

**THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY  
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM**

**SUBJECT:** Award of Madison Athens-Clarke Oconee Regional Transportation Study (MACORTS)  
Long Range Transportation Plan Update Contract

**DATE:** June 29, 2022

**BUDGET INFORMATION:**

REVENUES:	\$280,000	Federal Share (80%) FY 2022 Award
	<u>\$ 70,000</u>	<u>Local Share (20%) for FY 2023</u>
	\$350,000	Revenue for FY 2022 / 2023

**EXPENSES:**

ANNUAL:	N/A
CAPITAL:	\$348,875.06
OTHER:	N/A

**FUNDING SOURCE:**

General Fund – FY 2022 / 2023 Planning Department Budget:	\$45,500
Oconee County Government:	\$12,250
<u>Madison County Government:</u>	<u>\$12,250</u>
Total:	\$70,000

**COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON:** August 2, 2022

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**PURPOSE:**

To request that the Mayor and Commission:

- a. Award a contract to RS&H to provide consultant services to MACORTS staff to update the Long-Range Transportation Plan for the MACORTS Region in the amount of \$348,875.06; and
- b. Authorize the Mayor and appropriate staff to negotiate the contract and execute all related documents related to the contracting process.

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**HISTORY:**

1. For the last 47 years, the City of Athens and Clarke County, and now the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County (ACCGov), has annually entered into an agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to receive federal funding to

perform transportation planning within the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The MPO's participating members include Athens-Clarke, Madison, and Oconee counties.

2. Since 2010, as the MPO's decision-making body designated by the State, the MACORTS Policy Committee, has agreed that the local match (20%) required to receive federal transportation planning (PL) funds would be divided between the participating MACORTS counties. The Policy Committee members agreed that ACCGov would pay 13% with Oconee and Madison County each paying 3.5%.
3. In FY 2022 MACORTS was awarded funding to update the Metropolitan Transportation Plan to 2050 from the discretionary balance of unspent MPO funds by the October 9, 2024 deadline.
4. On September 27, 2021, the Georgia Department of Transportation executed a contract with ACCGov entitled "PL Athens Regional LRTP Update" for \$350,000 (\$280,000 federal; \$70,000 local).
5. On February 9, 2022, the MACORTS Policy Committee approved the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that included the Update of the MACORTS Long Range Transportation Plan with an associated cost of \$350,000 with \$280,000 in federal funds and \$70,000 in local funds (ACCGov: \$45,500, Oconee: \$12,250, Madison: \$12,250).
6. On February 9, 2022, the MACORTS Policy Committee approved the content of RFP#01043, MACORTS Long-Range Transportation Plan Update, membership of the Consultant Review Committee, and the process for choosing a consultant.
7. On February 24, 2022, the ACCGov Purchasing Division released RFP#01043 in accordance with the ACCGov Purchasing Ordinance requirements for the purposes of soliciting proposals from qualified firms to provide consulting services for MACORTS.
8. On April 14, 2022, two proposals were received from:
  - Pond
  - RS&H
9. On May 18, 2022, the MACORTS Consultant Review Committee reviewed the consultant proposals and recommended awarding the contract for the update of the MACORTS Long-Range Transportation Plan to RS&H.

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**FACTS & ISSUES:**

1. ACCGov receives federal funds for the Planning Department to perform transportation planning activities for the MACORTS area, as outlined in the MACORTS Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The UPWP serves as the 'application,' which renews the

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) status of MACORTS annually. The ACCGov Planning Department provides primary staff support for these metropolitan transportation planning efforts.

2. The federal funds that fund MACORTS activities are administered through the ACCGov Planning Department and ACCGov Finance Department; therefore, the award for this contract is required to follow the ACCGov Contracting Process. According to the purchasing ordinance, all contracts over \$200,000 are required to be awarded by the ACCGov Mayor and Commission.
3. The MACORTS Policy Committee, the MPO's decision-making body, includes the following voting members:
  - Mayor, Athens-Clarke County
  - Chair, Oconee County Board of Commissioners
  - Chair, Madison County Board of Commissioners
  - Chair, Athens-Clarke County Planning Commission
  - Resident Representative from Oconee County
  - Chair, Madison County Planning Commission
  - Senior Vice President for Finance & Administration, University of Georgia
  - Commissioner, Georgia Department of Transportation
4. The purpose of the MACORTS Long-Range Transportation Plan is to provide a performance-based plan for federally funded transportation improvements over the next 20 years for the MACORTS region. The LRTP is updated every five years. The next update of the LRTP is due in 2024.
5. MACORTS Staff, with input from the Georgia Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and members of the MACORTS Technical Coordinating Committee and Policy Committee, prepared an RFP for consultants to provide services for development of the MACORTS Long Range Transportation Plan. The Scope of Services outlined in the RFP included:
  - a. Development of the inputs for the travel demand model;
  - b. Coordinate with the public and involved federal, state, and local agencies to develop a federally compliant performance-based multimodal 2045 LRTP;
  - c. Develop Performance Measures to be used in the LRTP; and
  - d. Develop a Project Prioritization Process within the LRTP.
6. The MACORTS Consultant Review Committee that reviewed and scored the proposals and recommended the top-scoring firm included:
  - Brad Griffin, ACCGov Planning Director / MACORTS Executive Director
  - Robert Walker, MACORTS Transportation Planner
  - Stephen Bailey, ACCGov Transportation & Public Works Director

- Pat Hale, ACCGov Interim Transit System Director
7. The MACORTS Consultant Review Committee recommended awarding the contract to RS&H after reviewing the proposals and rating them in terms of:
    - a. The firm’s understanding of the project requirements and the proposed technical approach;
    - b. The firm’s proposed project team staffing approach and qualifications;
    - c. The firm’s qualifications and experience with similar projects;
    - d. References and reference projects; and
    - e. Quality Assurance and Control Plan.
  8. This recommendation is consistent with the Mayor and Commission Comprehensive Plan 2018 Goals and Objectives:
    - a. **Transportation and Mobility** – *enhance access to opportunity through safe connectivity of people to transportation, infrastructure, and community resources.*
      - i. Provide a safe, reliable, accessible, well-planned and pedestrian friendly transportation network.
  9. This recommendation supports the following ACCGov Strategic Plan Goal & Strategy:
    - Safely Move Around Athens Goal, Strategy B: *Pursue inter-city travel options to connect Athens with other cities*
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**OPTIONS:**

1. Mayor and Commission:
  - a. Award a contract to RS&H to provide consultant services to MACORTS staff to update the Long Range Transportation Plan for the MACORTS Region in the amount of \$348,875.06; and
  - b. Authorize the Mayor and appropriate staff to negotiate the contract and execute all related documents related to the contracting process.
2. Mayor Commission do not award the contract.
3. Commission defined option.

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**DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Option 1 a & b

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**DEPARTMENT:**

Prepared by: Brad Griffin



Brad Griffin

6/29/2022

Date:

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**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:**

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**ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:** Option #1 a & b



Manager

July 14, 2022

Date: