

# **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

# **Active Transportation Network**

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is requesting proposals to provide professional services in creating a Bicyclist & Pedestrian Network. The network will make use of existing, locally maintained data layers and be used for transportation analysis and planning purposes.

This bicycle and pedestrian centerline network will allow MORPC staff, using ESRI software (ArcPro, Network Analyst, etc.), to generate true access buffers/isochrones for bicyclist and/or pedestrians, along appropriate infrastructure (including roads for bikes), from various points of interest (example: bus stops, trail access, activity centers) as well as other related analysis. This network is to be created using road, sidewalk, and bikeway centerline data, provided by MORPC, and include methodology to allow for annual network updates, using these base layers.

The process will include working directly with MORPC GIS staff to identify issues with native data layers and provide recommendations, so any identified issues can be cleaned up for easier updates down the road. The consultant will advise on appropriate schema (required attributes/domains) that will allow for various analysis scenarios. The network set up needs to be scalable to allow for expansion. Expansion may include the geography or the attribution.

MORPC would like to keep the approach as simple and clean as possible, with no proprietary tools or fragile customization.

**Geography**: MORPC MPO area (Franklin & Delaware Counties, and portions of Fairfield, Licking and Union Counties). See figure, page 4.

# Base Data (provided by MORPC):

- Sidewalk centerlines
- Regional Bikeway centerlines
- LBRS road centerlines
- COTA bus stops
- COG Trail access points
- Traffic Analysis Zone centroids

Sample GIS layers can be downloaded from MORPC Sample Data.

# **Background**

Central Ohio has great local and regional GIS data, whose maintenance is encouraged and facilitated by MORPC. MORPC was instrumental in the creation of the Franklin County LBRS data and has worked with local jurisdictions for 15 years to keep it current. Many local jurisdictions use it as part of their 911 system.

Specific to this project, the LBRS road centerlines (Franklin County only), the regional bikeway layer (15 counties), and the sidewalk inventory (MORPC MPO) are all part of a versioned SDE geodatabase that is cooperatively maintained. Ten jurisdictions have replicas from login specific versions. The jurisdictions edit the data locally and sync it back to the parent at MORPC. This collaboration has many pros, but a few cons. Data updates are an honor system, based on location, and schema changes are disruptive.

The bikeway and sidewalk files cover the project area. The LBRS road centerline files are county based, so a road centerline file for our project area of multiple counties will need to be merged, while dealing with schemas that don't match perfectly. The bikeway, sidewalk and road centerline files were created independently for different purposes and are edited independently and via the replicas. There is not currently a relationship between the three layers. Clean up and connections between the layers will need to happen prior to building a network. MORPC staff will assist with this process.

<u>Note</u>: We looked at using Open Street Map data for this network but decided against it. While the roads seem complete and current, the bikeway and sidewalk data are poorly represented, and we are not interested in bettering that data set. We would rather put the focus on improving local data.

#### Goal

MORPC would like to expand and improve our ability to run bicycle and pedestrian access analysis, as part of various transportation related projects like the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, LinkUs Mobility Initiative, and Central Ohio Greenways. We also want to improve data in the MORPC Travel Demand Model, by creating a relationship between the Traffic Analysis Zone centroids and the bike/ped infrastructure.

More detail on need, tasks, and deliverables is described in the below scope of work.

#### Submission

Consultants interested in being considered must submit a PDF format copy of their proposal via email to <a href="mailto:cmansperger@morpc.org">cmansperger@morpc.org</a> with subject line: BIKE PED NETWORK FOR MORPC MPO.

Respondents should expect an email reply upon submission. Proposals will be received by MORPC until 5:00 pm (ET), Friday, January 6, 2023.

All questions must be submitted in writing and should be submitted via email to Cheri Mansperger at <a href="mailto:cmansperger@morpc.org">cmansperger@morpc.org</a>. No answers will be given over the phone. Written answers, including any amendments to the RFP if necessary, will be posted on MORPC's website. Responses to questions will be posted at <a href="http://www.morpc.org/rfps-rfqs/">http://www.morpc.org/rfps-rfqs/</a>.



