



STEEL RIVERS
Council of Governments



**ELIZABETH BOROUGH
RIVERFRONT WALKING TRAIL
DESIGN AND PROJECT PLAN
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

Abstract

Steel Rivers Council of Governments and Elizabeth Borough seek a team to design a riverfront walking trail. A strong Qualifications Submission will:

- * show familiarity with Elizabeth Borough, trail design, and riverfront construction
- * demonstrate experience using local resources in designs
- * share our vision of a multi-modal connector with potential for growth and extension
- * demonstrate ability to reflect Elizabeth's history and current downtown aesthetic into trail design

Jennifer Kwiatek, Government Grants Coordinator

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Invitation to Submit Qualifications

Submittal Deadline: January 18, 2025

The Steel Rivers Council of Governments (SRCOG) on behalf of Elizabeth Borough invites you to submit a response to this Request for Qualifications (RFQ). The services to be performed, timeline, and expected budget are outlined below.

SRCOG and Elizabeth Borough will select an engineer, team, or firm to provide the services outlined in this document. Engineer and design costs are not to exceed \$100,000.

Summary

The Steel Rivers Council of Governments (SRCOG) on behalf of Elizabeth Borough seeks qualifications to provide engineering services for designing a Riverfront Walking Trail along the Monongahela River in Elizabeth Borough, PA. Design is funded by an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant. SRCOG is working as the agent for Elizabeth Borough and will act as project manager.

Project site

The Regis Malady Bridge spans the Monongahela River and connects the town of Elizabeth with West Elizabeth and Jefferson Hills. Elizabeth Borough is on the east bank of the Monongahela River. Just southwest of the bridge, in front of the Elizabeth Borough Volunteer Social Hall, is Elizabeth Riverfront Park, consisting of a lookout point and a concrete fishing platform that can be reached by descending a paved lane at the corner of Market and Water Streets along Downtown Elizabeth's west side.

About a third of a mile upstream (south) is the Monongahela Boat Launch, accessed from 1st Avenue by a paved parking area and a paved lane to the ramp.

Requirements and scope of work

The proposed Riverfront Walking Trail would connect the downtown area, the fishing pier, and the boat launch with a multi-modal, ADA-accessible path. SRCOG and Elizabeth Borough seek an engineer, team, or firm to design this walking trail, including but not limited to:

- Preparing a trail design that reflects familiarity with Elizabeth Borough and its history
- Preparing a cost estimate for the project
- Developing a Bid Proposal form, construction details, drawings, maps, and specifications to be used for contractor bidding (SRCOG will conduct bidding process)
- Reviewing bids received and recommending contractors to the Borough
- Overseeing contractor progress on the project
- Reviewing and approving all contractor requests for payment
- Managing difficulties as they arise
- Other items as necessary to fulfill the project's goals and objectives

Introduction

Background

Elizabeth was founded in 1787 by Samuel Mackay, Col. Stephen Bayard, and his wife Elizabeth Mackay Bayard, for whom the town was named. It was incorporated into a Borough in 1834, separating from Elizabeth Township, Lincoln Borough, and Forward Township. There is some controversy about whether or not the keel boat used in the first stages of the Lewis and Clark expedition was built in Elizabeth. The City of Pittsburgh makes a similar claim, though boat-building was a prominent industry in Elizabeth. Manufacturing in Elizabeth's golden age included ships, steamboats, glass, and safes. Elizabeth Marine Ways, a premier boat and ship manufacturer, was in operation until 1925. Elizabeth Borough is the site of a historic downtown business district, and its waterfront remains a thriving recreational boating and event-hosting location.

Location

Home to 1500 residents, Elizabeth is located on the east bank of the Monongahela River. It sits at the point where the Regis Malady Bridge spans the water, near the south border of Allegheny County. Elizabeth is flanked by Elizabeth Township to the north and east, and Forward Township to the south.

Purpose and Objectives

Elizabeth Borough is currently in a period of revitalization. Businesses and events in the historic downtown area draw visitors from neighboring boroughs and townships. The removal of Lock #3 and its accompanying dam by the Army Corps of Engineers this year is anticipated to increase recreational river traffic and waterfront activities. A renovated waterfront with easy access from the boat launch to the downtown area would invite more visitors to take advantage of the Borough's markets, festivals, and local businesses.

Building on expanded access to visitors via the Monongahela River, Elizabeth Borough would like to create more access via land. One such goal is to later connect this small stretch of trail to Forward Township, Elizabeth's neighbor to the south. Our vision is to make Elizabeth an attractive destination for trail travelers as well as river travelers.

