



C H A T H A M C O U N T Y - S A V A N N A H

METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

110 EAST STATE STREET, P.O. BOX 8246, SAVANNAH GEORGIA 31412 - 8246



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP No. 2025-01)

Flooding Dynamic Modeling Tools for Optimized Planning of CORE MPO Transportation Infrastructure Systems Phase II (P.I. No. 0020785)

Issue Date: January 2, 2025
Submittal Deadline: January 31, 2025

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Instructions to Obtain RFP Specifications

If interested in receiving a complete copy of the specifications, please go to our website at <https://www.thempc.org/Core/RFP2025>. To receive RFP specifications by mail, please complete the information below and mail to or email:

Mail to: MPC
Atten: Kieron Coffield, Administrative Assistant
100 East State Street
Savannah, GA, 31401

Email: Kieron Coffield, coffieldk@thempc.org

The MPC/CORE MPO shall not be held responsible for requests delayed by the US Mail or any other courier.

FedEx Acct # _____ UPS Acct # _____

Institution Name Attention

Complete Mailing or Delivery Address

Email Phone # Fax #

Specifications may also be picked up from 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM at the MPC/CORE MPO Office

Address Location: 100 East State Street
Savannah, GA, 31401

Project Description

Background

Changes in climate are producing extreme weather events that are increasing in frequency. Events such as sea level rise, flooding, and climate change present major threats for coastal community's road networks, rail, canals, greenways, and other infrastructure in the CORE MPO planning area. Natural disasters and weather events cause frequent flood hazards in streets and intersections which impede traffic flow and cause significant interruptions to mobility and commerce. Additionally, when flooding occurs, communities often experience significant social, economic, and environmental impacts. While flooding is a part of the Earth's natural hydrological cycle, imbalances in this cycle can send more water to areas than it can normally handle.

Factors that cause imbalances to the natural hydrological cycle and result in flooding and inundation of transportation infrastructure for communities can include low elevations, proximity to water bodies, and the amount of developed and impervious surfaces in or near a community. Even more, rapid development and the increased impervious area also contribute to flooding. Impervious surfaces prevent the natural infiltration of precipitation into the ground and slow seeping into streams and waterbodies. Infrastructure from developments and transportation create more impervious surfaces which limit ground absorption thereby increasing the accumulation of runoff and flow into streams, waterways, canals, beaches etc.

Planning for resilience against the impacts of sea level rise and flooding is not only a national, but local imperative which relies upon the ability to adapt, availability of funding, data and research, and stakeholder collaboration. Through collaborations, the MPC and CORE MPO can build upon current efforts to improve the Region's ability to evaluate and adapt to these threats and stressors.

In FY 2022 CORE MPO applied for and was awarded discretionary PL funds for the Urban Flooding Dynamic Modeling Tools for Optimized City Planning of Transportation and Infrastructure (FMT) study within the MPO boundary that covered all of Chatham County, portions of Bryan County and Effingham County within the 2010 census designated Savannah Urbanize Area, and the connecting areas in Bryan County. CORE MPO/MPC completed the procurement process and MPC contracted with the consultant team, the University of Georgia, to conduct the study. The multi-year effort of study development began in August 2022 and concluded in October 2023. The study resulted in the following deliverables:

- Storm Water Management Model (SWMM) to examine flood depths at stormwater drainage points for various combinations of rainfall, tides, and SLR.
- Hydrographs (ASCII/CSV file format) at select locations within the stormwater infrastructure.
- Vulnerability Assessment Application: An online ESRI Dashboard that integrates flood modeling, roadway vulnerability, and other GIS layers.
- Compilation of funding opportunities for the CORE MPO planning area that can support enhancements to the local transportation network, particularly using natural and nature-based infrastructure features.
- Final report with the study results and description of tools and data produced.

Purpose

CORE MPO is seeking research proposals to expand Phase I flood modeling tools to inform the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and other planning processes that will include the new portion of the MPO boundary. This framework will ensure the MTP's goal of enhancing the resiliency and security of the transportation system by encompassing considerations such as project prioritization, land use, environmental, economic, community livability, and equitable improvements to disadvantaged communities.

The study will expand out to the new areas in the CORE MPO Metropolitan Planning Area boundary for Bryan County and Effingham County. Expected products will include an inventory of available stormwater data and models, improved online vulnerability GIS application in the expanded MPO boundary, training module for planners in CORE MPO jurisdictions on how to use study products, and an infrastructure strategy guide with a financial component to identify cost requirements to mitigate stormwater runoff challenges in Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) projects.

The stormwater models and online interactive dashboard tool will be used to help with targeting and prioritizing changes to the transportation infrastructure. This can include adaptation of infrastructure such as adding culverts, pedestrian trails, moving or raising roads, rail, etc., thus informing the MTP and promoting economic vitality and freight movement, reliability, and resiliency. The development of any models and tools should also provide a fair and equitable approach to efficiently improving transportation infrastructure resiliency. The deliverable developed must build upon relevant existing/previous studies, tools, and models, be user-friendly, and be transferable to any community.

The infrastructure strategy guide can be further utilized in development review processes for agencies in the CORE MPO planning area/region to identify cost requirements for mitigating surface runoff from proposed infrastructure and new development. The guide will benefit the multi-modal transportation network by avoiding negative impacts of flooding such as increased congestion, road closures, loss of emergency access, delays to freight and goods movement, etc. Creating infrastructure that provides diverse transportation options ensures accessibility, provides system redundancy, promotes economic vitality and freight movement, supports evacuation needs, and addresses social equity.

