



Elizabeth Borough Riverfront Walking Trail Request for Qualifications

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 1/9/2025

- 1. January 18 is a Saturday. Is this the correct due date?**
Yes, Saturday, January 18, 2025 is the correct due date for qualifications
- 2. Are there specific percentages for DBE (MBE/WBE) requirements?**
There are no specific percentages required. We trust that each party receiving ARPA funds will make a good faith effort to include MBE/WBE/DBE/VOSB organizations in their proposal.
- 3. Is project boundary mapping and/or contour mapping available. If so, what firm created it, and can this be available prior to bid?**
Boundary, contour, and topographical mapping is available from the Elizabeth Borough Office.
- 4. Do you have a field surveying company that you have worked with and are comfortable with using again?**
Yes, there are local companies we work with but we are willing to use the surveying company of the designer's choice.
- 5. What engineering firm is doing the work to 'raise' the existing fishing pier? Is this work being permitted through USACOE and PA DEP /Joint Permit?**
Glenn Engineering is raising the fishing pier. The work is permitted jointly through USACOE and PA DEP.
- 6. Are/will the plans for the fishing pier be available for review?**
Preliminary plans are available from the Elizabeth Borough Office. Final plans will be available this spring.
- 7. What is the determined high-water elevation?**
Final Design elevation for Pool 2 will be 723.1 at NVD 88 according to USACOE
- 8. Will there be coordination between two projects? Should we set aside time/budget for this?**
The raised fishing pier will be coordinated with the future construction phase of this project. We do not anticipate this to affect the trail's budget, but the designer may want to allot time to meet with the pier construction team.
- 9. What is the \$100,000 based on? Is it a stipulation of funding you've received? Is there any chance it could be increased? Is there any flexibility in the scope of work?**
ARPA awarded grant funds in the amount of \$100,000 to Elizabeth Borough for the riverfront project. The Borough elected to use these funds as Phase 1, which will include designing the project. Future grants will fund construction and project oversight costs. \$100,000 is the engineering budget for the design phase. There is little flexibility of scope, although we can be flexible with the design timeline.
- 10. Does the \$100,000 budget include services like, survey, geotechnical engineering, and/or structural design?**
We can provide geotechnical surveys and other information that we received from the USACOE.
- 11. Does the Borough have any survey data for the Monongahela River and riverbank properties?**
Yes, the Borough has survey data for the river and riverbank properties provided to us by the Army Corps of Engineers.
- 12. Is a topographic and boundary survey available? If not, does the consultant need to provide?**
Topographical and boundary surveys are available from the Borough. They were conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers during lock removal and in the plan to raise the fishing pier. They can be used for this trail design.

