

## Questions Received for Project RFP TR201711 Economic Impact Study for Public Ports

1. How open are you to us proposing something that is not specifically called for in the RFP? In our work with other clients, we've identified some synergistic components you may have interest in.

*The tasks listed in the RFP are the minimum requirements for the project. We are open to other suggested components to the research as long as they are within the identified budget of the project.*

2. Is it possible to get the full report and not just the Executive Summary to the study done on airports in 2012?

<http://www.modot.org/othertransportation/aviation/documents/Missouri-2012-Economic-Impact.pdf>

3. The FAQ section at this link appear to be more applicable to engineering contracts. Is there something more specific to economic research?

<http://www.modot.org/services/OR/orRFPsFAQs.htm>

*The FAQs at the above link are addressing the rules governing the funding source being used for research projects at MoDOT. The answers are applicable regardless if it is an engineering or non-engineering type of study.*

4. Could you elaborate on MoDOT's expectations for Task 5 (impact on rail and truck freight rates)?

*MoDOT has been told, anecdotally, that rail and truck freight rates for industries are higher when there is no barge option for shipping, but have no data to support that assertion. Task 5 is intended to quantify what, if any, benefits are realized from the presence of waterborne freight options especially in rural parts of Missouri. The results of this task may be used in discussions with the USACE and Missouri legislature related to resource allocation on the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers.*

5. Will MoDOT assist the consultant with the identification of data sources and the collection of local/ state data? Does MoDOT produce reports or maintain databases that would be useful for this study?

*MoDOT publishes the quarterly Tracker with information concerning jobs located at the port and amount of public investment at each port. The only databases available would be port contact information. Due to confidentiality concerns related to FOIA and Sunshine Law discoverability by their competitors, private businesses are reluctant to share data with a governmental agency. Businesses have not expressed this same concern when the data is collected by researchers and hired consultants who can sign confidentiality agreements and report only summaries.*

6. Does MoDOT have a preference for the tool that will be used to estimate economic impacts (REMI model, TREDIS, IMPLAN, etc.)? If the REMI model is preferred, will MoDOT grant a sub-license to the consultant?

*MoDOT does not have a preference on the tool used. The focus for this project is the resulting study publication that will be used with internal and external partners.*

7. Why are you doing this study?

*MoDOT and the Missouri legislature evaluate resource allocations annually. MoDOT is seeking information to assist in answering the questions of how much impact do the public ports have on Missouri economy in direct, indirect and induced benefits, what is their service area based on customers use and on potential use, and ultimately assist legislators in determining if the level of investment is sufficient based on other general revenue needs.*

8. Are you looking for specific to Missouri and individual ports or general research on waterborne freight benefits?

*Specific to Missouri is the goal while recognizing that some of the results will be based on generally acceptable industry principles.*

9. Is the project infrastructure and asset based on economic based?

*Economic. The ports plan their infrastructure needs based on the existing and potential customers. This study is looking for how much public economic benefit is realized for public investment at these locations.*

#### **Cost Breakdown Questions**

10. Our billing rates aren't necessarily broken out by salaries and benefits – is a standard billing rate acceptable for budgeting (Section 4) purposes?

*See Answer to 11.*

11. Regarding the price page (Section 4) – some firms’ indirect rate structures are based on a single rate recovery format (e.g., labor overhead rate), and not separable into categories such as Benefits, F&A Cost, etc. MoDOT has allowed a “direct labor + overhead + fixed fee” cost structure on numerous other projects; can that structure be used here?

*Answer to 10 & 11*

<b>Cost Estimate</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Estimated Amount</b>
Salaries	
Benefits	
Operating Expense	
F&A Cost	
Miscellaneous (list-attach additional sheet if needed)	
Total	

*In the event the proposer cannot provide the information listed in the chart above the proposer can provide the breakdown typically supplied by the firm on proposals and the total amount. In the event the firm is selected to perform the research a more detailed cost breakdown may be required to meet federal and state regulations.*