Phase II will include a training module to ensure planners, stormwater engineers, emergency managers, and the public can fully utilize these tools and resources by better understanding the connection between development and impact on roadways. This study should include materials from Phase I for any additional flood modeling and decision-planning tools which help target and prioritize projects and strategies aimed at mitigating the impacts of rainfall events and sea level rise on transportation infrastructure. Materials should optimize the planning of new and existing transportation infrastructure to improve reliability and resiliency with additional consideration to economic constraints and social inequities.

Scope of Work

The project's scope of work includes, at a minimum, the activities outlined below; however, applicants should detail a clear project approach that will effectively assess the needs of the CORE MPO's purpose and objectives set forth in this RFP. Applicants are encouraged to add any elements which help achieve the project's objectives. Specific elements of interest are set out below and should be addressed within the proposed project's approach. MPC staff will work with the successful Institution to incorporate a mutually agreeable scope of work into the resulting contract.

This project will result in the continued development of flood modeling and decision-planning tools and training materials to help address the resiliency and security of the community's transportation system. The applicant should include explicit consideration of future climate projections such as extreme rainfall events, sea-level rise, and storm surge scenarios, ensuring that the model accounts for a range of future conditions. These models and tools encompass considerations to project prioritization, land use, environmental, community livability, and equitable improvements to disadvantaged communities. The study deliverables should be developed collaboratively across disciplines, including urban planning, environmental science, and social science, to create a more holistic flood resilience framework.

Objectives and identifiable outcomes should include and be able to evaluate the following:

Task 1. Project Management and Coordination

Task 1.1 Project Management Plan: A Project Management Plan (PMP) shall be prepared at the start of the project to identify work organization, program, outreach plan, responsibilities, coordination and communication procedures, team meetings, document format, report format, technical memorandum schedules, graphic production standards, and other important operational information pertaining to the team activities.

Task 1.2 Project Schedule and Quality Assurance/Quality Control Program: The study team shall develop a detailed project schedule which will be used to manage and disseminate project progress within the team and to CORE MPO. The schedule will indicate tasks, subtasks, critical dates, milestones, deliverables, and review requirements. The study team shall develop a formal approach to quality management to ensure all products meet the high standards of quality and scope attainment.

Task 1.3 Progress Reports: The PMP shall outline the timing and format for progress reports. At a minimum, it will include:

- Activities, ongoing or completed, during the reporting period;
- Activities planned for the following month;
- Problems encountered and actions to remedy them; and
- Overall status, including a tabulation of percent complete by task, management schedule showing study progress, supporting documentation.

Task 1.4 Project Meetings: The PMP shall outline the timing of meetings with the CORE MPO Project Manager. The study team will produce the support material needed for the meetings, as well as taking all meeting notes, summarizing the discussions, and outlining decisions and action items.

Task 1.5 Outreach Efforts: The study team will coordinate with the CORE MPO Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and the Transportation Equity and Public Involvement Advisory Committee (TEPIAC) and need to perform extensive outreach to the various stakeholders in the Savannah region, as outlined in a Public Outreach Plan. The Outreach Plan will identify all relevant groups and design the appropriate methods to get their input. Outreach efforts should include participatory workshops with local communities, particularly in vulnerable areas, to co-develop flood resilience strategies. The plan should clarify how community feedback and traditional knowledge will be integrated into flood modeling and final recommendations to enrich data quality and applicability.

Task 1.6 Project Coordination: The PMP shall outline the coordination work expected with other ongoing and related resilience, stormwater, and transportation studies and projects. Coordination with stormwater departments and staff should be a priority in developing deliverables.

Task 1 Deliverables:

- Project Management Plan with timeline
- Public Outreach and Project Coordination Plan

Task 2. Inventory of Available Stormwater Data and Models

Task 2.1 Review Phase I Materials: The study team will review all final deliverables from Phase I and identify data gaps and needs for Phase II. Phase I Materials include:

- Storm Water Management Model (SWMM) examining flood depths at stormwater drainage points for various combinations of rainfall, tides, and SLR.
- Hydrographs (ASCII/CSV file format) at select locations within the stormwater infrastructure.
- Vulnerability Assessment Application: An online ESRI Dashboard that integrates flood modeling, roadway vulnerability, and other GIS layers.
- Financial Spreadsheet outlining funding opportunities for the CORE MPO planning area.
- Final report detailing Phase I methodology.

Task 2.2 Inventory Available Stormwater Data: Contact each municipality for available stormwater data and models and identify gaps and inconsistencies in data. Interview key stakeholders to determine the current modeling system used and if the free EPA version of SWMM will suit future needs. This inventory should be able to help guide future transportation studies in municipalities and align regional efforts. The study team is encouraged to incorporate other existing data sources such as, but not limited to, satellite imagery, drones, and AI for real-time flood monitoring and predictive analytics.

Task 2.3 Flood Resilience Metrics: The study team should set specific, multi-modal flood resilience metrics based off the stakeholder interviews, data inventory, Phase I materials, and the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan resilience information. The study team should propose metrics that measure how equitably the flood model protects disadvantaged communities, including socio-economic vulnerability assessments, and sustainability indicators that assess the long-term effectiveness and environmental impact of proposed flood mitigation strategies. These metrics should guide tasks 3 and 4.