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Neither MORPC nor any member agency of the Committee shall be liable for any costs incurred by the consultant in response to this RFP, or any costs incurred in connection with any discussions, correspondence or attendance at interviews or negotiation sessions.

All materials submitted in response to this RFP shall become the property of MORPC and may be returned only at MORPC's option. All materials received shall be considered public information and shall be open to public inspection.

#### **About MORPC**

MORPC is a voluntary association of local government communities in the 15-county Central Ohio area. Our organization strives to enhance the quality of life and competitive advantages of Central Ohio by working through local governments and other constituents. A catalyst for change, evidence of MORPC's work is seen every day through planning, programming and services in the areas of housing, transportation, water, land use, economic development, environment, public policy and technology. We assist our local government members by providing innovative solutions for the many challenges facing our growing region.

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the related nondiscrimination statutes, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, all bidders including disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, low-income status, or limited English proficiency in consideration for an award.



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# I. OVERVIEW / PROJECT BACKGROUND

Central Ohio has great local and regional GIS data, whose maintenance is encouraged and facilitated by MORPC. MORPC was instrumental in the creation of the Franklin County LBRS data and has worked with local jurisdictions for 15 years to keep it current. Many local jurisdictions use it as part of their 911 system.

Specific to this project, the LBRS road centerlines (Franklin County only), the regional bikeway layer (15 counties), and the sidewalk inventory (MORPC MPO) are all part of a versioned SDE geodatabase that is cooperatively maintained. Ten jurisdictions have replicas from login specific versions. The jurisdictions edit the data locally and sync it back to the parent at MORPC. This collaboration has many pros, but a few cons. Data updates are an honor system, based on location, and schema changes are disruptive.

The bikeway and sidewalk files cover the project area. The LBRS road centerline files are county based, so a road centerline file for our project area of multiple counties will need to be merged, while dealing with schemas that don't match perfectly.

The bikeway, sidewalk and road centerline files were created independently for different purposes and are edited independently and via the replicas. There is not currently a relationship between the three layers. Clean up and connections between the layers will need to happen prior to building a network. MORPC staff will assist with this process.

MORPC staff created a bike ped network in 2019, that was used to generate data for our Central Ohio Greenways Prioritization project: <a href="COG Prioritization StoryMap">COG Prioritization StoryMap</a>. It was a snapshot of all the data in Franklin County, with no easy plan for updating. Automated and manual effort was needed to create that network. We did not have the capacity at the time to set it up properly but are familiar with the process and the Network Analyst tool.

There are attributes, like Bike Level of Stress scores, that do not currently exist as part of the living road file. MORPC generated these scores and will work to update and conflate that field, as part of this project. These scores estimate the bike friendliness of a road segment and will be a criterion of one or more of the network scenarios. One example would be bike friendly travel within ½ mile of schools.

<u>Note</u>: We looked at using Open Street Map data for this network but decided against it. While the roads seem complete and current, the bikeway and sidewalk data are poorly represented, and we are not interested in bettering that data set. We would rather put the focus on improving local data.

# II. SCOPE OF SERVICES/PROJECT SCOPE/STUDY PURPOSE & APPROACH

MORPC would like to expand and improve our ability to run bicycle and pedestrian access analysis, as part of various transportation related projects like the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, LinkUs Mobility Initiative, and Central Ohio Greenways. We also want to improve data in the MORPC Travel Demand Model, by creating a relationship between the Traffic Analysis Zone centroids and the bike/ped infrastructure.

The new active transportation network will utilize local data layers and include a process to update the layers within the network annually, or as needed. Specifically, the process should be automated (when possible) and enable the measurement of walk and bicycle travel sheds and travel times from transit stops, trail access points, and eventually other points of interest, and the



ability to run analyses on various network scenarios. One example would be: Half mile buffers for cyclists on bike friendly roads or multi-use paths from each trail access point. GIS staff are often asked for data within various buffer areas and the goal is to avoid analysis by "as the crow flies" and instead be able to represent true access. This would also allow us to highlight barriers and gaps in the infrastructure. Use case examples include, but are not limited to:

- Developing regional performance benchmarks for equitable mobility analyses:
  - Estimate the number of people or jobs located within a 10-minute walk of a transit stop or trail access point.
  - Estimate the number of people or jobs located within a 20-minute bike ride of a transit stop or trail access point.
  - Calculate bike and ped travel times between Traffic Analysis Zone centroids for use in the MORPC Travel Demand Model.
- Project-level impacts and evaluation:
  - Estimate the additional number of people or jobs the construction of a certain project will provide access to within an identified travel time shed.

