

December 1, 2021

# RFP Pre-Bid Regional Broadband Questions & Answers

11/17/2021

1. Are there specific locations within the WestCOG territory that you are looking for analysis on or are you simply seeking to understand what's currently available to the entire geography?

*The project should cover the entire region, taking into account spatial variation across the region in existing and planned infrastructure and in needs, opportunities, and potential solutions. The project may arrive at a single regional solution, or it may conclude with one or more subregional solutions.*

2. Will the awarded company of this RFP be chosen for all aspects of this process, or will there be a scenario where a single report and analysis is chosen, and another organization will be asked to implement that plan?

*WestCOG prefers to enter a single contract for this RFP. The contractor may be a single firm, a single firm with subcontractors, or consortium. Any response that involves more than one entity should describe the relationship between those entities.*

12/1/2021 – Pre-Bid Meeting Verbal Questions

3. Where is the location of the RFP?

<https://westcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/WestCOG-Broadband-RFP-texted.pdf>

4. Will the study generate further work for the selected consultant after completion?

*No.*

5. Who is the main point of contact for the RFP?

*All questions and submissions should be directed to Francis Pickering at [ccarpenter@westcog.org](mailto:ccarpenter@westcog.org).*

6. How will communications to specific municipalities be handled during the project?

*There will be established points of contact WestCOG will help facilitate that. Additionally a project advisory committee will be assembled with representatives from the municipalities during the study.*

7. How is the project being funded?

*The project qualifies for funding under many sources and will be funded using EPA Coronavirus Relief funds. WestCOG will handle all federal reporting and compliance.*

8. Would WestCOG consider a private partnership with a service provider or only consulting engagements?

*Service providers are welcome to respond to this RFP, however WestCOG is most interested in the complete range of options available. This is an open and competitive process, and we will consider all viable options to achieve the set goals.*

9. Is there a deadline for the funding source?

*Yes, there is a 24- month validity period after WestCOG enters into an agreement with the federal government. The funds will be for calendar years 2023 and 2024.*

10. In reference to the Scope of Work-Analytical Framework-Section 2, are in-person meetings required?

*In-person meetings are not absolutely necessary; remote meetings are possible. Please include how you plan to conduct meetings in your response.*

11. In reference to the Scope of Work-Analytical Framework-Section 3, what does “Disinvestment” and “Business as usual” mean?

*In regard to “disinvestment”, WestCOG is concerned about the lack of investment that can lead to no viable alternative for internet access that has been seen in other areas of the country.*

*In regard to “business as usual”, this scenario would assume equipment would be replaced at end of life and legacy equipment would continue to be repaired - no significant evolution in the technology or speeds.*

12. What will WestCOG be providing in terms of assistance?

*A WestCOG staff member will be available as a liaison for the project. Please indicate in your response if you have any plans for how to distribute the labor that would be advantageous for the budget or better suited to be handled by the COG (relationship connections, meetings, some data collection, etc.)*

13. Does WestCOG want a centralized response from one agency or a joint venture?

*WestCOG prefers to enter a single contract for this RFP. The contractor may be a single firm, a single firm with subcontractors, or consortium. Any response that involves more than one entity should describe the relationship between those entities.*

14. Will a contact list from the pre-bid meeting be available?

*All parties interested in sharing their contact information with other attendees should send your name, affiliation, phone number and email to [ccarpenter@westcog.org](mailto:ccarpenter@westcog.org) by Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Current contacts shared include:*

- Dexter G | Lit Communities | [dgeneral@litcommunities.net](mailto:dgeneral@litcommunities.net)
- Chris Brady | Cisco | [chrisbra@cisco.com](mailto:chrisbra@cisco.com)
- Chris Chaffee | AECOM | [chris.chaffee@aecom.com](mailto:chris.chaffee@aecom.com)
- Eric Bathras | AECOM | [eric.bathras@aecom.com](mailto:eric.bathras@aecom.com)
- Joe Ross | Televate | [jjross@televate.com](mailto:jjross@televate.com) | 703-639-4202
- Thomas Perrone | GoNetSpeed | [tperrone@gonetspeed.com](mailto:tperrone@gonetspeed.com)
- Mike Solitro | Sertex Broadband Solutions | [msolitro@sertexllc.com](mailto:msolitro@sertexllc.com) | 860.317.1006 x112
- Phil Santoro | Vector Security Networks | [pmsantoro@vectorsecurity.com](mailto:pmsantoro@vectorsecurity.com) | 484.220.5789

15. Does WestCOG have any non-public relevant data available for the region?

*WestCOG does not have access to any proprietary datasets. We do have geometric data including building sizes, utility pole locations (not ownership data), etc. available on our website at <https://westcog.org/analytics/data/>. Planimetric LIDAR data is also available for the entire region but is too large to host online – contact WestCOG for this data. An analysis was also completed using LIDAR data to measure the distance between the street and every home in the region.*

16. Does WestCOG have an exact budget for the project?

*No, WestCOG has not set an exact budget. For context, WestCOG has 11 fulltime and 2 part-time employees and has a \$3 million annual operative budget.*

17. Does the project funding have any start mandates?

*There is a 24-month validity period for the funding. Ideally the project would be completed in one year.*

18. What are some factors to consider for the application process?

*The details are covered within the RFP, note that application narratives are not to exceed 5000 words.*

*A conflict-of-interest form is necessary you can find this on the RFP page.*