Task 2 Deliverables:

- Technical report summarizing the stormwater data inventory for each jurisdiction in the CORE MPO Region, analysis on data gaps and inconsistencies between jurisdictions, summary of stakeholder interviews on preferred stormwater modeling programs and data needs, multi-modal resilience metrics, and sustainability indicators.

Task 3. Online Vulnerability Assessment Application

Task 3.1 Review GIS data from Phase I: Review data inputs into Phase I online vulnerability assessment application and create metadata for each layer. Identify what additional data is needed for new CORE MPO Boundary areas. Expand road vulnerability assessment based on elevation, sea level rise, tidal flooding, and social vulnerability used in Phase I to new areas.

Task 3.2 Identify roads and areas with past flooding experience: Contact relevant jurisdictional departments such as emergency management, traffic, and stormwater management to determine previous flooding hotspots and compare it with road elevation, sea level rise, and tidal flooding data from Phase I to show areas most at risk.

Task 3.3 Incorporated projected build-out scenario: The CORE MPO population is rapidly increasing, along with development. Future development, population growth, and land use data should be included in the analysis.

Task 3.4 Create User-Friendly GIS application: Survey key stakeholders on several GIS applications that identify roads most vulnerable to flooding. Use preferred application style to update existing vulnerability assessment application and beta-test the product to ensure it is intuitive to users.

Task 3 Deliverables:

- Summarized technical report on application of GIS data from Phase I to new areas of CORE MPO Boundary, historical flooding data, and comparison of GIS data with historical flooding data. The report should outline strategies for communicating risks to different stakeholders, including the public, to enhance preparedness and response.
- User-friendly, beta-tested Online Vulnerability Assessment Application that identifies the most vulnerable roads to flooding and socially vulnerable areas that can be prioritized in a capital improvement plan. The GIS vulnerability assessment tool should be mobile-friendly to increase accessibility for local officials and the public.
- Data collected and generated should be able to be stored in an open-access format to facilitate transparency and collaboration.

Task 4. Infrastructure Strategies and Cost

Task 4.1 Identify relevant infrastructure strategies: Provide a toolbox of infrastructure strategies that reduce flooding along transportation infrastructure and consider road classification, location, and flooding vulnerability. Strategies can include gray infrastructure but should primarily focus on nature-based solutions. Each identified strategy should include a description, cost estimate, benefits and challenges.

Task 4.2 Demonstration Projects: Each strategy should use one project from the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) as an example to demonstrate the concept in the guide.

Task 4 Deliverables:

- Infrastructure Strategy Guide with a focus on nature-based solutions to demonstrate possible capital improvement projects that include description, cost estimate, benefits and challenges. This guide should include 1) a comparative analysis of nature-based solutions (e.g., wetlands restoration, green infrastructure) versus traditional engineered solutions, 2) urban design strategies that enhance flood resilience, such as permeable pavements and adaptive building designs, and 3) case studies of successful flood resilience in the CORE MPO region.

Task 5. Training Program

Task 5.1 Training Curriculum: Develop a curriculum to ensure planners, engineers, transit staff, and emergency managers within the CORE MPO jurisdiction can fully utilize these tools and resources possible and better understand the connection between development and impact on roadways. The training program should utilize a user-friendly platform that can be updated.

Task 5 Deliverables:

- Technical Summary with course outline and overview. The summary should identify target agencies and staff for the training program to utilize study materials.
- User-friendly training curriculum detailing the online vulnerability assessment application and infrastructure strategy guide.

Task 6. Recommendations

Task 6.1 Summarize study findings and recommendations: Provide a set of recommendations for MPO agencies to implement study materials and identify opportunities to increase equitable access to multi-modal transportation infrastructure and emergency services during flooding events for the residents who have been traditionally underserved, such as lower-income residents, non-native English speakers, senior residents, disabled, and communities of color. Recommendations should emphasize collaboration throughout the CORE MPO region, fostering a cohesive and collaborative approach.

Task 6 Deliverables:

- Technical summary with recommendations on how to best implement study deliverables, possible future studies, and strategies to maintain and update the tools as projections evolve.

Estimated Schedule

The anticipated completion date of the SR 26/US 80 Scoping Study Phase II is no later than March 31, 2025.

1/2/2025: Request for Proposals Announced

1/17/2025: Deadline to Submit Questions

1/24/2025: Deadline to Respond to Questions

1/31/2025: Deadline for Submittal of Proposal Review

2/3/2025-2/21/2025: Proposal Review

3/3/2025 (subject to confirmation): Interviews (week of)

3/21/2025 (subject to confirmation): Consultant Selection and Notification (week of)

4/1/2025-3/31/2027: Project Start-End

Eligibility

- Academic Institution (public and private) such as:
 - Universities
 - Colleges
 - Community Colleges
- **Non-academic entities eligible as subconsultants.**
- Direct association/experience with coastal research and analysis activities.

Preferred Qualifications

- Demonstrated understanding of transportation planning, stormwater management, and knowledge of issues and concerns related to transportation infrastructure resiliency.
- Demonstrated understanding of transportation, land use, and environmental planning specific to climate change (sea level rise, natural hazards, increased temperatures, etc.).
- Experience with data and technical analysis.
- Experience in vulnerability assessments: environment, economic, equity, resiliency.
- Demonstrated experience with public outreach and engagement strategies.
- Successful utilization of existing applicable and relevant data, study, and models produced by local entities such as Chatham County.

