

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ITEM II C

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
 RETROFIT SOUNDWALL CORRIDOR STUDY:
 Noise Reduction Screening
 FRESNO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Fresno COG will post this Question and Answer document and notify consultants by mail and known e-mail of the availability of this documentation.

No.	Questions	Fresno COG Response
1	Is there a DBE requirement?	<p>Consultants are not required to be or have DBE consultants participation. It is a Fresno COG policy to include DBEs in the RFP process and to consider them without discrimination as stated in the RFP. Fresno COG does encourage DBE participation; however, will award the Soundwall Study bid to the most responsible bidder. Fresno COG maintains a consultant database of consultants who have expressed interest in Fresno COG projects which includes certified DBEs; Caltrans District 6 maintains a list of certified DBEs for the area.</p> <p>DBE participation on Department of Transportation programs requires a state-certification, so DBEs need not necessarily be local to Fresno, but rather certified by the state as a DBE.</p>
2	Does the COG have topographic GIS compatible data that the consultant can use for the study area?	Fresno COG will be able to provide some graphic GIS compatible data but the consultant may need to obtain additional data independently.
3	Should the study also include the SR 180 corridor?	Yes, the initial screening should include the SR 180 corridor. It should have been part of the scope in the RFP.
4	Can you provide information on how many locations were analyzed by Caltrans?	Fresno COG has received copies of the Caltrans letters sent to residents in response to their requests for traffic noise evaluations along the State Routes. The results of the noise measurements are included in those letters and will be shared with the consultant to assist in the development of the screening analysis.
5	Can you provide information on how many of these locations need to be re-evaluated?	This will be determined by consultant but Fresno COG will assist by providing data collected in the past. See answer #4.
6	Can you provide information on how many locations there are where noise impacts may be severe but remain unquantified?	This will be determined by consultant but Fresno COG will assist by providing data collected in the past. See answer #4
7	Can you provide information on how many previously studied locations there are where noise barriers have been evaluated but have not yet been designed and constructed?	This will be determined by consultant but Fresno COG will assist by providing data collected in the past. Fresno COG will also provide project information if the proposed project is in the RTP or FTIP. See answer #4.
8	Typically a retrofit noise barrier prioritization study focuses on freeways. Does the project area include all of the corridors designated as a state highway (including freeways, highways with unlimited access, and local roads, e.g., Elm Ave. through Coalinga)?	This study area is focused on the freeways/state routes within Fresno County.
9	Does the COG have an updated listing of locations of interest for this analysis, such as Exhibit A provided in the previously released RFP?	Fresno COG has a list of some complaint locations requesting further Type II: Retrofit Noise Abatement Analysis, (i.e., areas that were developed prior to construction of the highway noise complaint locations, but the consultant will also identify other potential eligible locations throughout the Fresno County freeway/state route corridors.
10	Our main question has to do with the number of anticipated/estimated segments where noise monitoring and barrier feasibility/reasonableness would likely be required. We've reviewed aerial imagery for each of the highways identified in the RFP and see that many areas already either include barriers or substantial grade separations which would screen traffic noise levels. Given the size of the study area, however, there could still be many segments which require monitoring and analysis.	Those areas that either include barriers or those that the consultant would recommend would not warrant further analysis for a sound barrier would be eliminated from the list of areas that would be analyzed.