Current conditions

Currently, connection from the fishing pier to boat ramp is only achieved by walking or driving along Water Street (sidewalk for four blocks) and 1st Avenue. Between the sidewalk and the river on Water Street, and between 1st Avenue and the river are roughly 20-40 feet of vegetation along a sloped bank. We envision a dedicated trail along this vegetation corridor to avoid having pedestrians walk along the road. Elizabeth Borough owns all land where the proposed trail will be constructed.

Dam #3 was breached in July, 2024 causing a slight change in water levels. Water levels have now stabilized. Elizabeth Borough is currently raising the level of the concrete fishing pier. This reconstruction is due to be completed during late summer of 2025. No further change in water level is expected, although the design should take into account temporary water rise due to periodic storm water runoff.

Project information

Contract information

This project is funded by a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Trail Development Fund (TDF), distributed through the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny Count (RAAC). Elizabeth Borough is a member of the Steel River Council of Governments (SRCOG), and SRCOG will act on behalf of the Borough as agent and project manager. This includes, but is not limited to, bid advertising; receiving, opening, and accepting bids; submitting compliance documents to grant officials; submitting draw-down requests for payment of engineer and contractor invoices; facilitating communication between stakeholders; and other administrative tasks as needed.

The grant contract's end date is December 31, 2026. The engineer's designs and specifications must be submitted in sufficient time to allow the bidding process, selection of contractors, and trail construction to be completed by the grant contract end date. Engineering costs are not to exceed \$100,000.

This Request for Qualifications is intended to contract with a team who will design Phase 1 of the trail construction, being mindful of future phases that will extend the trail into neighboring boroughs.

Experience required

A strong Qualifications Submission for this project will demonstrate successful experience designing and managing riverfront projects as well as walking trail and park projects, including incorporating indigenous flora and utilizing local resources. Experience working with local municipalities and government-grant-funded projects is preferred. Familiarity with Elizabeth Borough and its history is essential.

Budget

This project is funded with a grant from ARPA's TDF and has a construction budget that is still growing. Final design should be envisioned as encompassing a "Phase 1" project, construction costs for which should not exceed \$1,000,000. No more than \$100,000 should be allotted for engineering costs in this phase. Future design and engineering services may be necessary for the remainder of the project but are not currently funded. The initial trail design should thoughtfully address this possibility for expansion.

Considerations

The design of this walking trail should incorporate the following considerations:

- Elizabeth Borough's history as a center for manufacturing, boat-building, and innovation, including nods to the founders and impact on the Greater Pittsburgh area
- Elizabeth Borough's future as a tourist destination by water and by land
 - Factor in possible upgrades to boat access and fishing pier
 - Plan for the future connection of this walking trail to Forward Township to the south (upriver)
 - Design for ADA accessibility including wheelchairs, strollers, walkers, and other mobility aids
- Indigenous vegetation and ease of maintenance - trail will be maintained by the Elizabeth Borough public works team
- Beautification of the waterfront area to promote appreciation of the river scape
- Ease of access and use by residents and visitors from downtown, the fishing pier, and the boat ramp
- Aesthetic connection to Elizabeth's historic downtown area

Schedule

January 18, 2025 – Qualification Submissions due
February, 2025– Team will be selected and contracts executed
March, 2025 - Design process/revision begins
Late Spring, 2025 - Final design for Phase 1 complete
Early Summer, 2025 - Design will be used to secure construction funds
Spring through autumn 2026 - Trail construction Phase 1 begins
Construction end date will be determined based on the design and weather
December 31, 2026 - Grant contract ends, work funded by ARPA grant funds must be complete.

Steering Committee

Steel Rivers Council of Governments -
 An Lewis, Executive Director
 Jennifer Kwiatek, Government Grants Coordinator
ARPA-TDF
 Ann Ogoreuc, Project Manager
Elizabeth Borough
 Scott Craighead, Borough Manager
 Borough Council Members, and other Borough office staff
Glenn Engineering, Municipal engineering firm
 Laura Branthoover, contracted Municipal Engineer

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

One digital version must be received by Steel Rivers Council of Governments by **January 18, 2025 at 5 pm**. All submissions should be sent to or shared with Jennifer Kwiatek, jk@steelriverscog.org.

Conditions of Submissions

All costs incurred in the preparation of a submission responding to this RFQ will be the responsibility of the engineer and will not be reimbursed by Steel Rivers COG.