Proposal Content & Requirements

The complete proposal shall contain the following information and shall **be submitted in the order shown below**. Please address each section in your proposal submission and divide each section of your proposal by the identifying section headers. Specified page numbers represent the maximum number of pages (both front and back included, not including the cover page) allowed for each section. Proposals that do not meet the specified requirements will not be considered.

Requirements for Proposal

Section 1: Transmittal Letter (1 page)

Transmittal letter on Institution letterhead shall introduce the Institution and its proposed team, provide a brief history, include complete address, phone, and fax numbers, and include the name and email address of the primary contact person(s) for this RFP process. An authorized agent must sign the transmittal letter.

Section 2: Institution's Qualifications/Experience of Key Personnel (4 pages)

Submit statements or evidence that demonstrates the knowledge and experience of the Institution in performing research of a similar nature to the Project Description. The proposed project's personnel should have similar experience, preferably previously working as a team. Include an organizational chart displaying the experience/area of expertise of key personnel.

Describe specialized training, experience, professional competence, and certifications in the area directly related to this RFP. Show reasons why the Institution believes it is especially qualified to undertake the project. Information provided should include, but not be limited to, such data as: specialized equipment available for this work, any awards or recognition received by the Institution or individuals for similar work, special approaches or concepts developed by the Institution relevant to this project, etc.

Section 3: Project Understanding & Approach (7 pages)

Provide an overview explaining the Institutions' understanding of the project goals and scope and demonstrate a clear vision of the project's outcome. Highlight the perceived unique opportunities, challenges, and priorities of this study. Describe the proposed approach and work plan to accomplish the objectives outlined in the Scope of Work.

The description of the proposed approach shall discuss the tasks in sufficient detail to demonstrate the Institution's ability to accomplish the objectives. A time schedule for completion of tasks shall be included. Describe any approach to managing resources, including a description of the specific responsibilities of key personnel performing specific tasks, and how their work will be supervised. Proposers are invited to submit and describe additional ideas or strategies to the scope of work as needed to enhance the study outcomes.

Section 4: Insurance and Certification (2 pages)

Provide proof of insurance as per “General Requirements, Section III, Insurance” and complete the attached affidavit found in Appendix I indicating that the Institution is qualified to do work in Georgia and not debarred or prevented from working on a federally funded contract.

Section 5: References (2 pages)

The Institution shall provide a list of at least two (2) references for which similar research, services, or technical analysis have been performed. Reference information shall include a short description of the research, services, or technical analysis conducted, the main problem that was researched or solved, and what were the positive results. For each reference, Institutions shall include a contact name and job title along with the contact’s telephone number and email address. The Institution shall identify any client relationships that may be in conflict with the successful completion of this project.

Section 6: Resumes (up to 20 pages)

The Institution shall include resumes of all proposed project team members up to 20 pages total.

Section 7: Notice of Non-Discrimination & Proposed Schedule of M/WBE Participation (2 page)

The Institution shall submit the Notice of Non-Discrimination found in Appendix II with their proposal. A Proposed Schedule of M/WBE Participation found in Appendix III shall be submitted for all non-academic subconsultants.

General Requirements

- 1. Qualification:** The Institution represents that it is fully qualified, staffed, and equipped to properly perform any agreed upon conditions and work as requested in this proposal and as represented in the proposal. Proposals shall state whether there is a potential conflict of interest, and the Institution must be cognizant of the debarment requirement (in Appendix I) and the Institution shall not be debarred from working on any federally funded contract.
- 2. Independent Contractor:** The Institution shall respond to this RFP as an independent contractor and not as an employee of MPC/CORE MPO.
- 3. Insurance:** The Institution shall provide a Certificate of Insurance for each category listed below and carry each in force if awarded this contract for the duration of the project or provide evidence of self-insurance:
 - a. General liability property damage insurance
 - b. General liability bodily injury insurance
 - c. Automotive/truck insurance covering all owned, hired and non-owned vehicles used in the project
 - d. Workman's compensation insurance
 - e. Employer's liability insurance
 - f. Errors and Omissions (E&O) coverage or Professional Liability Insurance (\$1,500,000 per occurrence)

Proposal Submittal Process

Submission

All services will be procured using competitive sealed proposals. The sealed proposals are due by hand delivery or mail to the following location:

Chatham County – Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission

| | |
|--------------|--|
| RE: | RFP/RFQ No. 2025-01 |
| Mail: | P.O. Box 8246 Savannah, Georgia 31412-8246 |
| Deliver: | 110 East State Street Savannah, Georgia 31401 |
| Date & Time: | January 31, 2025, by 5:00 pm |

Submit five (5) bound paper copies of the proposal **and** one electronic copy in PDF format. Electronic copies 10 MB or smaller are to be sent via e-mail to Kieron Coffield, coffieldk@thempc.org. Electronic copies larger than 10 MB are to be sent on a USB flash drive via hand delivery or mail to the location above. **Both the hard copies and electronic copy (PDF or USB) must be received on or before the deadline noted above.**

For proper identification, the Institutions’ complete name and address should appear on the exterior of the submitted proposal package. If the required proposal materials do not reach the MPC/CORE MPO office on or before January 31, 2025, at 5:00 PM (ET), the proposal shall not be considered. It is the Institution’s responsibility to ensure the proposal materials are mailed or delivered and received by the due date and time noted above.

The MPC/CORE MPO shall not be held liable for any expenses incurred by the respondent in preparing and submitting its proposal and/or attendance at any presentations, requested supplemental material, final contract negotiations or applicable site visits. The MPC/CORE MPO reserves the right to award this project, to cancel the solicitation, or to reject any and all proposals; whichever is in the best interest of the MPC/CORE MPO.