- 13. Is Geotechnical data available for the project site? If not, does the consultant need to provide?**
Survey and Geotechnical data is available from the Borough. The Army Corps of Engineers conducted surveys and collected data as part of remediation efforts connected with the dam and lock removal. This does not need to be part of the design budget. Further studies can be included in the Construction budget.
- 14. Will the consultant be required to prepare an H&H study? I'm sure USACE prepared one for the lock and dam removal, so it is possible to utilize their H&H study? Would USACE be willing to provide it?**
H&H study results conducted by USACOE will be provided.
- 15. If during the course of conceptual design any technical investigations are identified as being required (including: FEMA Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H), geotechnical, wetland delineation, environmental assessment, arborist evaluations) will these be paid for from a budget separate from the engineering design?**
This will be paid from the engineering and design fund.
- 16. The RFQ mentions the Borough owns the land but does not mention permitting. Has SRCOG contemplated if permits (such as Chapter 105 General Permit; Borough issued Building Permit or grading permit) will be required? Or is the consultant responsible for determining if permits are required?**
The designer is responsible for determining if permits are required. Construction permits will be managed during Phase 2, construction phase using construction funds.
- 17. Are each of the planned railroad crossings currently permitted?**
There are no railroad crossings included in this project.
- 18. What other permits are necessary for the project?**
No local permits needed for Phase 1, Design. Other permits that arise will be obtained using construction funds.
- 19. What services/tasks will the local municipal engineer (Glenn Engineering) perform during the design phase and the construction phase of the project?**
Glenn Engineering will participate in construction phase of the project through normal borough contract with them. They may contribute cost estimates if requested during the design phase.
- 20. What services/tasks will the COG perform during the design phase and the construction phase of the project?**
As the agent for the grant funds, the COG will act as project manager, facilitating communication, ensuring completion of documentation, making sure deadlines are met, and requesting grant funds for payments. Once the design is complete, the COG will advertise the project, hold site visits, and conduct bid openings.
- 21. The RFQ does not mention public meetings or community engagement. Is this not required of the consultant? Or will SRCOG be responsible for presenting the project?**
Community engagement is not planned for this project. Consultant will not be required to attend public meetings.
- 22. The RFQ states SRCOG will conduct the bidding process. Is the consultant required to provide only technical specifications? Or should the consultant also provide front end specifications?**
The consultant will be required to provide only technical specifications. SRCOG will provide front end documents.
- 23. Is the consultant required to prepare a design schedule? Or will this be handled by SRCOG as the project manager?**
The consultant, Borough, and COG will collaborate on the design schedule. Our goal is to have a design that we can use to apply for construction funding grants as early as possible in 2025.
- 24. Page 4 references "being mindful of future phases that will extend the trail". Is there a master plan showing future phases and future improvements?**
There is not currently a formal master plan. The Borough would like for the trail to eventually extend south to connect with Forward Township, and north to connect with Lincoln.
- 25. The schedule on page 5 states that design should be completed by late spring 2025 but construction will not start until spring 2026. When will bidding occur? Spring 2025 - so SRCG has an accurate cost to secure funding? Or spring 2026 – closer to when the work will begin?**
Bidding will occur closer to 2026. This design will be used to apply for construction funding grants during the 2025 application cycles. Bidding will take place after construction funding is acquitted.

- 26. Are submitters allowed to supply an Appendix for the resumes or do we need to format them so that they fit within the 6 page limit?**
Appendices are allowed.
- 27. Is the three-page Qualification Overview/Statement in addition to the 6-page limit for the Profile of Firm?**
Yes, the three-page Qualification Statement can be submitted in addition to the 6-page maximum Profile.
We can be flexible on the length of the proposal. Please be as concise as possible.
- 28. We see that vegetation appears to have been clear cut along the shoreline/bank in the proposed location of the trail, was this for a specific purpose or general maintenance?**
This was for general maintenance.
- 29. Do we need to include invasive species removal and remediation as part of the plan?**
Yes, please.
- 30. Are there specific destinations that must be connected along the river? (Fishing Pier, Boat Dock, Malady Bridge sidewalk, Forward, Lincoln)**
We would like this plan to connect the Fishing Pier and Boat Dock. We would like a design that provides easy access for trail walkers to venture up Water Street, Strawberry Street, or Plum Street so they can visit the shops and eateries on 2nd Avenue, but the trail does not need to connect with these streets.
- 31. The design phase listed on page 5 is very short, only 2-4 months. Is this to make sure there is adequate time to spend the funds by end of year 2026?**
You are correct, ARPA funds must be distributed by the end of 2026. This grant originally included construction funds, but we have reallocated the funds solely to design, so it is possible to have some flexibility on the design timeline.
- 32. Would you consider extending the design phase if we thought we could still hit your project end date?**
Yes.
- 33. Is the design contingent on securing construction funds or have funds been awarded and the design is only part of the process?**
Construction funds have not yet been awarded. The design will be used to solicit construction funds and will be the primary but not only application element.
- 34. Are you envisioning the walking trail being mainly on-grade or floating on the water which the graphic on page 14 seems to suggest?**
The trail will be on land. The graphic on page 14 was meant to suggest the length of the walk, not the actual location.
- 35. Would you consider allowing a local design firm we plan to collaborate with to prime the project even if they were not on your initial invited list in order to provide greater value and efficiency to the project?**
Collaboration is allowed and welcomed. All collaborators, including their qualifications, must be included in the proposal, and all collaborators will need to complete compliance paperwork after the project is awarded.

For more updates, [check our website](#) or contact [Jenny Kwiatek](#), SRCOG Government Grants Manager.