

**Columbus Consolidated Government
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

TO:	Mayor and Councilors
AGENDA SUBJECT:	Professional Services to Develop the 2050 Metropolitan Plan and the 2023 Congestion Management Process-P.I. #0019628 – RFP No. 24-0016
INITIATED BY:	Finance Department

It is requested that Council authorize the execution of a contract with Pond & Company, Inc. (Peachtree Corners, GA) for the development of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) with a Freight Plan Component and the 2023 Congestion Management Process (CMP) for the Columbus-Phenix City Metropolitan Planning Organization (C-PCMPO). The firm’s cost proposal falls within the project budget.

The study area includes portions of Harris County in Georgia and Lee and Russell Counties in Alabama, and all of Muscogee and Chattahoochee Counties in Georgia and the City of Phenix City and the City of Smiths Station in Alabama. The purpose of the Columbus-Phenix City Transportation Study (C-PCTS) is to ensure that federal-aid transportation projects are planned in a continuous, coordinated, and comprehensive manner.

The plan will include pedestrian facilities, bikeways, transit, freight, and highway modes of transportation. Preparation of the update will be managed by the C-PCTS MPO. Reports, plans, maps, and other work products resulting from the development of the 2050 MTP will be reviewed by the MPO staff, the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and the Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC).

The CMP is a systematic approach, collaboratively developed and implemented throughout the metropolitan region to provide for the safe and effective management and operation of new and existing transportation facilities using demand reduction and operational management strategies.

RFP Advertisement and Receipt of Proposals:

RFP specifications were posted on the web pages of the Purchasing Division, the Georgia Procurement Registry and DemandStar on July 20, 2023. This RFP has been advertised, opened and evaluated. Three proposals were received by the due date of August 25, 2023 from the following firms:

- Pond & Company, Inc. (Peachtree Corners, GA)**
- High Street Consulting Group, LLC (Pittsburgh, PA)
- Metro Analytics, PLLC (Bountiful, UT)
- Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. (Atlanta, GA)

The following events took place after receipt of proposals:

RFP MEETINGS/EVENTS		
Description	Date	Agenda/Action
Pre-Evaluation Meeting	12/08/23	The Purchasing Manager advised evaluation committee members of the RFP rules and process, and the project manager provided an overview. Proposal copies were forwarded to each committee member to review.
1 st Evaluation Meeting / Evaluation Forms Sent	01/23/24	Committee members discussed the qualification packets and determined that clarifications were not required from the responding firms. Evaluation forms were forwarded to voting committee members.
Evaluation Forms Returned	01/29/24	The final set of evaluation forms were returned to the Purchasing Division for compilation of the evaluation scores and comments.
Request to Revised Proposals	01/29/24	The Planning Department advised that due to time constraints, GDOT will be developing the socioeconomic data. The responding firms were requested to revise their cost proposal and project timeline accordingly.
Revised Proposals Received	02/02/24	The revised proposals were forwarded to the evaluation committee.
Committee's Review of Revised Proposals	02/12/24	The committee determined a meeting was necessary to discuss the revised documents.
2 nd Evaluation Meeting	02/15/24	The committee discussed the revised documents and determined additional information was not required.
Evaluation Results & Award Recommendation	02/26/24	The Purchasing Division forwarded the evaluation results to the committee. The voters unanimously recommended award to the highest scoring firm, Pond & Company, Inc.

Evaluation Committee:

The voting committee members consisted of two representatives from the Planning Department and one representative from the Engineering Department.

Alternate committee members consisted of a representative from the Inspections & Code Department and another representative from the Planning Department.

Non-voting advisor committee members included two additional representatives from the Planning Department.

Award Recommendation:

The voting committee members recommend awarding the contract to the highest-scoring firm,

Pond & Company, Inc. for the following reasons:

Vendor's Experience/Qualifications:

- Pond & Company, Inc. is an interdisciplinary architecture, engineering, planning and construction firm.
- The proposed project team has experience in all aspects of work needed to deliver the services, including expertise in technical aspects of corridor analysis, freight planning, land use and socioeconomic forecasting, transportation program development and community outreach.
- The firm has experience developing socioeconomic data for MPO plans and coordinating with GDOT on MPO travel demand modeling and experience preparing MTPs for MPOs throughout the state of Georgia.
- The firm is prequalified by GDOT in sections of area classes for Transportation Planning, Mass Transit Operations, Highway Design Roadway, Highway Structures, Construction, and Erosion and Sedimentation Control.
- Below is a listing of the firm's three most recent projects:
 - City of Albany, GA 2021 - 2023
Dougherty Area Regional Transportation Study (DARTS) Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update. Transportation planning, including public outreach, project recommendations, and cost estimation.
 - Paulding County DOT 2021 - 2023
SR 6 Scoping/Corridor Study. Transportation planning, including traffic analysis, transportation planning, public outreach, and concept development.
 - Effingham County, GA 2020 - 2021
Transportation Master Plan. Provided an updated vision for transportation investment across the county and the cities within it, including public outreach.

The City's Procurement Ordinance Article 3-110 (Competitive Sealed Proposals for the procurement of Equipment, Supplies and Professional Services) governs the RFP Process. During the RFP process, there is no formal opening due to the possibility of negotiated components of the proposal. In the event City Council does not approve the recommended offeror, no proposal responses or any negotiated components are made public until after the award of the contract. Therefore, the evaluation results and cost information have been submitted to the City Manager in a separate memo for informational purposes.

Funds are available in the FY24 Budget: Multi-Government Project Fund – Transportation Planning – 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan GDOT Grant – Contractual Services; 0216-242-2120-MTPG-6319.

A RESOLUTION

NO. _____

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH POND & COMPANY, INC. (PEACHTREE CORNERS, GA) FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2050 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP) WITH A FREIGHT PLAN COMPONENT AND THE 2023 CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS (CMP) FOR THE COLUMBUS-PHENIX CITY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (C-PCMPO). THE FIRM’S COST PROPOSAL FALLS WITHIN THE PROJECT BUDGET.

WHEREAS, an RFP was administered (RFP No. 24-0016) and four proposals were received; and,

WHEREAS, the proposal submitted by Pond & Company, Inc. was deemed most response to the RFP.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the City Manager is hereby authorized to execute a contract with Pond & Company, Inc. (Peachtree Corners, GA) for the development of the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) with a Freight Plan Component and the 2023 Congestion Management Process (CMP) for the Columbus-Phenix City Metropolitan Planning Organization (C-PCMPO). The firm’s cost proposal falls within the project budget. Funds are available in the FY24 Budget: Multi-Government Project Fund – Transportation Planning – 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan GDOT Grant – Contractual Services; 0216-242-2120-MTPG-6319.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the _____ day of _____, 2024 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of _____ members of said Council.

- Councilor Allen voting _____
- Councilor Barnes voting _____
- Councilor Begly voting _____
- Councilor Cogle voting _____
- Councilor Crabb voting _____
- Councilor Davis voting _____
- Councilor Garrett voting _____
- Councilor Huff voting _____
- Councilor Thomas voting _____

Councilor Tucker voting _____

Sandra T. Davis, Clerk of Council

B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor