Request for Information

“Incorporating Conservation Objectives into Transportation Planning”

September 14, 2009

New York State Department of Transportation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, New York 12232

INTRODUCTION:

This is a “Request for Information (RFI).” The New York State Department of Transportation issues this “Request for Information” with respect to Incorporating Conservation Objectives into Transportation Planning based on outcomes from a Statewide Wildlife Grant project conducted by the Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). This is, however, not a joint RFI. It has been developed independently by the New York State Department of Transportation for the New York State Department of Transportation’s use. Experienced and interested firms are invited to submit interest and responses to the designated contact persons listed below. This information will be reviewed for the purpose of educating New York State Department of Transportation’s Environmental Specialists and Administrators as to the capabilities of firms to meet the Department’s needs and may be used to determine if an RFP is required.

Responses to the following questions are requested and appreciated.

NOTE: This is NOT a Request for Proposals (RFP).
BACKGROUND AND QUESTIONS:

1) Is the firm familiar, interested and capable of applying the FHWA Eco-Logical Approach to infrastructure planning (Brown, 2006)?

2) Is the firm knowledgeable of the aquatic species of greatest conservation needs (SGCN) in New York State (NYSDEC, 2006) and their habitat requirements? Is the firm interested and capable of applying this knowledge to research or projects to address aquatic connectivity requirements?

3) Is the firm interested and capable of accessing and applying the New York Natural Heritage Program database and raw data? Is there an alternative comprehensive database on the status and location of rare species and natural communities that the firm uses or would recommend?

4) NYSDOT currently has a contract with The Nature Conservancy (Contract No. C030564) to provide interpretive maps, descriptive information and conservation guidelines for natural communities and rare plants and animals. The interpretive maps include dynamic buffer models. Is the firm interested and capable of developing and applying dynamic buffer models compatible with New York Natural Heritage Program data?

5) The Nature Conservancy – Adirondack Chapter is currently developing a model to assess the impact of aquatic fragmenting features (stream crossings) on SGCN under State Wildlife Grant project (Contract No. C303569 with NYSDEC). Is the firm interested and capable of applying this model to a large (>2,000 sq. mi.) pilot watershed?

6) Is the firm interested and capable of refining geospatial data to prioritize road-stream crossings, including attributed data that identifies fragmenting impacts?

7) Does the firm have technical field staff capable and interested in collecting and training others to collect aquatic ecology field data?

8) Does the firm have the capability to develop technical tools for data collection and mapping (e.g., GIS, GPS)?

9) Can the firm work within NYSDOT’s existing computer operating system (Microsoft Windows) and GIS system (ESRI ArcGIS)?

10) Discussions with The Nature Conservancy indicate that this work could be performed for $100,000 over a 24 month period. Please offer any input/opinion on these preliminary discussions if desired.

Regarding Questions 1 – 10: NYSDOT encourages and welcomes firms to expand on their answers beyond a “yes” or a “no.”
ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE FOR R.F.I. RESPONDENTS

Note: This IS NOT a Request for Proposals. Rather, it is an invitation to furnish the Department with information regarding interest and capabilities in providing NYSDOT with firms capable of conducting work to incorporate conservation objectives in transportation planning based on outcomes from TNC State Wildlife Grant project, Contract No. 303569, currently underway.

Information obtained as a result of this RFI may be used by the Department to develop a needs requirement upon which a future Request for Proposals may be based. If further information is required or should questions arise, please contact the NYSDOT contact persons listed below.

REGISTER INTEREST: Interested parties should e-mail responses to the NYSDOT contact persons listed below.

RFI RESPONSE FORMAT: Interested parties are encouraged to submit a written response, including a cover letter on business or organization letterhead, outlining experience and capabilities. Cover letter should be no more than one page in length. Experience and capabilities submission should be no more than two pages in length. Additional descriptive literature, including responses to questions one through ten above, should be no more than six pages in total length.

SEND RFI RESPONSES TO: Interested parties may e-mail, mail or fax in their Informational Responses. However the preferred method of response is via e-mail and NYSDOT’s preferred format is MS Word. Responses should be sent to:

E-mail: prowe@dot.state.ny.us and ahasenkopf@dot.state.ny.us

US Mail: Mr. William A. Howe, Director New York State Department of Transportation Contract Management 50 Wolf Road Suite ICM Albany, NY 12232 Attention: Ms. Patricia Rowe – RFI “Incorporating Conservation Objectives into Transportation Planning”

Fax: 518.457.8475

RFI RESPONSE DEADLINE: The deadline for receiving RFI Responses is: close of business Monday, October 5, 2009. Please be advised that although a deadline for receipt of Request for Information Responses has been set, the Department will consider
extending the due date should interested parties require more time to respond. Please inform the NYSDOT contact person(s) should such a need arise.

**RFI QUESTION DEADLINE:** The deadline for questions is: close of business Monday, September 21, 2009. Please direct all questions which may arise regarding this Request for Information to the designated NYSDOT Contact Persons (listed below). There is no guarantee that any questions received after the question deadline will be addressed prior to the RFI due date. Answers for all questions received prior to the Q&A deadline shall be posted to NYSDOT’s website (listed below) and e-mailed to all parties who register interest.  
https://www.nysdot.gov/business

**RFI RESPONSE CLARIFICATIONS:** The Department may seek additional information (clarifying or otherwise) following the receipt of the RFI Responses. This may be through phone discussions, meetings or correspondence, and may be with an individual respondent, a subset of respondents, or all respondents.

**NYSDOT CONTACT PERSONS:**
Ms. Patricia Rowe  
Contract Management  
New York State Department of Transportation  
50 Wolf Road, Suite 1CM  
Albany, NY 12232  
E-mail: prow@dot.state.ny.us  
Phone: 518.457.2600  
Fax: 518.457.8475

Or

Al Hasenkopf  
Contract Management  
New York State Department of Transportation  
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Albany, NY 12232  
E-mail: ahasenkopf@dot.state.ny.us  
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**NOTE:** Although this is NOT a Request for Proposals (RFP), information gathered as a result of this RFI may be used in a future RFP. Failure to respond to this RFI will indicate lack of interest and may be the deciding factor in not pursuing an RFP. Furthermore, lack of interest or responses to this RFI may result in a Single Source Justification. The information obtained through this RFI may be used to develop a needs requirement upon which future procurements may be based. Again, failure to respond indicates lack of interest.
References cited:


State Wildlife Grant project (Contract C303569): Incorporating aquatic SGCN requirements and conservation objectives into state transportation planning. Contract between NYSDEC and The Nature Conservancy-Adirondack Chapter.