project initiation and one to present alternatives analyses.

Task 3C: Prepare project summary and information brochure.

Task 3D: Prepare presentation materials, including display boards.

Task 3E: Prepare PowerPoint presentation for public information meeting.

Project Consultant Deliverables:
1. Two Public Information Meetings
2. Summary of public comments and survey results
3. Meeting presentation materials

NVCOG Deliverables:
1. Project webpage on the NVCOG website
2. Bi-weekly update of the project webpage
3. Post all draft and final documents
4. Summary page(s) of each draft report

Task 4: Data Collection and analysis of Existing Conditions
Along the study area, data collection will be a critical step to ensure that the recommended improvements are feasible and warranted. This task ensures that all necessary data is included for the project to move from concept development in this study to project development with the CTDOT. Traffic data will be collected in a manner that ensures CTDOT can validate data and project concepts can transition into a design phase.

Project Consultant Tasks:
Task 4A: Within the study area, identify existing transportation facilities and infrastructure, including: intersections, number of lanes, lane arrangements at signalized intersections, points of access, height restrictions, pedestrian facilities, cyclist facilities, residential density within the corridor, north-south connectivity, intersection sightline deficiencies, and roadway widths. In addition, the location, frequency, and condition of street lighting will be inventoried and assessed to identify adequacy and location of “dark” spots.

Task 4B: Extract crash data from the University of Connecticut’s Crash Data Repository for the most recent three-year period and conduct safety assessment to determine contributing factors and whether crash incidence is over-represented.

Task 4C: Collect and compile traffic-related data, including, AADT, intersection turn movements, roadway capacity, and volume throughout the corridor. The NVCOG has access to the StreetLight Data transportation analytics platform and it will be used to determine corridor traffic data and tuning movement patterns at key intersections. The StreetLight Data will be
supplemented by machine counts and manual turning movement counts at a limited number of locations. In addition, Automatic Traffic Recorders will be installed at four key locations along the corridor for a period that covers a 48-hour weekday time frame and a Saturday and Sunday period. The ATRs will be set to collect hourly traffic volumes by direction, vehicle classification and travel speeds. Manual turning counts will be collected at key intersections during a weekday morning and afternoon peak period and the peak period on Saturday. The ART and manual turning movement counts will be used to calibrate the StreetLight data and traffic operation models.

The following is the list of locations at which turning patterns will be determined:

- U.S. Route 6 (Main Street South) at Middle Quarter Road
- U.S. Route 6 (Main Street South) at Route 64 (Sherman Hill Road)
- U.S. Route 6 (Main Street South) at Route 317 (Sycamore Ave) and Town Hall driveways
- U.S. Route 6 (Main Street North/South) at Route 47 (Washington Road) and Pleasant Street
- U.S. Route 6 (Main Street North) at Quanopaug Trail
- U.S. Route 6 at Route 61 and Quassapaug Road
- U.S. Route 6 at Flanders Road

Task 4D: Obtain traffic signal permit plans from the CTDOT for the following intersections:

- US Route 6 and Route 64
- US Route 6 and Route 317
- US Route 6 and Route 47

Task 4E: Collect data on non-motorized usage along the corridor. The collection of these data will be via in-field manual counts and installation of infrared pedestrian counters.

Task 4F: Tabulate and summarize all data collected in a concise and clear manner. This includes reviewing crash incident reports to determine location, type of crash, severity, time and date, and contributing factors and preparing collision diagrams at intersections with high rates of crashes and high incidence of crashes that result in serious injuries

Task 4G: Review past studies related to the corridor, including but not limited to the Woodbury Plan of Conservation and Development, Urban Land Institute study, and CT DOT US Route 6 and Route 61 Intersection Improvement Proposals.

Task 4H: Interview community stakeholders for firsthand insight into the strengths and weaknesses of the corridor.

Task 4I: Identify current traffic operations including north-south connectivity with major intersecting routes (i.e. Routes 47, 61, 64, 317, etc.)
Task 4J: Develop traffic models to assess existing traffic operations and determine the levels of service at key intersections and along the corridor. The selected model must be consistent with the Highway Capacity Manual methodology.

Task 4K: Conduct Road Safety Audits along the corridor with a focus at key intersections, commercial driveways, and road segments. These RSAs will consist of field walks among town representatives and public safety to identify current safety deficiencies and issues and discuss problems, deficiencies, and possible remediation strategies. Locations of RSAs will be based on crash history and town priority and preference.

Task 4L: Determine inter-municipal travel patterns within the study area corridors and assess through traffic versus local travel patterns. StreetLight Data and manual turning movement surveys will be used to determine travel patterns. Additional count data may be required based on TAC requests.

Task 4M: Provide additional data and respond to comments provided by TAC and PAC related to data collection and analysis.

