

About the Work

PROPOSAL REQUEST

September 26, 2023

RE: Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail

Masterplan DGEIS Visitation, Pedestrian and Traffic Study – 3rd Party Review
Request for Proposal

Precedent to an award of contract, the successful firm must have proper government approval and be licensed to perform work in the State of NY.

Submissions as outlined below are due by **5pm on October 13, 2023**. In the event that your firm elects not to respond to this RFP, please notify Chelsea Anderson of About the Work, listed below.

Contact

Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail
c/o Chelsea Anderson
About the Work
m: 917.991.7509
cc: canderson@atworkllc.com
akacala@hhft.org

I. Introduction

The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail (the "Project") has to-date been planned as a 7.5 -mile linear trail between Beacon and Cold Spring, largely along the Hudson River, in the scenic highlands region 50 miles north of New York City. The moniker 'fjord' is derived from the presence of an actual fjord carved by receding glaciers which is most pronounced where two famous mountains – Storm King and Breakneck Ridge – face off across the river. The project aims to offer a new way to experience the Hudson River and Highlands as well as safer and better managed access to reduce related stresses to gateway communities and the ecology of the park preserve on some of the Hudson Valley's most popular hiking trails. The trail will include an array of destinations and opportunities for all ages and abilities to engage with the highlands and river. The design is as much about caring for the landscape - being restorative where needed to address past degradation as well as forward-thinking for resilience and what future risks climate change and sea level rise will pose.

In coordination with a committee of representatives from the five project area communities, the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Inc. (HHFT) seeks a consultant, who will work with and report to the municipal representatives of the committee in order to provide a 3rd party review of the traffic study, visitation projection, and village pedestrian circulation analysis conducted to date. The consultant will work with HHFT, community representatives on the committee, and the current design and environmental team to ensure the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement properly identifies impacts and proposes sufficient mitigation measures.

Desktop review, field survey, and reporting will be required as part of this effort.

II. Project Specifics

A. Overview

Masterplan

A comprehensive masterplan has been developed in coordination with SCAPE Landscape Architecture. The masterplan has established goals for the overall trail design. The aspiration of this project is to create a park that creates opportunities for appreciation and awe of this rich natural landscape. The design should achieve a sense of being in the landscape versus something placed upon the landscape. The draft can be downloaded at the following link:

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/aof089l7nco6hofk4wx52/220228_FjordTrail_MP_Draft-Final-Report_revisedimages-CURRENT-MP.pdf?rlkey=f91d1jqvyxho22iqq9bpxg9nv&dl=0

The Fjord Trail Draft Master Plan is the result of nearly 20 years of input and refinement by local stakeholders, regional entities, and state agencies. Public input has been, and continues to be, fundamental to this planning process. Since the creation of the 2020 Draft Master Plan update, HHFT has held more than 50 stakeholder meetings, public presentations and visioning sessions.

DGEIS

The project area and proposed environmental impacts are being studied and analyzed through the development of a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation as lead agency. The scoping of the document was initiated with a version of the trail submitted in 2015. As part of the analysis, traffic and pedestrian data was taken at multiple intervals to paint a broader picture of current traffic and visitation impacting the area. The analysis and proposed mitigation will be submitted as part of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to govern the project as a whole.

B. Schedule/Phases

The full project is currently in various stages of predevelopment and design. Chapters of the environmental analysis are being drafted by AKRF. A final DGEIS submission encompassing the entire project, with the exception of the Breakneck Connector/Bridge Projects and Dutchess Manor, is anticipated to be complete in early 2024.

C. Design Professionals Team

- About the Work (HHFT Owner's Representative)
- AKRF
- SCAPE Landscape Architecture
- ORCA Consulting

Stakeholder Group

- Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc.
- Village of Cold Spring
- Town of Philipstown
- Town of Fishkill
- City of Beacon
- Village of Nelsonville
- Visitation Data Committee
- New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation

D. Owner's Representative

HHFT has engaged About the Work (AtW) as their owner's representative. AtW will be driving all phases of the project, from design through construction, working closely with HHFT and the selected consultant to coordinate materials and meetings.

III. Scope of Services:

With this RFP, About the Work, LLC on behalf of HHFT, and the appointed representatives of stakeholder communities comprising the HHFT Visitation Data Committee, seeks to obtain the services of a qualified firm to perform all of the services listed below. Please include a breakout of costs per task for expedited proposal consideration.

A. Review, Survey, and Documentation

(i) Masterplan Review

The selected consultant shall review the 2020 Masterplan Draft and other provided documentation in full, ensuring any onsite traffic and pedestrian circulation issues have been identified.

(ii) Survey

The selected consultant shall conduct a field visit to observe the existing conditions during the typical weekday and weekend hours as well as anticipated peak times during optimal hiking/fall foliage viewing season. Signal timings, traffic volumes, and lane geometries presented in the traffic and visitation analysis will be verified during the field visit.

(iii) Technical Review

The selected consultant will provide review and consultation on three topics which are the focus of this committee:

- Pedestrian study methodology and findings
- Visitation Projection
- Traffic study methodology and findings

The goal of this process is for the community representatives to have the ability to review these three work areas with the consultant providing an independent technical resource to help them understand, question, and suggest any applicable refinements to the studies or work on these three topics. The sequence of meetings anticipated include:

- A kickoff meeting with the community representatives to the committee
- A kickoff call with AKRF to coordinate the transfer of any applicable resources the consultant needs to review in order to assist the committee with their work on the three data topics.
- Three municipal-only meetings with the consultant in advance of a full committee meeting (one per topic)
- Three full meetings of the committee, including the consultants whose work is being reviewed (one per topic)

(iv) Documentation

The selected consultant shall prepare a summary memo of municipal input on each topic in advance of the full committee discussion meeting to shape the substance and agenda for the discussion. The consultant shall then refine that memo for the community representatives to use in their independent municipal briefings.

(v) Meetings

The consultant will attend the following meetings

- four meetings with the community-based Visitation Data Committee members
- three meetings with the full committee
- one coordination meeting with HHFT's consultants

Please advise if other engineers or consultants are required for your work and include them in your scope of services/fee. **All sub consultants retained by the engineer to perform services for this project shall be approved by the Visitation Data Committee.**

The anticipated duration for this scope of work is approximately 6 months.

SUBMISSION FORM (submit with proposal)

Masterplan DGEIS Visitation and Traffic Study and Projections Review
Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail

Due Date: October 13, 2023 no later than 5 PM

GENERAL INFORMATION:

(Please provide for each proposed team member)

Name of Firm: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person/Title: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

Tax ID #: _____

WBE/MBE Status: _____

Insurance Limits

General liability:

Umbrella:

Professional liability: