

Financial Plan Process review

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approach could also enable DART's contractor to identify, quantify and secure construction materials earlier in the process, potentially locking in the lowest available prices.

We began the solicitation process February 8 when we distributed a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). On February 11 we hosted an information session and networking opportunity for interested bidders. I'm pleased to say the Board Room was literally overflowing with about 150 construction and engineering firms of all sizes and disciplines wanting to learn more about participating in the rail expansion. A number of them also used the time to identify partners to help them build the strongest possible project team.

DART will hold an RFQ pre-submittal briefing at the agency headquarters on Tuesday, February 19 at 9 a.m. and another networking opportunity for interested firms on Saturday morning, March 1. The RFQ is due to DART on March 10.

Staff plans to issue the Request for Proposals on the design-build contract on March 20 and bidders will have until September to complete their proposals. The Board is scheduled to award a contract before the end of 2008.

Board Officer News

As you may have noticed there's a new author of the Chair Report. I assumed this position following the resignation of Lynn Flint Shaw last month. I named Dallas member Robert W. Strauss vice chair, Irving member John Danish secretary and Dallas member Pamela Dunlop Gates assistant secretary. The officers will serve through the DART Fiscal Year, which ends in September. All of us on the Board appreciate your continued support through this transition.

Firms interested in participating in the design-build opportunity at DART may also contact Tommy Hodge at 214.749.2564 or Michael Muhammad at 214.749.3268 for more information. Details about the planned solicitation are available at www.DART.org/procurement.

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