

# **PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE COMMISSION**

## **Request for Concepts/Solutions (RFCS)**

### **Mon/Fayette Expressway and Southern Beltway Public-Private Partnership(s)**

*Date of Issuance*  
*9/17/08*

#### **Purpose:**

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) is soliciting Concepts/Solutions to complete the Mon/Fayette Expressway and the Southern Beltway projects. To complete these projects, the PTC is seeking innovative public-private partnership Concepts/Solutions for financing, designing, constructing, operating, and maintaining the un-built 52 miles of the Mon/Fayette Expressway and Southern Beltway. The purpose of this request is to receive submissions that include Concepts/Solutions from teams that can demonstrate the necessary financial capacity and technical expertise to complete all or part of these major projects.

#### **Description:**

The Mon/Fayette Expressway and Southern Beltway are parts of a program of projects in Southwestern Pennsylvania that the State Legislature has mandated, under Act 61 of 1985 and Act 26 of 1991, to be studied, designed, and constructed by the PTC. There are limited state and federal resources to complete three un-built projects of this program. The two un-built Southern Beltway projects are each approximately thirteen miles in length and the un-built Mon/Fayette Expressway project from PA Route 51 to I-376 is approximately 26 miles in length. A general description and current status of the program are provided below.

#### **Mon/Fayette Expressway**

The Mon/Fayette system will extend approximately 70 miles south from Pittsburgh through the Monongahela River Valley and western Fayette County to Interstate 68 near Morgantown, West Virginia. It will improve access to redevelopment sites in the economically depressed Mon River towns where the steel and coal industries once flourished. It also will provide faster and safer travel options for through traffic, particularly commercial vehicles that now use existing north-south arteries, such as PA Route 51, PA Route 88, PA Route 837, and PA Route 857, as well as U.S. Route 40 (the National Road).

Approximately 35 miles of the Mon/Fayette Expressway system are operational. The newest project, 17 miles north from I-70 to PA Route 51 in southeastern Allegheny County, opened in its entirety on April 12, 2002. Opened on March 1, 2000 were the northern 6.2 miles of the Mon/Fayette's 12-mile Mason Dixon Link south of Uniontown that eventually will link with I-68. The PTC will open the southernmost 1.6 miles in Pennsylvania when the 4.2-mile West Virginia side is completed. Construction is underway and the West Virginia Department of Transportation's

Division of Highways is proposing to complete the construction of the Mason Dixon Link by 2011.

The northern 6.2 miles of the Mason Dixon Link connects to the four-mile, non-tolled PA Route 43 Expressway, which was built by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and was opened in November 1992 as the Chadville Demonstration Project. Extending south, from the newest project opened in April 2002, is the six-mile California Toll Road (Turnpike 43) between Interstate 70 and U.S. Route 40. It was built by PennDOT and turned over to the PTC upon its opening in October 1990.

Existing expressways at the southern end of the California Toll Road (PA Route 88) and at the northern end of the Chadville project (U.S. Route 119) also would serve as parts of the Mon/Fayette Expressway.

The Mon/Fayette Expressway system, under development by the PTC, consists of four independent, stand-alone projects that are designed to address local needs yet work together as a cohesive unit for regional benefit. Three of these projects have been completed or are under construction. The remaining Mon/Fayette Expressway project from PA Route 51 to I-376, described below, is currently in the final design phase.

#### **PA Route 51 to I-376 Project**

The Mon/Fayette Expressway Project from PA Route 51 to Interstate 376 would extend the Mon/Fayette system north from Route 51 in Jefferson Hills in southeastern Allegheny County to two interchanges with the Parkway East (I-376) – one in Monroeville/Penn Hills and one in the City of Pittsburgh near Second Avenue and Bates Street. The project length is 26 miles and has been divided into three legs. The south leg is from PA Route 51 to the northern end of the Monongahela River Bridge, the east leg is from the northern end of the Monongahela River Bridge to Monroeville and the west leg is from the northern end of the Monongahela River Bridge to I-376 at Bates Street. The project is currently in the final design phase. The purpose of this project is to provide safe, efficient transportation improvements that will complement the regional transportation network, enhance the accessibility to both social services and industrial development sites located along the Monongahela River Valley, and to relieve severe traffic back-ups on the Parkway East (I-376) and the congested local roadways in southeastern and eastern Allegheny County.