The consultant is welcome to suggest the best options and create tools to ease the process. All tools and scripts will become property of MORPC and easy to use by staff in house.

#### **Identified Tasks**

Listed below are the suggested tasks the consultant should undertake. This list is not meant to be exhaustive, and the consultant may suggest alternatives or enhancements that will still accomplish the goals identified.

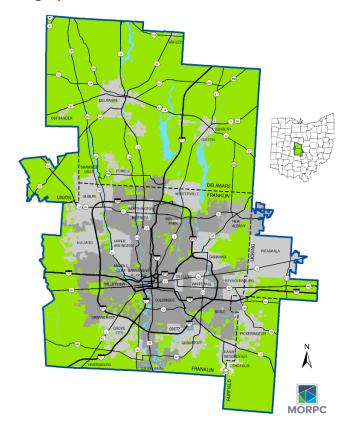
- > Review ESRI requirements to build appropriate network for Network Analyst
- > Determine how layers will work together in network to allow most flexibility (Example: are onroad bike facilities an attribute of roads or lines in regional bikeway file with multi-use paths?)
- > Identify topology issues or gaps in GIS data and work with MORPC staff to clean-up original replica layers.
- > Determine annual update process. (Please note that the 3 centerline files are cooperatively maintained by local jurisdictions. In order to make maintenance as easy as possible going forward, edits that can be made to the main files should be identified before copy created.)
- > Determine how best to deal with overpasses/underpasses (elevation or vertices).
- > Create connection between data layers that reflect real world.
- > Explore options for adding a time to bike/walk travel distances. Identify how to best integrate signalization, type of facility, or number of road crossings into speed.
- > Confirm Join fields back to original data layers for attribute transfers, like LTS scores.
- > Create ESRI file geodatabase and load data into network schema.
- > Run test scenario to create ½ mile isochrones from bus stops for bike and ped.
- > Manual check and review of results and clean up network as needed,
- > Look at how to incorporate Traffic Analysis Zone centroids for connection to MORPC Travel Demand Model.
- > Create "Tasks" in ArcPro project to allow staff to step thru network scenario options.
- > Create methodology document.



# **Project deliverables**

- ArcPro project with "Tasks" to allow staff to step thru network scenario options. (Model Builder or a python scripts could potentially be a substitute.)
- File geodatabase with bicycle pedestrian network layers needed.
- Creation and methodology of several network scenarios.
- Identification of topology issues and gaps in the data layers needed for the network.
- Process and methodology documentation for updating all network layers and rebuilding network annually.
- Polygon layers from several test scenarios: Isochrones showing bicycle and pedestrian
  accessibility within ¼ mile and ½ mile from each COTA bus stop. For Bike traffic it will use
  multi-use paths and bike friendly roads only; for Pedestrian traffic it will be using sidewalks
  or multi-use paths only.
- All deliverables will be non-proprietary.

# **Geographic Area**



#### **Software**

MORPC has an ESRI Enterprise License Agreement and access to many ESRI tools and extensions. More specifically, we use ArcMap 10.7 but all new projects start in ArPro, with current version 3.0.2. We store GIS data on the MORPC network and have a hybrid set up with SDE Geodatabases. We have an open data site for sharing data publicly and use ArcServer and ArcGIS On-line to host data.



