

RFP Questions & Answers

Economic Development Strategy

Are you able to share a not to exceed budget for this project and if so, could you specify what that budget is? **Unfortunately the City is evaluating the responses and the anticipated cost for services is a factor. We will evaluate each respondents cost as part of the RFP.**

If conducting finalist interviews with top-rated consultants, will selected consultants be required to attend in person or may a virtual option be offered? **That has not been finalized but can be discussed with the Committee.**

How has the City engaged public stakeholders and community members in the past (surveys, public meetings, focus groups, etc.), if used, were other engagement methods more successful than others? **It is my understanding that the City has most likely utilized the traditional methods you mentioned. I have no documentation to reflect which was more successful.**

The RFP notes the Economic Development & Annexation Committee will meet frequently to discuss the project, could you specify the frequency of these meetings? **The Committee as a whole meets monthly and I would estimate supplemental meetings every other month could be a potential.**

Can you provide a budget or estimate cost for the Economic Development Strategic Plan? **Unfortunately the City is evaluating the responses and the anticipated cost for services is a factor. We will evaluate each respondents cost as part of the RFP.**

How many executive/management level staff will be involved in the strategic planning process? **Anticipate 3 staff and a standing committee of 8. However, will seek guidance from consultant.**

How many external stakeholders/committees do you anticipate being involved in the strategic planning process? **Will seek guidance from consultant based upon experience.**

How does the Belleville Economic Development department interface with the St. Clair County Economic Development Department? **Limited in the past but becoming more active.**

Has an Economic Development Strategic Plan been conducted previously? Can you share a link to this study if there is one? **I am not aware of a prior ED Strategy for the City.**

What role does The Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce play in business attraction/retention and overall economic development efforts? **Limited in the past but becoming more active.**

What role does Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC) play in workforce/talent attraction/pipeline development. **Beginning to strengthen those partnerships**

Is the City of Belleville included in a regional economic development organization? **I am not aware of us being in one**

If not, is there one that the City could be included in? **I am not aware of one**

Do you interface with DCEO or is that the County's role? **We do occasionally and also work with the County for this**

In terms of business attraction, do you get leads from INTERSECTIllinois? **I am not aware of us utilizing them**

In terms of your land use, do you have any industrial parks. I could not tell from your comp plan or zoning map. **Belle Valley Industrial Park is our only established industrial park**

What is the rail line that extends through Belleville? I thought I saw that it was Southern Illinois Rail. **I believe there is a combination line that is utilized by Norfolk Southern, Canadian National & potentially Kansas City Southern. We of course also have the Bi-State Metro Link as well.**

One last question, as we put together the stakeholder interview and focus group section of the proposal, I wanted to confirm that your team would be open to virtual meetings as well as in-person meetings. Does that work for you and your team? **That has not been specifically discussed but can be addressed by any firm chosen to interview and how they will handle that process.**