Notification of Award

Upon conclusion of final negotiations with the successful Qualifications Submission team, all respondents will be informed, in writing, of the name of the successful team.

Proposal Format

Responding teams or firms should provide a three-page overview of qualifications in addition to the other listed sections. Submissions should not exceed 6 pages in length and should be typed 8.5 x 11-inch pages with margins no smaller than 3/4 inch. Font size should be no smaller than 10 points. PDF and digital images such as JPEG are acceptable formats.

Steel Rivers COG may also require a prospective team members to attend a meeting and/or participate in a conference call to discuss their Qualifications Submission.

Submission requirements

- Professional certification, **Qualification Statement**, and **Profile of Firm**
- Resume and demonstrated experience in trail design and riverfront projects
- Proposed **schedule** of design and construction
- Executed **non-collusion affidavit**, **affidavit of eligibility**, and **Competitive Procurement Certification**
(these forms are attached to this document)
- Digital Qualifications Submissions please – via email, Dropbox, or other file sharing platform

Qualifications Statement Outline

- A statement indicating your understanding of the work to be performed;
- An affirmation of the team or firm’s qualifications for professionally and expertly conducting the work as understood;
- Familiarity with other projects, both past and present related to the Elizabeth Borough Riverfront or other Riverfront construction;
- A brief reference list of other municipalities, county or state agencies served by the firm with contact names and telephone numbers;
- Any other information describing the firm may be included if it relates to the capabilities and expertise of the firm in doing comparable work;

- A clear statement of the relationship that the firm and/or principal(s) of the firm have with, or knowledge of, any officials or employees of Steel Rivers COG and the nature of this relationship or knowledge.

Profile of Firm

This should be a brief statement indicating the firm’s experience in conducting similar work to the scope outlined within this RFP. Advertising brochures or website addresses on the firm may be submitted as a part of this profile as long as they specifically address the experience of the firm related to the work to be performed. Additionally, this profile should include:

- The location of and contact information for the team members who will provide the proposed service;
- Resumes of key employees proposed to conduct the work and the specific duties of each employee relative to the scope of work;
- MBE/WBE participation is highly encouraged and should include information on the ownership of the firm, employment levels of minorities and women in the firm, use of minorities and women on this project, and use of minority or women-owned businesses as subcontractors.

Schedule

Provide a project work schedule that includes time frames for each major work element, target dates for public meetings, and dates for completion of draft and final documents.

Selection criteria

The SRCOG and Elizabeth Borough will evaluate Qualification Submissions with the following in mind:

- Alignment with Elizabeth Borough’s vision of taking this first step toward a stronger connection to neighboring boroughs
- Demonstrated success in designing riverfront projects
- Project experience that demonstrates
 - Creativity
 - Efficient use of time and resources
 - Thoughtful use of local services, materials, and resources
 - Adherence to specified budget and timelines

Right of Refusal

SRCOG reserves the right to refuse any submitted Qualifications or any parts thereof. All submitted Qualifications become the property of SRCOG.

Proposer Questions

All prospective bidders must provide an email address to which responses to questions may be sent. Should the engineer have questions concerning the RFQ they must be in writing and received by Steel Rivers Council of Governments:

Jennifer Kwiatek, Government Grants Coordinator

jk@steelriverscog.org
 Steel Rivers Council of Governments
 1705 Maple Street, Homestead, PA 15120
 412-462-7600 ext. 109

Steel Rivers Council of Governments will make every effort to provide the written responses in a timely fashion, but failure to do so will not affect the sole authority of Steel Rivers Council of Governments to complete the RFQ process.