## III. PROPOSAL FORMAT

The proposal must address the following items in the following order. Failure of the proposal to respond to a specific requirement may be a basis for elimination from consideration during the comparative evaluation. MORPC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

Each consultant shall submit a formal proposal not to exceed twenty (20) 8.5" x 11" pages (excluding tabs, dividers, etc.) and shall contain the following sections:

- A) Cover Letter
- B) Organization, Personnel, Experience, and Project Management
  - a. Consultant's Personnel Profile and Corporate Qualifications
  - b. Project Team Availability and Capacity
  - c. Project organization chart showing key personnel, their relationships and affiliations
- C) Consultant's Methodology/Work Plan
- D) List and Description of Deliverables
- E) Project Schedule
- F) Budget or Cost Proposal

# A.) COVER LETTER

The **cover letter** shall be signed by a representative authorized to legally bind the firm, and include:

- Name of the Project.
- Name of the Firm.
- Name, telephone number, and e-mail address of a contact person with authority to answer questions regarding the proposal (ideally the day-to-day project manager for this work).
- Name, address, and phone number of a contact person to be notified regarding contractual issues.
- Identification of the firm as a corporation or other legal entity.
- A statement that the proposal will be valid for 120 days.

The letter shall state that the proposer:

- Has sole and complete responsibility for delivery of the required services.
- Is presently not debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or involuntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal department or agency or the Ohio Department of Transportation.

The consultant shall clearly specify its commitment to meet the terms, conditions and requirements as defined in this RFP, and to perform the work within the anticipated time frame and budget.



# B.) CONSULTANT'S PERSONNEL, CORPORATE PROFILE & PROJECT ORGANIZATION

Specific background information on key individuals who are anticipated to be assigned to the project should be included, most notably the project manager. Identify the location of the office where the majority of the work is to be performed. This section shall also provide an overview of each key personnel working on the project and show their relationship to the firm and their affiliations. Identify any diversity and inclusion efforts the consultant is taking or will take.

# C.) CONSULTANT'S METHODOLOGY/WORK PLAN

This section shall indicate the consultant's understanding of the project scope of work, a definition of the scope of the project (including a discussion of the tasks to be performed to accomplish the scope of work), a definition of the final product, and the consultant's approach to the project (including the estimated time of completion for key tasks, phase deliverables, the management organizational chart, and identification of the Committee's roles in the project).

The consultant's proposal shall contain a step-by-step explanation and description of the methodology to be employed and how the methodology addresses MORPC's scope of work. The consultant's proposal shall further contain a detailed level of effort. In addition, please explain any aspect of your method that is unique or innovative.

Also, administrative information, such as the consultant's status reporting procedures and the consultant's approach to effective communication with MORPC personnel and sub-consultants, shall be included.

# D.) LIST AND DESCRIPTION OF DELIVERABLES

The consultant's proposal shall list and describe the deliverables for each identified task that are part of the various steps of the methodology. All materials created and submitted throughout the lifetime of the projects related to the contract shall become the property of MORPC. All materials received shall be considered public information and shall be open to public inspection.

# E.) PROJECT SCHEDULE

Included as part of the proposal, the proposer shall provide a schedule identifying all tasks and sub-tasks, all deliverables, and time in the scope of work. The project should be completed within 6 months of start date. If the consultant believes this will adversely affect the quality of the project, the consultant should explain why.

Proposed Timeline (provided interviews are not necessary to select the consultant)

Proposals due on January 6, 2023

Target to begin work on February 20, 2023



# F.) BUDGET OR COST PROPOSAL

The expected budget for this task is \$75,000. Additionally, MORPC will provide in-kind services for the project, including:

- project and contract management,
- data and GIS support
- public involvement (facilitation assistance and facility use)
- website hosting

This section shall also provide a full description and breakdown of the expected cost for the project. The proposal shall present a breakdown of hours and expenses by task and state fiscal year, the hourly billing rates for team members, and all non-labor expenses expected to be reimbursed this includes all direct labor costs by person or position, overhead costs, non-salary direct costs including any travel time, equipment costs, per diem, printing costs, any fees, subcontractor costs, conversion of data and delivery to MORPC incurred by the vendor/consultant. Total cost shall be indicated, as well as an estimated cost per task based on the tasks identified in the work plan.

If the price proposal is not received when due or if the proposal does not include requested information, that proposal may be dropped from further consideration.

The proposer should be aware that it is the goal of MORPC to process and pay properly prepared and submitted invoices within 60 days, although that is not guaranteed. Improperly prepared and submitted invoices will be returned and will consequently not be processed and paid within the 60-day goal. Proof of payment will be required for all charges included on invoices.



# IV. PROCUREMENT PROCESS

# **RFP TIMELINE**

The schedule for the RFP is given below. Dates are tentative and may be modified by MORPC as necessary.