#### **Southern Beltway**

The Southern Beltway will form an arc about 32 miles long with a radius approximately 15 miles out from Pittsburgh's Golden Triangle. It will improve access and east-west mobility between the mid-Mon Valley, at the Mon/Fayette Expressway near Finleyville, and Pittsburgh International Airport at the PA Route 60 Expressway.

The Southern Beltway consists of three independent projects that also would address local needs and work together as a limited access highway south and west of the

Pittsburgh urban core. The first six miles of the Southern Beltway, locally known as the Findlay Connector, extending south from the PA Route 60 Expressway at Pittsburgh International Airport to U.S. Route 22 in Robinson Township, Washington County, opened to traffic on October 11, 2006. The two remaining Southern Beltway projects, described below, from US 22 to I-79 and from I-79 to the Mon/Fayette Expressway are currently in the final design and environmental phase of development, respectively.

#### **US 22 to I-79 Project**

This proposed four lane limited access expressway is 13 miles in length and would extend from US 22 to I-79. The Federal Highway Administration recently issued the Record of Decision for this project and it is currently in the final design phase. The completion of this Southern Beltway project would provide a direct connection from I-79 to the Pittsburgh International Airport, a distance of approximately 20 miles.

#### **I-79 to Mon/Fayette Expressway Project**

This proposed four lane limited expressway is 13 miles in length and would extend from I-79 to the Mon/Fayette Expressway. The project is in the environmental phase of development and a Record of Decision is anticipated to be issued in late 2008 or early 2009. Assuming that both the US 22 to I-79 and the I-79 to the Mon/Fayette Expressway projects are built, the Southern Beltway would be completed and would provide continuous travel from the Pittsburgh International Airport to I-68 in West Virginia, a distance of approximately 81 miles.

#### **Requirements:**

It is the primary objective of this solicitation to receive Concepts/Solutions that include, at a minimum, private financing for construction of all or part of the un-built highway sections of the projects described above. This solicitation is not intended to receive responses that include only design and advisory roles. Specific solicitations for those roles may be advertised by the PTC at a future date. In response to this RFCS, respondents shall provide the information listed below in a brief yet comprehensive manner.

- Name and mailing address of the respondent and all team members if applicable. Include the name, title, phone number and email address of a designated contact person.
- A detailed description of the Concepts/Solutions the respondent could deliver. Define what highway elements (any un-built or built sections of the Mon-Fayette Expressway and Southern Beltway) and roles and responsibilities (finance, design, construct, operate, and maintain) are included in the proposed Concepts/Solutions.
- Qualifications of the respondent that demonstrate the ability to deliver the proposed Concepts/Solutions.
- The cost to the PTC or any public sector contribution required to complete the respondents' Concepts/Solutions. Based upon the detailed information available on the projects, the respondent shall determine their own cost to finance, design,

construct, operate, and maintain the proposed highway elements. The respondent shall also identify the amount and specify the timing of the necessary public sector contribution, if any is required. If the proposed Concept/Solution does not include collection of tolls by the respondent, the respondent shall clearly indicate that no toll revenue is included in the calculation of the necessary public sector contribution.

**Limitations:**

The PTC welcomes all innovative ideas for completing all or part of the Mon-Fayette Expressway and Southern Beltway projects. The limitations, however, are as follows:

- The Turnpike east/west mainline, the Northeast Extension, and the tolled sections of PA Routes 60 and 66 shall not be part of any public-private partnership under this Request for Concepts/Solutions.
- Under Pennsylvania law, the PTC is charged with determining all toll rates. Respondents should, however, identify or recommend the amounts of toll revenues and toll rates increases necessary for their proposed Concepts/Solutions.
- Neither the PTC nor the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will issue bonds or provide any type of credit support for the private financing necessary to complete these projects. If public financing is required for the Concepts/Solutions being proposed, the PTC reserves the right to provide the public funding within its current statutory authority.
- Depending on the Concepts/Solutions received, additional legislation may be required.

