

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RECEIVED

Answers are printed in **bold**.

1. Is there a Conflict of Interest If under contract with the California High-Speed Rail Authority?

All conflict of interest concerns will be evaluated on an individual basis. Please contact Marcus Tucker, High-Speed Rail Project Coordinator at tuckerm@cityofmerced.org for more information on potential conflicts of interest.

2. Does the environmental work tier off General Plan EIR and/or High-Speed Rail EIR?

Yes, proposals can tier from the existing General Plan EIR. The California High-Speed Rail Authority has already completed an EIR for the Station location as well.

3. What does the City want from the Parking Analysis?

Parking demand analysis as the station-area develops and the California HSR system unfolds. This will inform the parking management and phasing strategy, and creativity is highly desired.

4. What is the status of the rail alignment North of Merced?

California High-Speed Rail Authority is continuing long-range corridor planning in advance of the environmental process.

5. What is included in the 75 Page limit?

Refer to page 13 of the RFP document.

6. What is the best approach to potential roadway crossings, underpasses and/or overpasses?

The City desires minimal disruption, these efforts should be approached with a high degree of creativity.

7. Can comparable projects be any type of rail transit stations?

Yes.

8. What is the status of the zoning ordinance and what is the zoning overlay?

Zoning ordinance will be updated by late summer 2015 and will be completed in 2016. The High-Speed Rail Overlay zone will identify typical uses, design standards, and establish a streamlined planning and permitting process.

9. Is the station area defined?

The City expects to see a varying degree of interpretation of the ½ mile radius around the proposed station location.

10. What are the expected controversies?

Like any major plan in a community, there are opponents and supporters. The Station Area Plan provides opportunities that require extensive public outreach, communication, and education.

11. During public meetings who will provide translation services?

The City will provide translation services to public meetings. See page 9 of the RFP document for more information.

12. How much leeway is there to the timeline?

The project is grant driven with very little flexibility. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds have a sunset date set in federal law.

13. What is the composition of the review committee?

The review committee will consist of the High-Speed Rail Authority, 2-3 City staff, and 2-3 citizens from the City's ad hoc committee.

14. What is the composition of the ad hoc Committee?

Composition of the ad hoc committee includes: representatives from the College and University, a former City Council member, Merced County, business, and downtown.

15. Are there SBE requirements?

It is the City's policy to provide all small business enterprises, including minority, women, and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises (DVBE), equal access and opportunity for participation in the performance for all construction contracts, professional service contracts, and procurement of supplies, equipment and other services. The City requests that a Proposer who intends to subcontract a portion of the work seek out small business enterprises that are potential subcontractors, suppliers, or consultants, and actively solicit their interest, capability and prices. See Page 12 of the RFP document.