Key Date	Event
December 5, 2022	Proposal is posted on MORPC website for interested parties to retrieve.
January 6, 2023	Completed proposals due to MORPC by 5:00 p.m. (EST)
January 9, 2023	Proposals will be opened at 10:00 a.m.
January 9-16, 2023	Evaluation of proposals.
January 17 – 19, 2023	Oral presentations at MORPC, if needed.
January 20, 2023	Evaluation Committee makes final recommendation.
January 23, 2023	Contact all bidders regarding awards to be made
January 30, 2023	Contract preparation.
February 17, 2023	Contract finalized.
February 20, 2023	Project begins.

The selection of the project consultant will follow a multi-step process. The first step will be an evaluation of the written proposals using the criteria listed below.

# **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The evaluation criteria are as follows:

# 1. General Quality & Adequacy of Response (5%)

- a. Completeness and thoroughness
- b. Responsiveness to terms and conditions
- c. Overall impression

# 2. Organization, Personnel, Experience & Project Management (15%)

- a. Qualifications and experience of proposed personnel
- b. Relevant knowledge, skills, and experience with type of project
- c. Experience working with similar clients
- d. Demonstrated capacity to do the work

# 3. Technical Approach & Work Plan (50%)

- a. Clarity and organization in concept development
- b. Quality and quantity of services to be rendered



- c. Approach to study, including the ability to derive creative solutions. Clear description of elements of the work plan.
- d. Addresses expected outcomes:
  - i. Identifies who will do the work
  - ii. Includes realistic & sufficient timelines
  - iii. Includes reasonable & useful reporting timelines
- e. Specialized experience relevant to the work scope

# 4. Cost/Budget (30%)

- a. Clarity of budget and congruence with RFP and proposed scope of work
- b. Cost

#### **EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

The Committee will conduct the evaluation of proposals and reserves the right to reject any and all proposals in whole or in part received in response to this request. The Committee may waive minor defects which are not material when no prejudice will result to the rights of any other consultants or to the public.

#### **CLARIFICATION INTERVIEWS**

At MORPC's option, the consultant may be required to answer questions about the proposal. The purpose of the interview is to provide clarification of information presented in the written proposal. If interviews are necessary, MORPC will contact the consultant's authorized representative to schedule the time, date, and method of interview (e.g. in-person presentation or virtual). The interview will a few days of notification based on schedule above. The interview will be given by the Committee. A consultant's refusal to make a presentation as described shall result in the consultant's proposal being rejected from consideration for the project.

## **SELECTION AND NEGOTIATIONS**

Based on the evaluation of the proposals, the most qualified consultant will be selected. If negotiation with the highest ranked consultant fails to result in a mutually acceptable agreement, MORPC will notify that firm in writing of the termination of negotiations. The next highest ranked consultant, as determined by the earlier technical proposal evaluation, will then be invited to enter into negotiations with MORPC. If negotiations again fail, the same procedure shall be followed, with each next most qualified firm until a contract has been negotiated. If the remaining proposals are considered not to be qualified, the notification and selection processes will be repeated.

## V. PROPOSAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

Evaluation of Proposal Compliance with Specifications

Understanding that no consultant may completely meet all requirements of the specifications, MORPC reserves the sole right to determine whether a proposal substantially complies with the



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specifications; accept, negotiate modifications to, or reject the terms of any proposal; and waive the right to accept a part, or parts, of a proposal, unless otherwise restricted in the proposal.

# Modification and/or Withdrawal of Proposals

Modifications of a submitted proposal must be received by the designated due date specified. Withdrawal of proposals will be allowed only in those cases in which a written request to withdraw a Proposal is received by MORPC prior to the date and hour for receiving and opening Proposals. In such case, same will be returned to consultant unopened.

#### **Proposer Qualifications**

MORPC may require all proposers to submit evidence of qualifications, and may consider any evidence of the financial, technical, and other qualifications and abilities. MORPC will not award a contract to a proposer who, in its opinion, is not fully qualified on the basis of financial resources and responsibility, possession of adequate equipment, personnel, experience, and past record of performance to perform the obligation to be undertaken competently and without delay.

