

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Minneapolis-Duluth/Superior Passenger Rail Service
Request For Qualifications
To Perform Environmental Review and Documentation and
Associated Preliminary Engineering
Issued April 7, 2009**

1. The RFP states that response narratives may not exceed 30 pages including the cover letter, and the appendix may not exceed 20 pages. Does that mean front and back count as 1, or is front one and back 2?

Answer: Front counts as page 1 and back counts as page 2.

2. Do the required forms (Signed copies of Exhibits A, B and C) count towards the Appendix page count, or in addition to the 20-page limit?

Answer: The signed forms are in addition to the 20 page limit and do not count as part of the 20 pages.

3. Can we assume that tab dividers will not count towards the 30 page Response Narrative limit?

Answer: Tab dividers do not count as part of the page limit.

4. The RFQ responses are limited to 30 pages and 20 pages in the Appendix. It also requires a number of forms be signed and submitted. Are the required forms counted in either the 30 page limit or the 20 page appendix limit?

Answer: The required forms are not counted as part of either the 30 page limit or the 20 page Appendix limit.

5. On page 4, under Task 3, Alternatives Analysis, it calls for “Development of measures of effectiveness.” Could you please clarify what is meant by “measures of effectiveness?”

Answer: The term “measures of effectiveness” refers to evaluation criteria. The RFQ calls for the Consultant to develop measures of effectiveness, which are subject to the approval of MnDOT and FRA.

6. Is the 2000 Executive Report by the St. Louis and Lake Counties [Regional Railroad Authority] available? I was not able to find it on the project website.

Answer: The Executive Report has been added to NorthernLightsExpress.org.

7. The RFQ on page 2 states that the environmental document is to be consistent with NEPA, MEPA, and WEPA. Has any specific (or even preliminary) joint or combined state/federal review process been agreed upon or envisioned?

Answer: MnDOT will oversee the review process on behalf of Minnesota, Wisconsin and the FRA. The proposed approach is to have the federal EA account for any additional

requirements associated with either state. No separate state environmental documentation is anticipated.

8. Please provide the list of BNSF-approved consultants.

Answer: The reference to a list of BNSF-approved consultants has been deleted from the RFQ. (See Addendum No. 1.) At the BNSF informational meeting on April 21, 2009, the BNSF representative made mention of an approved consultant list which is used for emergency call out purposes. This approved consultant list, which is not part of the RFQ and has no relevance to the Consultant selection process, is the property of BNSF Railroad and is not in the possession of Alliance.