Receipt of Proposals

Unless otherwise stated in the technical specifications of the RFP, the MPC/CORE MPO will accept only one proposal per Institution. In the event an institution enters into a joint venture with another institution, firm, or consultant to respond to the RFP, one Institution shall be named the prime contractor, and the proposal shall be submitted in the name of the prime contractor. All correspondence concerning the RFP will be between MPC/CORE MPO and the prime contractor. The MPC/CORE MPO shall not be held responsible for proposals delayed by the US Mail or any other courier.

Selection & Evaluation

Selection

The evaluation and selection process will involve reviewing the proposals and conducting in-person interviews with the Institutions selected as finalists. The MPC/CORE MPO reserves the right to conduct interviews virtually when deemed necessary. Refer to page eleven (11) for the specific RFP schedule.

The Proposal Review Committee (PRC) will evaluate the Institution's proposals and interviews and provide a final ranking and recommendation to the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and CEO (hereafter referenced as EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and CEO). The PRC will consist of the CORE MPO project manager and qualified planning professionals within the CORE metropolitan planning area. Each Committee member shall grade each submitted proposal based upon the evaluation criteria provided below.

The written proposal is the only measurement that will be used to identify Institutions that will be invited for an interview. The PRC will recommend at least the three (3) highest ranked Institutions to the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and CEO to be invited for an interview. Institutions invited for an interview will give a presentation to the PRC. Institutions will be allotted 25-minutes for a presentation to be given by the Institution followed by 20-minutes for questions and answers following the presentation.

The MPC/CORE MPO reserves the right to request clarification of information from any respondent or to request supplemental material deemed necessary to assist in the evaluation of the proposal.

Interviews will be scored based on their own merit aside from the original written proposal score. Institutions will be ranked in descending order of numerical predominance based on the combined scores for the proposal and interview. The EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and CEO will begin negotiations with the highest ranked Institution based on the results from the presentations and written proposals. Should such negotiations fail to reach an agreement, negotiations will begin with the next highest ranked Institution. Once an agreement between the Institution and EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and CEO is reached, the contract will be presented to the Planning Commission for authorization to allow the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and CEO to execute the contract.

Proposal Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following rating scale and criteria:

| Criteria | Weight |
|---|--------|
| Experience & Technical Competency | x6 |
| Project Understanding & Approach | x6 |
| Familiarity with Project Type | x4 |
| Proposal Quality | x3 |
| Collaboration (rated as either 0 = No or 5 = Yes) | x1 |

Rating Scale: 1 = Poor, 2 = Fair, 3 = Good, 4 = Excellent, 5 = Superior Maximum score of 100

1. Experience & Technical Competency: Proposal reflects the Institution’s relevant experience and technical capabilities with flooding events and sea level rise necessary to successfully execute the work set forth in this RFP. The Institution and/or individuals who will be assigned to the research have applicable and relevant experience.

2. Project Understanding & Approach: Proposal shows an understanding of the project objectives. Includes the Institution’s proposed methodology, desired results, and expected outcomes/outputs. Demonstrates innovative ideas and efficient approach that accomplish objectives set forth in this RFP.

3. Familiarity with Project Type: Proposal demonstrates a level of familiarity with the proposed research and reflects the Institution’s qualifications in transportation, land use, environmental planning. Proposal identifies relevant resources such as studies, models, and data that could be utilized to help accomplish objectives set forth in this RFP.

4. Proposal Quality: Research approach is clearly defined. Proposal is a well-written, straightforward, and concise document with high-quality graphic/images (when used).

4. Collaboration: The prime applicant is an eligible academic institution (as specified in the Scope of Work) in collaboration with another academic institution, firm, or consultant.

Presentation Evaluation

Interview presentations will be evaluated based on the following rating scale and criteria:

| Criteria | Weight |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Specific Experience | x4 |
| Project Understanding | x3 |
| Project Team & Performance | x2 |
| Innovation | x1 |

Rating Scale: 1 = Poor, 2 = Fair, 3 = Good, 4 = Excellent, 5 = Superior Maximum Score of 50

1. Specific Experience: Described specific experience (of individuals and/or Institution) on similar and relevant research that demonstrated the knowledge and experience with the objectives identified in the Scope of Work.

2. Project Understanding: Demonstrated an understanding of the issues facing the CORE metropolitan planning area by highlighting the perceived challenges and priorities of this project.

3. Project Team & Performance: Clearly identified the project manager, key personnel, and their roles and responsibilities. Described the capacity of key staff and their ability to perform the anticipated workload over the project timeline

4. Innovation: Provided any ideas, strategies, and/or elements not listed in the Scope of Work that would strength the objectives and outputs of this project.

Negotiation

After proposals have been evaluated, negotiations shall begin with the highest ranked Institution. To facilitate negotiations, the Institution may be asked to submit detailed scope and fee proposals or hourly rates at the request of the Proposal Review Committee. The EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and CEO shall consider the estimated value, scope, and complexity of the nature of services required. The EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and CEO will negotiate a contract price with the highest ranked Institution. Should such negotiations fail to reach an agreement, the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and CEO will close those negotiations and open negotiations with the next highest ranked Institution. Should this process not yield an agreement, the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and CEO will begin negotiations with the third Institution in order of their ranking. The EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and CEO shall continue negotiations in accordance with this section until an agreement is reached with a qualified Institution. If negotiations with the third Institution does not yield an agreement, the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and CEO has the option to reopen the RFP process.

