REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:

PASSENGER RAIL PLANNING AND ENGINEERING CONSULTANT
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICE
IN THE CLEVELAND-COLUMBUS-DAYTON-CINCINNATI
“3C” CORRIDOR

December 23, 2008

Project Overview: The Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) is the lead State of Ohio agency working with Amtrak and the host freight railroads to develop new intercity passenger rail service in the Cleveland – Columbus – Dayton - Cincinnati “3C” Corridor.

ORDC is contracting with Amtrak to analyze alternative routes, to forecast the ridership and revenue, and to identify the operating and capital requirements for operating three daily passenger train frequencies in the corridor. Amtrak’s analysis of the infrastructure requirements will advance three improvement scenarios: 1) passenger trains will operate on existing tracks as they are; 2) tracks and infrastructure will be improved to accommodate 60 MPH passenger train operations; and 3) tracks and infrastructure will be improved to accommodate 79 MPH passenger train operations. It is assumed that two train sets will be needed to operate the service. Amtrak will recommend final routing and service options. The ORDC has conducted a preliminary analysis of the alternative 3C routes and has recommended a short list for more detailed analysis. A copy of the ORDC “Alternative Analysis” and other ORDC-prepared documents related to the start-up service are available upon request.

During the Amtrak study, and in addition to the request for services described here, ORDC may contract with a second consulting firm to run a computer simulation of the freight and passenger operations using the Rail Traffic Controller “RTC” model. The RTC analysis will measure the relative utility of various capacity projects and will provide insight for making cost-effective decisions in improving train performance.

Based on the findings of the RTC modeling, ORDC will negotiate with the host freight railroads to establish the capital plan needed for the effective operation of the 3C passenger service.

Amtrak has indicated that it cannot provide passenger train equipment for the new Ohio 3C service. ORDC will need to identify options and determine how to acquire reliable equipment needed to effectively operate the new Ohio service.

Need for Consulting Services: ORDC seeks expert railroad consulting services to provide technical advice and information on an as needed basis to assist ORDC staff in the development
of the new intercity passenger rail service. The successful candidate should have experience in developing, improving, or expanding intercity passenger rail service with Amtrak.

ORDC may, or may not, require assistance with project planning and engineering activities including, but not limited to, the following short and long term needs. ORDC envisions that the selected consultant will provide assistance in the short term for 12 months after the start of work. ORDC may or may not retain the consultant for a longer term - up to 36 months after the start of work.

**SHORT TERM NEEDS**

- **Route and Service Analyses:** Input on the validity of the alternatives analysis developed by ORDC and the methods and results of the recommendations made by Amtrak.
- **Station Location Planning and Site Selection:** Assistance in identifying and evaluating alternative station locations and selecting station sites for development.
- **Station Site and Facility Design:** Assistance in developing conceptual station site plans and architectural drawings and estimating station facility costs.
- **Equipment Procurement:** Input into possible options for procuring equipment as well as how to evaluate various equipment options from rebuilds to new equipment. Analyses of specific proposals for rebuilds and new equipment. Assess the reliability and the lifecycle costs of new equipment vs. rebuilt equipment and the potential effects on passenger rail ridership and revenue.
- **RTC Modeling:** Assistance with understanding the intricacies of the RTC Model, especially highlighting the most important inputs from ORDC’s perspective. Assistance with providing input into the modeling process, understanding the freight railroad network, the capacity constraints and bottlenecks, and in interpreting model outputs.

**LONG TERM NEEDS**

- **Negotiations with Amtrak on Service Parameters:** Assistance in ORDC negotiations with Amtrak over any and all aspects of the State – Amtrak relationship.
- **Negotiations with Host Railroads for Capital Projects and Performance Parameters:** Assistance in ORDC negotiations with host railroads.
- **Negotiations with Equipment Suppliers:** Assist in ORDC negotiations with equipment suppliers.

**ORDC Parameters:** ORDC seeks consulting assistance under the following terms and conditions:

1. ORDC will provide written instructions to Consultant before Consultant undertakes any billable work to ORDC. No invoices for work performed outside of the written instructions of ORDC will be paid by ORDC.
2. Before any Consultant work begins, ORDC and Consultant will agree on a Scope of Work and the fee for the Scope of Work for each particular work task ORDC assigns the consultant. OR
3. ORDC will pay Consultant an agreed upon hourly rate for services provided that will include any travel, meals, and lodging expenses. There will be no separate reimbursement of travel, meal, and lodging expenses. ORDC will reimburse Consultant for printing, mailing, copying, and other related expenses on an actual cost reimbursement basis.

4. ORDC shall establish an absolute ceiling for payments to Consultant. ORDC shall provide no funds to Consultant in excess of this established ceiling level of payment. Any costs incurred by the Consultant above the established ceiling will be the responsibility of the Consultant.

**Submittals to ORDC for Consultant Selection:** Firms seeking to be selected as the ORDC Consultant for the Amtrak project shall submit the following information to ORDC by January 16, 2009.

- **Description of Overall Expertise of Firm:** On no more than five 8.5” X 11” sheets of paper, one side, provide an overview of the firm’s expertise in dealing with Amtrak or other passenger service start up services.
- **Resumes:** For each area of need identified in the scope of work, provide the resume of the person or persons in the firm that would provide the required assistance clearly identifying which person or persons would actually perform the work listed.
- **Costs:** For each person for which a resume is provided, provide a per hour billing rate.

**Terms and Conditions:**

1. The duration of the initial contract will be through the end of the current state fiscal year, June 30, 2009. ORDC expects to renew the contract as of July 1, 2009.
2. ORDC reserves the right to:
   a. Reject any or all responses, to postpone contractor selection, and to resolicit or cancel this procurement if deemed to be in the best interest of the state of Ohio;
   b. Request additional information from any or all respondents;
   c. Subject the execution of any contract or task order to the availability of funds and negotiation of agreeable terms with the successful respondent;
   d. To waive liability for reimbursement of any costs incurred by respondents responding to this request.
3. Any contract awarded as a result of this solicitation will incorporate the clauses of the standard ORDC contract.

**Questions:** Questions regarding this request for proposals can be directed to Megan McClory, Secretary-Treasurer, at megan.mcclory@dot.state.oh.us, or (614) 644-0289.