Photos

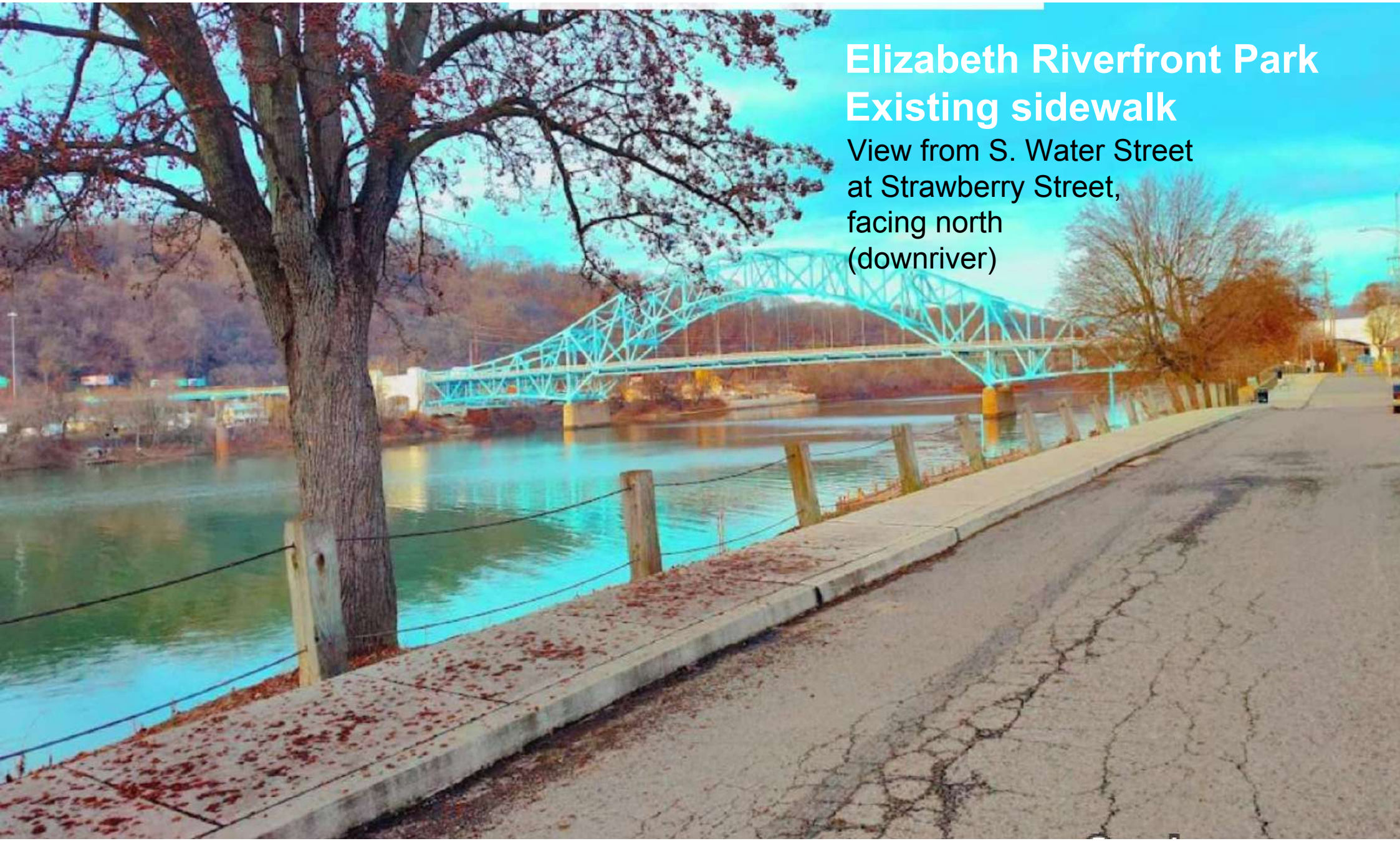
Maps

Submission Forms

Non-Collusion Affidavit

Affidavit of Eligibility

Competitive Procurement Certification



Elizabeth Riverfront Park

Existing sidewalk

View from S. Water Street
at Strawberry Street,
facing north
(downriver)

Elizabeth Riverfront Park

View from S. Water Street Sidewalk

Fishing pier





boat dock/launch

sidewalk and gazebo

proposed trail location

Elizabeth Riverfront Park

View from fishing pier facing south (upriver)

Elizabeth Riverfront Park

View from Malady Bridge facing south



gazebo

fishing pier

boat dock/launch

proposed trail location



via S 2nd Ave

11 min

0.5 mile

via S Water St

10 min

0.5 mile

All routes are mostly flat



Elizabeth Borough Riverfront Walking Trail Project

Trail north terminus

Trail south terminus



Imagery ©2024 Airbus, Maxar Technologies, Map data ©2024 100 ft

Non Collusion Affidavit

To Be Executed by Each Respondent

State of: _____

Municipality: _____

County of: _____

Project Name: Elizabeth Borough Walking Trail

_____, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that he is

_____ Of _____

(sole owner, partner, president, secretary, etc.)

and that he is authorized to make this affidavit on behalf of the firm, and its owners, directors, and officers. He is the person responsible in my firm for the price (s) and the amount of this bid.