Request For Evaluation Results

The evaluation results cannot be divulged until after the award of the contract. After contract award, Institutions may request the RFP evaluation scores in writing by contacting the following:

Mail to:

MPC

Atten: Kieron Coffield, Administrative Assistant
100 East State Street
Savannah, GA, 31401

or

Email:

Kieron Coffield, coffieldk@thempc.org

Communication & Questions

All questions, clarifications and communication concerning this solicitation shall be submitted in writing via e-mail to the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and CEO of the MPC/CORE MPO. The MPC/CORE MPO will not orally or telephonically address any question or clarification regarding specifications or procedures. If a vendor visits or calls an MPC/CORE MPO employee with such questions, he or she will be instructed to submit any questions in writing. All questions must be submitted to the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and CEO via e-mail through the designated point of contact below.

All contacts concerning this solicitation unless otherwise directed shall be made through the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and CEO. Institutions shall not contact department heads or staff with questions about solicitations. If it is necessary that a technical question be addressed, the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and CEO will forward such to the appropriate department, which will place a written response on the MPC/CORE MPO's website, <https://www.thempc.org/Core/RFP2025> or issue an addendum. The EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and CEO will not respond individually to questions. If it becomes necessary to revise any part of this solicitation, a written addendum will be posted on the same website. It is the responsibility of each Institution to review the MPC/CORE MPO website for any new information that is posted. Any request by Institutions after a proposal has been opened or pending award must also be submitted in writing to the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and CEO.

The MPC/CORE MPO is not bound by any oral representations, clarifications, or changes made to the written specifications by MPC/CORE MPO staff, unless such clarification or change is provided in written addendum posted on the website from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CEO . Responses to any submitted questions will be posted on the MPC/CORE MPO's website January 24, 2025, by 5:00 PM (ET).

Point of contact to the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and CEO through:

| | |
|----------|----------------------|
| Contact: | Kieron Coffield |
| Email: | coffieldk@thempc.org |

Deadline to Submit Questions:

| | |
|-------|------------------|
| Date: | January 17, 2025 |
| Time: | 05:00 PM (ET) |

CHATHAM COUNTY – SAVANNAH
METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION
QUESTION/CLARIFICATION FORM

DATE: _____

TO: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and CEO, through
Kieron Coffield, Administrative Assistant
Email: coffieldk@thempc.org

RE: RFP No. 2025-01
Flooding Dynamic Modeling Tools (FMT) for Optimized Planning of CORE MPO Transportation
Infrastructure Systems Phase II

.....
I have the following concerns/questions about the specifications:

(Add additional pages as necessary)

From:

Institution Name Website

Representative Email Address

Complete Address City State Zip Code

Telephone Number Fax Number

General Information

Subcontracting

Should the Institution intend to subcontract all, or any part, of the work specified, name(s) and address(es) of subcontractor(s) must be provided in the proposal response. The Institution shall be responsible for all subcontractors' full compliance with the requirements of the RFP specifications. If awarded the contract, payments will only be made to the Institutions submitting the proposal. The MPC/CORE MPO will not be responsible for payments to subcontractors.

Specification Description

The specifications detailed herein represent the quality of equipment, goods or services required by the MPC/CORE MPO. Whenever in this solicitation any process, service or equipment is indicated or specified by patent, proprietary or brand name of manufacturer/developer/inventor, such wording will be deemed to be used for the purpose of facilitating descriptions of the process, service or equipment desired by MPC/CORE MPO. It is not meant to eliminate offerors or restrict competition in any RFP process. Proposals that are equivalent or surpass stated specifications will be considered. Determination of equivalency shall rest solely with the MPC.

Ownership of Materials

The MPC has a non-exclusive and perpetual license to copy, use, modify, reuse, or sublicense any and all copyrights, designs, and other intellectual property embodied in plans, specifications, studies, drawings, estimates, and other documents or works of authorship fixed in any tangible medium of expression, including but not limited to, physical drawings or data magnetically or otherwise recorded on computer diskettes, which are prepared or caused to be prepared by the Institution under the awarded contract ("Documents & Data"). The Institution shall require all subcontractors to agree in writing that MPC/CORE MPO is granted a non-exclusive and perpetual license for any Documents and Data the subcontractor prepares under the awarded contract. The Institution represents and warrants that the Institution has the legal right to license any and all Documents and Data. The MPC MPC/CORE MPO shall not be restricted or limited in any way in its use of the Documents and Data at any time, provided that any such use not within the purposes intended by the awarded contract shall be at MPC/CORE MPO's sole risk.

Contract Award

Each proposal is received with the understanding that an acceptance in writing by the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CEO of the offer to furnish any or all of the services and materials described shall constitute an offer to enter into a contract between the Institution and MPC/CORE MPO. This contract shall bind the Institutions to

furnish and deliver the services and materials quoted, at the prices stated and in accordance with the condition of said accepted proposal.

Award of this contract by the Planning Commission will be made in the best interest of the MPC/CORE MPO. After negotiations have resulted in an agreement with the highest ranked Institution, a contract based on the negotiated agreement will be drawn and signed by all necessary parties.

The contract file shall contain all negotiation results and the basis on which the award is made. It is agreed that the successful Institution will not assign, transfer, convey or otherwise dispose of the contract or its right, title or interest in or to the same, or any part thereof, without previous consent of the MPC/CORE MPO.

