



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Equitable Community Engagement Services for Southwestern Medical District Urban Streetscape Project

Solicitor:
Texas Trees Foundation
2906 Swiss Ave
Dallas, Texas 75204

Q&A Released: **December 17, 2019**
Submission Deadline: **December 23, 2019**

RECEIVED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What does Texas Trees hope to achieve by this engagement; what is the outcome of a successful equitable engagement?

Texas Trees wants to ensure the community members, particularly those in and around the district, have a vested interest in the outcome of the project by engaging them through a comprehensive process to provide input to better direct the project. The desired outcome is to create a sustainable constituency that can have an open and ongoing dialogue throughout the duration of the project and beyond.

2. Who is currently guiding the streetscape plan and its implementation? Is there a stakeholder group or advisory committee?

Texas Trees is leading the streetscape project and its implementation with support from a wide array of project partners ranging from the Southwestern Medical District, an interdisciplinary advisory board, government agencies (City of Dallas, North Central Texas Council of Governments and TxDOT) and contracted firms. We will be releasing a design team request for proposals this week.

Texas Trees is conducting preliminary outreach for key stakeholders and community leaders. At this time there is no current formal stakeholder group or advisory committee dedicated to community engagement.

3. Does Texas Trees have connections to all of the named users? And/or, do you have partnerships with organizations who serve these different groups? And/or, have you considered structures to sustain the engagement, such as a coalition or series of partnerships?

Texas Trees has established connections with many of the different stakeholder groups and is conducting preliminary outreach to create additional relationships. We will be forming a committee of key partners who can assist in crafting and implementing the action plan. An initial step with the chosen firm(s) will be to identify any additional assets or points of contact that need to be included in order to ensure that all voices are being brought to the table.

4. What is the current project timeline?

Texas Trees anticipates engagement firm(s) selection by the end of January. February will be dedicated to finalizing an engagement strategy and action plan to coordinate engagement activities through the design process for the Green Spine. We will work with the chosen firm(s) to craft a timeline and process that reflects the goals of the project, facilitates meaningful engagement, and coordinates with the design firm being selected through a separate process.

5. Do you have an anticipated budget allocated for this scope of work? Are you able to share this information or an anticipated fee range?

Texas Trees is unable to release information about budget for this scope of work. We do expect to work with the selected firm(s) to determine a mutually agreed-upon fee for the services requested.

6. What is currently funded and by whom?

A broad base of financial support is coming from both public and private sources. Texas Trees is unable to release information about funding at this time.

7. The RFQ mentions learning about stakeholder needs and preferences in order to inform the eventual project design. That said, the master plan is fairly specific about the design of the SWMD. What types of impact would this input actually be able to have? For example, are there specific design elements (e.g. the green heart) that you want input on? Do you want assistance programming certain spaces? And how open are you to acting upon newly discovered needs that may be in conflict with the current plan?

The [2016 master plan](#) is the foundational document that led to the phasing of the project (e.g. starting with the Green Spine and Green Heart) and provides a starting point. Community engagement is the cornerstone of the project and will be treated as such. All project elements (design, programming, etc.) are to be crafted based on the outcomes of an open and creative codesign process.

Engagement will be focused on the Green Spine (Harry Hines Boulevard streetscape) and, to a certain extent, the Green Heart (the intersection of Harry Hines Boulevard and Inwood Road). However, the needs and desires identified in the process will be used as the foundation for executing greenscaping of the district in all subsequent phases.

8. We'd like to know more about your expectations regarding decision-making. Who ultimately will make decisions about what will happen with plan implementation? For example, the RFQ mentions a "design team." Who is on that design team? It was unclear to us from the RFQ whether various stakeholders (across the community) were simply giving input, while someone else was making final decisions, or if those stakeholders would actually be empowered to make the final decisions themselves. Are you open to an expanded decision-making body?

Texas Trees purposefully separated the engagement services from the physical design team solicitation to ensure engagement is broader than the design elements. The design team solicitation will be released soon, with kick-off anticipated in 1st quarter 2020. The team selected will support the design-specific engagement activities, but Texas Trees and the selected firm(s) will lead the entire process.

Implementation of the project will be directly tied to stakeholder concerns, desires, input, and feedback. We are open to all types of decision-making structures and will look to the expertise of the selected engagement team to make recommendations on what is most appropriate for this effort.

9. Regarding timing, we're curious if you could estimate how long the entire plan's implementation might take, and how long an engagement process might take. Is this ongoing throughout? Does Texas Trees have staff who might sustain community engagement after a consultant is gone, and/or are you open to our team doing capacity-building with yours in order to set that handoff up for success?

Plan implementation is a multi-year effort. The initial emphasis of implementation activities will be on design of Green Spine and feedback upon the Green Heart early conceptual design. Design activities and technical analysis for the Green Spine is anticipated to begin in the first quarter of 2020 and is anticipated to take approximately 18 months. Discussions regarding the Green Heart will be folded into the Green Spine design effort. A more precise timeline for design will be developed once the final design team has been assembled. Construction of the Green Spine is anticipated to take approximately 2 years. Additional plan implementation projects have not yet been scheduled.

Texas Trees does currently have staff to support ongoing engagement after the chosen firm(s) has completed its scope. Capacity-building will be a worthwhile endeavor in order to ensure continued successful engagement efforts affiliated with this project and other Texas Trees Foundation activities. Capacity building can be noted in a list of potential services associated with this proposal, if desired.