To state that:

1. The price(s) and amount of this bid have been arrived at independently and without consultation, communication or agreement with any other contractor, bidder or potential bidder.
2. That such bid is not made in the interest of or on behalf of any undisclosed person, partnership, company association, organization, or corporation; that such bid is genuine and not collusive or sham;
3. The bid of my firm is made in good faith and not pursuant to any agreement or discussion with, or inducement from, any firm or person to submit a complementary or other noncompetitive bid.
4. That said bidder has not in any manner, directly or indirectly, sought by agreement, communication, or conference with anyone to fix the bid price of said bidder or of any other bidder, nor to fix any overhead, profit, or cost element of such bid price nor of that of any other bidder, nor to secure any advantage against the public body awarding the contract to anyone interested in the proposed contract;
5. No attempt has been made or will be made to induce any firm or person to refrain from bidding on this contract, or to submit a bid higher than this bid, or to submit any intentionally high or noncompetitive bid or other form of complementary bid.
6. That said bidder has not directly or indirectly induced or solicited any other bidder to put in a false or sham bid, and has not directly or indirectly induced or solicited any other bidder connived, or agreed with any bidder or anyone else to put in a sham bid.

7. Neither the price(s) nor the amount of this bid, and neither the approximate price(s) nor approximately amount of this bid, have been disclosed to any other firm or person who is a bidder or potential bidder, and they will not be disclosed before bid opening.
8. That all statements contained in such bid are true; and, further, that said bidder has not directly or indirectly, submitted his bid price or any breakdown thereof, nor the contents there of, nor divulged information or data relative thereto, nor paid and will not pay fee in connection therewith to any corporation, partnership, company, association, organization, bid depository, nor to any member or agent thereof, nor to any other individual except to such person or persons as have a partnership or other financial interest with said bidder in his general business.
9. _____, its affiliates subsidiaries, officers, directors,
 (Name of Firm)
 and employees are not currently under investigation by any governmental agency and have not in the last four years been convicted or found liable for any act prohibited by State or Federal law in any jurisdiction involving conspiracy or collusion with respect to bidding on any public contract, except as follows: _____

10. I state that _____, understand and acknowledges that
 (Name of Firm)
 the above representations are material and important, and will be relied on by Steel Valley Council of Governments in awarding the contract(s) for which this bid is submitted. I understand and my firm understands that any misstatement in this affidavit is and shall be treated as fraudulent concealment from Steel Valley Council of Governments of the true facts relating to the submission of bids for this contract.

Signed:
 By: _____
 Title: _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ Day of _____ 20____
 _____.

 Notary Public

 Date My Commission Expires

Contractor Affidavit of Eligibility
To Be Executed by Each Respondent

_____, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that he is

_____ Of _____
(sole owner, partner, president, secretary, etc.) (Name of Firm)

and that he is authorized to make this affidavit on behalf of the firm, and its owners, directors, and officers. He is the person responsible in my firm for accurate submission of this bid.

1. _____, its affiliates subsidiaries, officers, directors,
(Name of Firm)
and employees are not currently under investigation by any governmental agency and have not in the last four years been convicted or found liable for any act prohibited by State or Federal law in any jurisdiction with respect to bidding on any public contract, except as follows: _____

2. _____, its affiliates subsidiaries, officers, directors,
(Name of Firm)
and employees are not debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, excluded or disqualified under the nonprocurement common rule, or otherwise declared ineligible from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain Federal assistance and benefits.

3. I state that _____, understand and acknowledges that
(Name of Firm)
the above representations are material and important, and will be relied on by Steel Rivers Council of Governments in awarding the contract(s) for which this bid is submitted. I understand and my firm understands that any misstatement in this affidavit is and shall be treated as fraudulent concealment from Steel Rivers Council of Governments of the true facts relating to the submission of bids for this contract.

Signed:
By: _____

Title: _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me this _____ Day of _____ 20____
_____.

Notary Public

Date My Commission Expires

Competitive Procurement Certification

To Be Executed by Each Respondent

For this engagement, Steel Rivers Council of Governments must adhere to federal procurement standards set forth in Uniform Guidance outlined in 2 CFR 200.319-320 to ensure full and open competition.

In order to ensure objective contractor performance and eliminate unfair competitive advantage, contractors responding to this request for qualifications must certify that they did not develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations for bids or requests for proposals/qualification associated with this work effort. Failure to certify will result in the contractor's disqualification from consideration.

By signing below, the undersigned certifies that it did not, in whole or part, develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work or invitations for bids or requests for proposals/qualifications related to this work effort.

Name of Contractor or Firm	
Signature of Authorized Official	
Title	
Date	