Indemnity

The successful Institution agrees, by entering into a contract, to defend, indemnify and hold the MPC harmless from any and all claims, liability, losses and causes of action arising from or under the contract.

The successful Institution hereby agrees to indemnify, hold free and harmless the MPC, it's agents, servants, employees, officers, directors and elected officials or any other person(s) against any loss or expense including attorneys' fees, by reason of any liability imposed by law upon MPC, except in cases of the MPC's sole gross negligence, for damage because of bodily injury, including death at any time during the term of the contract sustained by any person or persons. on or account of damage to property arising out of or in the work performed under the contract. It is further understood and agreed that the Institution shall (at the option of the MPC) defend the MPC with appropriate counsel and shall further bear all costs and expenses, including expenses of counsel, in the defense of any suit or legal action arising hereunder.

Public Information

All information and materials submitted will become the property of the MPC and the CORE MPO; and shall be subject to the provisions of the Georgia Open Records Act. If awarded the contract, applicable sections of the proposal submission, will be included as part of the contract documents and filed, as public record, with the MPC.

Addenda

It is the responsibility of each Institution to review the MPC/CORE MPO website for any new information that is posted. The Institution shall include acknowledgment of receipt of addenda (if any) in their sealed proposal. The Institution should include an initialed copy of each addendum in the proposal package. It is the Institution's responsibility to obtain copies of addenda posted on the MPC/CORE MPO's website <https://www.thempc.org/Core/RFP2025> if they receive the proposal document from any source other than the MPC.

Termination Of Contract

- 1. Default:** If the Institution refuses or fails to perform any of the provisions of the contract with such diligence as will ensure its completion within the time specified, or any extension thereof, or otherwise fails to timely satisfy the contract provisions, or commits any other substantial breach of the contract, MPC may notify the Institution in writing of the delay or nonperformance and if not cured within **ten (10) days** or any longer time specified in writing by MPC , MPC may terminate the Institution’s right to proceed with the contract or such part of the contract as to which there has been delay or a failure to properly perform.
- 2.** In the event of termination in whole or in part, MPC may procure similar supplies or services, from other sources, in a manner and upon terms deemed appropriate by MPC. The Institution will continue performance of the contract to the extent it is not terminated and will be liable for excess costs incurred in procuring similar goods or services.
- 3. Compensation:** Payment for completed supplies or services delivered and accepted by MPC/CORE MPO will be at the contract price. The MPC/CORE MPO may withhold from amounts due the Institution such sums as MPC/CORE MPO deems to be necessary to protect MPC/CORE MPO against loss because of outstanding liens or claims of former lien holders and to reimburse MPC/CORE MPO for the excess costs incurred in procuring similar goods and services.
- 4. Excuse for Nonperformance or Delayed Performance:** Except with respect to defaults of subcontractors, the Institution shall not be in default by reason of any failure in performance of the contract in accordance with its terms (including any failure by the Institution to make progress in the prosecution of the work thereunder which endangers such performance) if the Institution has notified the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and CEO within 15 days after the cause of the delay and the failure arises out of causes such as: acts of God; acts of public enemy; acts of the MPC/CORE MPO and any other governmental entity in its sovereign or contractual capacity; fires; floods; epidemics; quarantine restrictions; strikes or other labor disputes; freight embargoes; or unusually severe weather. If the failure to perform is caused by the failure of a subcontractor to perform or to make progress, and if such failure arises out of causes similar to those set forth above, the Institution shall not be deemed to be in default, unless the supplies or services to be furnished by the subcontractor was reasonably obtainable from other sources in sufficient time to permit the contractor to meet the contract requirements.

Upon request of the Institution, MPC/CORE MPO shall ascertain the facts and extent of such failure, and, if MPC/CORE MPO determines that any failure to perform was occasioned by anyone or more of the excusable causes, and that, but for the excusable cause, the Institution’s progress and performance would have met the terms of the contract, the delivery schedule shall be revised accordingly.

Disadvantage Business Enterprise Clause

Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (minority or woman owned businesses) (DBE) will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, creed, sex or national origin in consideration for an award. The MPC/CORE MPO expects Institutions to include disadvantaged business enterprises, minority business enterprises and woman owned business enterprises in the project team to the maximum extent practical and consistent with the efficient performance of MPC/CORE MPO contracts. The Institutions and subcontractors shall keep records adequate to permit a determination of compliance with this requirement. Institutions shall also submit the attached Notice of Non-Discrimination and Proposed Schedule of M/WBE Participation (as applicable) found in Appendix II and III with their proposal.

Taxes

The MPC is exempt from State Retail Tax. The costs proposed for the RFP shall be exclusive of taxes. Tax Exemption No. 6541648-IV, GA Code Sec. 48-8-3, Federal ID No. 586005252.

Drug-Free Workplace

In compliance with Federal and State Drug Free Workplace Acts, the MPC, Savannah, Georgia adopted a drug free Workplace Policy. Consequently, any Institution providing goods or services to MPC/CORE MPO must comply with all applicable Federal and State Drug Free Workplace Acts.

Federal, State, & Local Laws

All Institutions shall comply with all Federal, State and Local laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations relative to conducting business in Savannah, Georgia and performing the prescribed service. Ignorance on the part of the Institution shall not, in any way, relieve the Institution from responsibility for compliance with said laws and regulations or any of the provisions of these documents.