Project Consultant Deliverables
1. Inventory of transportation facilities and infrastructure – base map
2. Manual turning movement surveys at key intersections
3. Existing conditions and assessment technical memo
4. Travel patterns through corridor technical memo
5. Level of service at the signalized intersections in corridor
6. Roadway and intersection safety assessments, including collision diagrams

NVCOG Deliverables:
1. StreetLight Data – AADTs, turning movement estimates and travel patterns.
2. Installation of Automatic Traffic Recorders – ADTs, vehicle classification and travel speed
3. Calibration and validation of collected data (CTDOT)

Task 5: Future Conditions
Based on the data collected during Task 4, conduct an analysis of future traffic operations based on the expected growth in traffic along the corridor. The potential increase in pedestrian and bicycling will also be estimated. The estimate of future traffic volumes will be coordinated with the CTDOT Planning Unit.

Project Consultant Tasks
Task 5A: Perform a high-level analysis of potential economic impact to the town’s historic district approximately between Route 64 and Route 47.
Task 5B: Forecast future traffic volumes. The estimate of future traffic volumes will be based on growth rates derived from travel demand modeling (CTDOT) and will be reviewed by the CTDOT to ensure they are consistent with the Department’s estimates of year of construction and future year volumes.

Task 5C: Based on future volumes, forecast intersection performance. The model developed in Task 4 will be used to assess year of construction and future year operations.

Project Consultant Deliverables
1. Report on potential future development and improvement impact on demand and utilization of facilities.
3. Provide additional data and respond to comments from the Technical Advisory Committee and Project Advisory Committee.

Task 6: Concept Development and Analysis
The project consultant will develop preferred alternatives that balance safety and placemaking improvements with traffic volumes and a diversity of land uses throughout the corridor. Recommendations will be based on a Complete Streets approach that considers travel by all types of users. Improvement concepts will be developed for spot locations, at specific intersections or along short road segments on the corridor. Preliminary drawings will accompany preferred alternatives. Special focus will be given to the segments that run through the town’s historic districts and town center. Preliminary concepts will be presented to the Technical Advisory Committee for initial vetting regarding a concept’s feasibility.

Project Consultant Tasks
Task 6A: Develop corridor-wide plan for pedestrian facilities with particular focus to areas within historic districts (ADA needs, accommodating pedestrian cross walks, safety enhancements, etc.)

Task 6B: Develop corridor-wide plan for bicycle facilities.

Task 6C: Develop alternative recommendations for spot improvements to intersections, traffic signals and adjoining streets along the corridor with the purpose of improving safety and traffic flow with particular focus on access control.

Task 6D: Develop corridor-wide and spot improvement concept drawings for preferred alternatives.

Task 6E: Where appropriate, develop recommendations and concept drawings for pedestrian and bicyclist connections between the main corridor and points identified as significant by PAC.
Project Consultant Deliverables
1. Report on preferred alternatives
2. Concept drawings for each preferred alternative
3. Provide additional data and respond to comments from the Technical Advisory Committee and Project Advisory Committee.

Task 7: Final Report and Implementation Plan
The project consultant will prepare a final report and develop an implementation plan that prioritizes projects, identifies potential funding sources, and provides specific details as requested by CTDOT and TAC to ensure concepts are suitable for project development. This plan, along with other report deliverables, will be combined into a singular final study document.

Project Consultant Tasks
Task 7A: Develop an implementation plan to include in the final report. This plan will identify component projects that have independent utility logical termini. Concepts will include location and project limits, recommended elements and materials, dimensions, and any potential right-of-way impacts. The CE will also include a narrative regarding actions required to advance concepts to design. The implementation plan will include an estimate of expected construction costs based on engineering opinion. Cost estimates shall include contract items, incidentals, contingencies and be inflated to the expected year of construction. Component projects shall be ranked by anticipated enhancement of safety, constructability, constraints, and cost effectiveness. The NVCOG will coordinate the identification of preferred alternatives with municipal representatives and CTDOT staff and will identify state and federal programs to fund recommended actions.

Task 7B: Project concepts will be presented to and reviewed by the TAC to determine feasibility for initiation of a project design phase.

Task 7C: Project concepts will also be presented to and reviewed by the PAC to determine municipal preferences and priorities.

Task 7D: A final report will be prepared including: the existing conditions report, future conditions report, concept designs, analyses of safety and traffic operations, and implementation plan, as well as appendices including survey questions, survey results, public comment and response, TAC comment and response, raw traffic and safety data, and any additional materials required to ensure an actionable final concept.

Project Consultant Deliverables
1. Report on preferred alternatives, with concept drawings for each preferred alternative
2. Implementation Plan
3. Final Report
4. Respond to comments provided by the Technical Advisory Committee and the Project Advisory Committee

NVCOG Deliverables:
1. Develop preferred alternatives
2. Identify potential funding programs