# Award of Contract

Each consultant acknowledges that MORPC will use its discretion and judgment in making the final decision and further acknowledges that no claim by the consultant will arise in any way relating to the exercise of that judgment by MORPC. MORPC reserves the right to accept the Proposal deemed to be in the best interest of MORPC or to reject any and all Proposals.

MORPC's Executive Director is the only individual who may legally commit MORPC to the expenditure of public funds. No cost chargeable to the proposed contract may be incurred before receipt of either a fully executed contract or a specific, written authorization to proceed.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION & REQUIREMENTS**

#### Ownership of Products

MORPC will retain the copyright for all data, materials, information, processes, studies, reports, surveys, proposals, plans, codes, scientific information, technological information, regulations, maps, equipment, charts, schedules, photographs, exhibits, software, software source code, documentation, and other materials and property that are prepared, developed or created under or in connection with this project. Therefore the submitter should anticipate that all products of this work effort will become the property of MORPC who will make them available to other government agencies and their contractors.

#### **Deviation Clause**

The consultant's attention is called to the condition that, if awarded a contract, the consultants will be required to furnish the particular item referred to in strict accordance with the specifications or descriptions as proposed, unless a departure or substitution is clearly noted and described in the proposal, along with the reasons therefore.

#### Tax Exemption

MORPC is exempt from the payment of federal excise and transportation taxes levied under the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. MORPC is also exempt from Ohio State Gross Retail (sales tax). The successful consultants will be furnished with any certificates of exemption required.



#### MORPC STATEMENTS ON DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

#### **Equal Opportunity**

The consultant agrees that it will not discriminate against any employee, applicant for employment, or sub-contractor and that it will take affirmative action to insure that employees, applicants and sub-contractors are treated equally during employment without regard to race, color, sex, gender identification, creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, genetic information, age, marital/familial status, military status (past, present, or future), limited English proficiency, or status with regard to public assistance.

# **Disadvantaged Vendors**

Disadvantaged Vendors shall have the maximum opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts financed under this solicitation. In this regard, all proposers shall take all necessary and reasonable steps to ensure that minority vendors have the maximum opportunity to compete for and perform any subcontracts. Also, proposing firms are encouraged to notify MORPC if they meet one of the disadvantaged vendor designations, such as Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Small Business Enterprise (SBE), or Women-owned Business Enterprise (WBE).

#### CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS

The following are not part of the proposal requirements but will be requirements in the contract in addition to other contractual requirements. *Please also note that prior to negotiation, the firm selected for negotiation must provide average hourly rates for personnel assigned and a copy of the last audited financial statement.* 

#### Compensation

A not-to-exceed contract amount based on satisfactory work performed and products and services produced will be entered into after negotiations between MORPC and the selected firm.

Alternative compensation models may be considered.

During contract negotiations, the selected firm must provide individually-priced and prioritized tasks to be completed "if authorized." The sequencing of work tasks must be done in such a way that successful completion of earlier tasks is not dependent upon the completion of later tasks.

#### Cancellation

MORPC reserves the right to cancel any contract for failure or refusal of performance, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, collusion, or any other misconduct on the part of the consultant.

#### <u>Unresolved Finding for Recovery</u>

The selected consultant affirmatively represents and warrants to MORPC that it is not subject to a finding for recovery under ORC 9.24 or that it has taken appropriate remedial steps required under ORC 9.24 or otherwise qualifies under that section. The consultant agrees that if this representation or warranty is deemed to be false, the agreement shall be void *ab initio* as between the parties to this agreement, and any funds paid by MORPC to the consultant hereunder shall be



repaid to MORPC immediately, or an action for recovery may be commenced immediately by MORPC for recovery of said funds.

## Covenants of Consultant

The consultant will be required to covenant and warrant the following:

- a) Consultant is not debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in any contract, supported in whole or in part by the funding sources for this project;
- b) Consultant has not within a three (3) year period had one or more public transactions terminated for cause or default;
- c) Consultant will comply with the provisions of Section 1352, Title 31 of the U.S. Code, which prohibits the use of federal funds to lobby any official or employee of any federal agency, or member or employee of Congress; and to disclose any lobbying activities in connection with federal funds.