**Pennsylvania Right-To-Know Law:**

Respondents should familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Law, 65 P.S. §66.1, et seq., requiring disclosure of public information and exceptions thereto. If a request is made under the Act for disclosure of the Responses or information contained therein, the PTC will notify each Respondent whose information is sought prior to disclosing any such information. The Respondent shall then have the opportunity to assert its basis for non-disclosure of such information and claimed exception under the Act or any other applicable law within the time period specified in the notice issued by the PTC and allowed under the Act. However, it is the responsibility of the Respondent to monitor such proceedings and make timely filings. The PTC may, but is not obligated to, make filings of its own concerning possible disclosure. Under no circumstances will the PTC be responsible or liable to a respondent or any other party as a result of disclosing any such materials, whether the disclosure is deemed required by law or by an order of court or occurs through inadvertence, mistake or negligence on the part of the PTC or its Commissioners, employees, agents or consultants.

**Questions and Additional Information:**

Information and data have been and will continue to be posted to the PTC website at [www.paturnpike.com/P3](http://www.paturnpike.com/P3). The sole point of contact for the PTC for this RFCS is Mr. Donald S. Klingensmith, P.E., Manager, Contracts Administration who can be reached at (717) 939-9551 x5850, or [dklingen@paturnpike.com](mailto:dklingen@paturnpike.com). Written questions may be

submitted to clarify any points in the RFCS which may not have been clearly understood. Questions should be submitted in writing by completing the web form at [www.paturndpike.com/P3/RFCS-Q/](http://www.paturndpike.com/P3/RFCS-Q/) (the format for questions is provided in the link). Questions will be accepted until the close of business on October 15, 2008. All written questions and written answers will be issued as an addendum to and become part of this RFCS. If it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFCS before the response due date, addenda will be posted to the PTC website under the original RFCS document. It is the responsibility of the respondent to periodically check the website for any new information or addenda to the RFCS.

**Process:**

Upon receipt and review of the respondents' Concepts/Solutions, the PTC reserves the right, at its option, to conduct oral presentations or interviews with those responding firms whose submittals provide the most comprehensive response to this solicitation. The timing for evaluating responses and scheduling interviews or oral presentations will depend on the quantity and quality of responses received. No aspect of these interviews or oral presentations is intended to provide any respondent with access to information that is not similarly available to other respondents. The PTC also reserves the right, at its option, to issue a Request(s) for Proposals based on the Concepts/Solutions received and gathered from the Informational Meeting held on September 17, 2008, oral presentations and interviews.

Firms interested in providing responses are invited to submit ten copies of their Concepts/Solutions to Mr. Donald S. Klingensmith, P.E., Manager, Contracts Administration at the PA Turnpike Commission Administration Building located at 700 South Eisenhower Boulevard, Middletown, PA 17057 (street address). Our mailing address is P.O. Box 67676, Harrisburg, PA 17107-7676. The submittal must be received by 12:00 pm (noon), local time, November 14, 2008. Any submittals received after this time will be time-stamped and returned. All submissions must be signed.

Submission of or failure to submit a response to this request will in no way adversely affect the eligibility to respond to future Mon-Fayette Expressway and Southern Beltway solicitations. However, evaluations of the responses to the RFCS may be used to develop a preferred, but not exclusive, list of partners for involvement in possible future solicitations.

The PTC reserves all rights to consider or reject any and all responses to this Request, to amend and/or reissue this Request, and to abandon and then recommence at any time, or not to recommence, the process of considering the Concepts/Solutions submitted. All costs of any response to this Request and participation in any presentations to the PTC are solely the responsibility of the Respondent and the PTC shall not be liable for payment of any such costs or expenses.

Mitchell Rubin  
Chairperson