

## ***REQUEST FOR INFORMATION***

“RFI”

Date: November 1, 2004

Title: Western Transportation Corridor

Issuing/Using Agency: Department of Transportation  
Innovative Project Delivery Division  
1401 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is seeking Statements of Interest (SOI) from private entities (respondents) that are qualified and experienced with design, construction, improvement, maintenance, and/or operation of a highway facility. VDOT will consider responses to this Request for Information (RFI), and determine whether to solicit conceptual proposals under the Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995, as amended (the PPTA), for constructing all or part(s) of the Western Transportation Corridor (WTC). VDOT is considering future procurement with competitive negotiation procedures under the PPTA because of the potential for risk sharing, non-public funding, and other economic benefits which would not otherwise be available through a competitive bidding process.

### **II. BACKGROUND**

The proposed WTC study area encompassed more than 1450 square miles and is conceptually located between Interstate 95 in Stafford County proceeding north toward Route 7 in Loudoun County. The WTC was conceived to improve capacity and provide linkages in a north-south direction, improve access to the Dulles International Airport, and address congestion and operational deficiencies on existing roadways. VDOT completed a Major Investment Study (MIS) in 1997 that recommended a Location Study and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An EIS was initiated by VDOT in 2000 and terminated prior to its completion in 2003. The EIS study area is described above and indicated on the attached vicinity map (Attachment A). There were no alternatives identified or approvals received as a result of the terminated study.

If Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) participation is anticipated, VDOT would either complete the NEPA requirements, or consider public-private partnership approaches that advance the efficient delivery of transportation projects in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, before issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) under the PPTA.

WTC is part of the 2003 Metropolitan Washington area CLRP as a Study only. The 2003 CLRP is in the process of being updated and the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is scheduled to adopt the updated 2004 CLRP in November 2004. WTC was not included in the proposed 2004 CLRP update as a Study or for any phase of construction.

The WTC was removed from the Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's 2003 CLRP and the 2004 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

VDOT's Six Year Improvement Program (SYP) has allocated \$50,000 in regular primary state funds for possible PPTA project development and management activities on the WTC.

The WTC may require coordination with multiple local governments and agencies, which include but are not limited to the following: U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Department of Defense, the Department of Interior, and a broad range of other agencies.

### **III. INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONSES**

Respondents should submit a concise SOI not exceeding four pages that demonstrates a clear understanding of the issues associated with this project and communicates the respondent's ability to complete the scope of work as required. The SOI should include the following:

- 1) A brief statement of interest/no interest in pursuing such a project with VDOT;
- 2) Identify topics or issues regarding the WTC not addressed by this RFI that Respondents believe are important to address in any future RFP and offer input on those topics or issues; and
- 3) A list of additional information that would assist your firm in its evaluation of interest for future participation in this project.

VDOT is not requesting a proposal, detailed plans, budgetary information or proprietary information in response to this RFI.

SOI's shall be returned by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Friday, January 14, 2005, by mail to:

Virginia Department of Transportation  
Attention: Daniele J. Noland, Project Manager  
Innovative Project Delivery Division  
1401 East Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Responses are to be sealed in mailing envelopes bearing the respondent's name, address, and the words "WTC Statement of Interest" clearly written on the outside.

Respondents may call Daniele J. Noland, Project Manager at 804/786-6929 for additional information.

VDOT plans to complete its evaluation of the feasibility of the WTC for procurement under the PPTA by March 1, 2005.

#### **IV. VDOT's RIGHTS RESERVED**

VDOT reserves all rights available to it by Federal and State law. Moreover, if a PPTA solicitation results from this RFI and the resulting responses, respondents to this RFI are hereby notified that all information, documentation, and any specific content or approaches included in RFI responses may be used in the resulting solicitation. Therefore, do not submit any copyrighted, proprietary or confidential information.

Ownership of all data, material, and documentation originated and submitted to VDOT, pursuant to the RFI, shall belong exclusively to VDOT and be subject to public inspection in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

The intent of this RFI is to seek SOI's only; therefore, responses will not be considered to be a binding bid or proposal. If VDOT decides to solicit an RFP, those parties who choose not to respond to this RFI will not be denied participation in the RFP. If VDOT decides to advance the WTC with a different scope than presented in the SOI's received from respondents of this RFI, respondents will not be denied participation to the RFP.

Unsolicited proposals for advancement of the WTC, or any similar project, under the PPTA will not be accepted from the date of issuance of this RFI until the completion of the evaluation of the SOI's. Any unsolicited proposals will be returned to sender.

Under no circumstances shall the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth Transportation Board, the Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner (Commissioner), or VDOT be liable for, or reimburse, the costs incurred by respondents, whether or not VDOT, in its sole discretion, chooses to solicit proposals under the PPTA for the WTC.

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**RFI**  
**GENERAL VICINITY MAP**