Insurance

All Institutions shall maintain, and if requested, show proof of insurance applicable for services described in these specifications under “General Requirements, Section II, Insurance” of this RFP.

Time For Consideration

Due to the evaluation process, proposals must remain in effect for at least **90 days** after date of receipt.

Non-Collusion

The Institution declares that the proposal is not made in connection with any other Institution submitting a proposal for the same commodity or commodities, and that the proposal is bona fide and is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud.

Notice To Proposers

The MPC/CORE MPO prohibits any business that is owned by any member of the Planning Commission, employs a Planning Commission member, or staff, or any business in which any member of the Planning Commission has a substantial financial interest from submitting a proposal for goods or services to the MPC.

Likewise, no business which is owned by any member of any board, authority or commission, subordinate or independent entity, or any business in which any member of any board, authority or commission, subordinate or independent entity has substantial pecuniary interest may submit a proposal to MPC/CORE MPO if such proposal pertains to the board, authority, or commission.

Appendix I: Affidavit of Certification

CERTIFICATION FORM

I, _____, being duly sworn, state that I am _____(title) of _____(Institution) and hereby duly certify that I have read and understand the information presented in the attached proposal and any enclosure and exhibits thereto.

I further certify that to the best of my knowledge the information given in response to the Request for Proposals is full, complete and truthful.

I further certify that the proposer and any principal employee of the proposer has not, in the immediately preceding five (5) years, been convicted of any crime of moral turpitude or any felony offense, nor has had their professional license suspended, revoked or been subjected to disciplinary proceedings.

I further certify that the proposer has not, in the immediately preceding five (5) years, been suspended or debarred from contracting with any federal, state or local government agency, and further, that the proposer is not now under consideration for suspension or debarment from any such agency.

I further certify that the proposer has not in the immediately preceding five (5) years been defaulted in any federal, state or local government agency contract, and further, that the proposer is not now under any notice of intent to default on any such contract.

I acknowledge, agree and authorize, and certify that the proposer acknowledges, agrees and authorizes, that the Chatham County – Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) may, by means that either deems appropriate, determine the accuracy and truth of the information provided by the proposer and that the MPC may contact any individual or entity named in the Proposal for the purpose of verifying the information supplied therein.

I acknowledge and agree that all of the information contained in the Proposal is submitted for the express purpose of inducing the MPC to award a contract.

A material false statement or omission made in conjunction with this proposal is sufficient cause for suspension or debarment from further contracts, or denial of rescission of any contract entered into based upon this proposal thereby precluding the Institution from doing business with, or performing work for, the State of Georgia. In addition, such false statement or omission may subject the person and entity making the proposal to criminal prosecution under the laws of the State of Georgia of the United States, including but not limited to O.C.G.A. §16-10-20, 18 U.S.C. §§1001 or 1341.

Signature

Sworn and subscribed before me

This _____ day of _____, 20____.

NOTARY PUBLIC

NOTARY SEAL

My Commission Expires: _____

Appendix II: Notice of Non-Discrimination

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The proposer certifies that:

- (1) No person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefit of, or otherwise discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, or gender in connection with any proposal submitted to the Metropolitan Planning Commission or the performance of any contract resulting there from;
- (2) That it is and shall be the policy of this Institution to provide equal opportunity to all businesspersons seeking to contract or otherwise interested in contracting with this Institution, including those companies owned and controlled by racial minorities, cultural minorities, and women;
- (3) In connection herewith, we acknowledge and warrant that this Institution has been made aware of, understands and agrees to take affirmative action to provide such companies with the maximum practicable opportunities to do business with this Institution;
- (4) That this promise of non-discrimination as made and set forth herein shall be continuing in nature and shall remain in full force and effect without interruption;
- (5) That the promises of non-discrimination as made and set forth herein shall be and are hereby deemed to be made as part of and incorporated by reference into any contract or portion thereof which this Institution may hereafter obtain and;
- (6) That the failure of this Institution to satisfactorily discharge any of the promises of nondiscrimination as made and set forth herein shall constitute a material breach of contract entitling the Metropolitan Planning Commission to declare the contract in default and to exercise any and all applicable rights and remedies including but not limited to cancellation of the contract, termination of the contract, suspension and debarment from future contracting opportunities, and withholding and or forfeiture of compensation due and owing on a contract.

Signature

Title

Academic Institution _____ Date _____

NOTARY PUBLIC

NOTARY SEAL

My Commission Expires: _____

Appendix III: Proposed Schedule of M/WBE Participation

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF M/WBE PARTICIPATION

| Name of Proposer/Proposer: Proposal No.: _____ Project Title: Total Proposal Amount \$ _____ Name of M/WBE Participant | Address | Type of Work Sub-Contracted | Subcontract Value | MBE/WBE Status |
|---|---------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| | | | \$ | |
| | | | \$ | |
| | | | \$ | |
| | | | \$ | |
| | | | \$ | |

MBE Participation Value: % \$ _____

Women Participation Total Value: % \$ _____

The undersigned will enter into a formal agreement with the M/WBE Subcontractors/Proposers identified herein for work listed in this schedule conditioned upon executing of a contract with the Metropolitan Planning Commission.

Joint Venture Disclosure If the prime proposer is a joint venture, please describe below the nature of the joint venture and level of work and financial participation to be provided by the Minority/Female joint venture firm.

| Joint Venture | Level of Work | Financial Participation |
|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| | | |
| | | |

Signature: _____

Title: _____