

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

Regional Mobility and Freight Management Study: Reimagining IL 53 and Improving Regional Connectivity

Issued by the Joliet Arsenal Development Authority (JADA)

In partnership with the **Will County Governmental League (WCGL)**, **Will County**,
the City of Joliet, and **Surrounding Municipalities**

Notice of Request for Proposals

The **Joliet Arsenal Development Authority (JADA)** is soliciting proposals from qualified consulting firms to conduct a **Regional Mobility and Freight Management Study** focused on reimagining Illinois Route 53, improving regional connectivity, and strengthening freight movement across Will County.

Proposals must be received by 5 p.m. Central Time on February 11, 2026. Late submissions will not be accepted.

About the Joliet Arsenal Development Authority

The **Joliet Arsenal Development Authority (JADA)** is a special-purpose unit of government created by the Illinois General Assembly in 1995 to redevelop the former Joliet Army Ammunition Plant and advance regional economic development, transportation planning, and infrastructure coordination. As a national model for industrial site redevelopment, JADA has transformed 3,000 acres into a thriving logistics and manufacturing hub, including the 1,500-acre CenterPoint Intermodal Center—one of the nation's premier transportation hubs.

JADA works closely with municipalities, counties, state agencies, and private-sector partners to promote mobility, safety, and sustainable growth across the region. With over 7,750 permanent jobs created and \$3 billion in private investment attracted, JADA continues to drive economic vitality and regional competitiveness.

Project Overview and Objectives

The purpose of this study is to evaluate freight movement, truck routing, and regional connectivity with a focus on reimagining Illinois Route 53 to reduce congestion, improve safety, and enhance community livability. The study will support coordinated planning among municipalities, freight operators, logistics centers, and community organizations, while leveraging Will County's strategic position as a national logistics hub.

Project Objectives

- **Freight Routing Efficiency:** Identify major freight generators, current truck routes, bottlenecks, and operational inefficiencies; recommend short-term and long-term solutions that optimize regional commerce.
- **Regional Connectivity:** Improve access to intermodals, industrial parks, and logistics hubs (including CenterPoint Intermodal Center) while reducing impacts on residential and downtown corridors.
- **Policy & Governance:** Recommend consistent truck routing policies, signage strategies, and administrative "quick wins" that enable coordinated regional action.
- **Data & Technology:** Integrate GPS, traffic counts, cell phone tracking, toll authority, and weigh-in-motion data; explore pilot technologies that enhance freight visibility and route optimization.
- **Community Engagement:** Facilitate transparent communication among municipalities, freight operators, logistics centers, unions, and community organizations to build consensus around solutions.
- **Funding Strategy:** Identify federal and state grant opportunities to support implementation of recommendations and ensure project sustainability.

Scope of Work

Baseline Assessment

- Inventory freight generators and destinations including industrial centers, warehouses, intermodals, and river terminals within Will County and the surrounding region.

- Document existing truck routes, congestion points, and safety incidents; analyze patterns and seasonal variations.
- Review local ordinances and enforcement practices; identify policy barriers to operational efficiencies and opportunities for streamlined governance.

Data Collection & Analysis

- Gather and analyze GPS, traffic counts, toll authority, weigh-in-motion, and cell phone tracking data to establish freight movement baseline.
- Identify priority monitoring locations that reflect critical freight corridors and bottleneck areas.
- Integrate available GIS datasets from Will County, municipalities, JADA, and state transportation agencies to create comprehensive spatial analysis.

Short-Term Recommendations (Quick Wins)

- Signal timing and interconnects to improve flow on key corridors.
- Targeted infrastructure repairs and maintenance prioritization.
- Truck route restrictions and enforcement strategies that balance commerce with community livability.
- Digital advisories, signage improvements, and coordination with mapping platforms (Google Maps, Waze) to guide freight efficiently.

Long-Term Vision

- Corridor redesign concepts that accommodate freight while supporting broader community goals.
- Regional connectivity plan linking freight clusters, intermodals, and JADA's industrial parks into an integrated system.
- Coordination with current and emerging developments (including CenterPoint expansion and surrounding manufacturing districts).

Governance & Collaboration

- Recommend structures for quarterly meetings, newsletters, SharePoint or shared digital platforms, and ongoing stakeholder coordination.
- Facilitate engagement with freight operators, logistics centers, unions, trucking associations, and community organizations.

- Coordinate with community-based transportation groups, environmental organizations, and existing regional partnerships.

Funding & Implementation Strategy

- Identify federal (INFRA, BUILD, CRISI, TARP), state, regional, and collaborative funding opportunities aligned with recommendations.
- Provide a phased implementation plan with early deliverables and "quick wins" within 6–9 months of project start.
- Estimate costs and resource requirements for recommended actions.

Deliverables

- **Interim Report (6–9 months):** Quick wins, pilot projects, early implementation recommendations, and lessons learned from initial stakeholder engagement.
- **Final Report (24 months):** Comprehensive freight management and regional connectivity plan with implementation roadmap, cost estimates, and performance metrics.
- **Funding Matrix:** Federal and state grant opportunities aligned with recommendations, eligibility requirements, and application timelines.
- **Stakeholder Engagement Plan:** Documentation of outreach activities, feedback received, and how input was incorporated into recommendations.
- **GIS Maps and Data:** Digital assets supporting freight movement analysis and corridor recommendations (deliverable in standard GIS formats).

Project Schedule

Milestone	Date
RFQ Issued	January 9, 2026
Deadline for Written Questions	January 27, 2026
Responses to Questions Posted	January 28, 2026
Proposals Due	February 11, 2026
Interviews (if held)	To be determined
Anticipated Notice of Award	February 25, 2026
Project Start (Notice to Proceed)	March 15, 2026
Interim Deliverables Due	6–9 months after NTP
Final Report Due	24 months after NTP

Proposal Submission Requirements

Proposal Format

- **Maximum 25 pages** (excluding required forms, appendices, and resumes)
- **PDF format**, single consolidated file
- **Font:** 11-point minimum, standard font (Arial, Times New Roman, Calibri)
- **Margins:** 1-inch minimum on all sides
- **Page numbering:** Include on all pages.
- **Electronic submission only:** email must be time stamped by the due date / time

Required Components

1. **Cover Letter** (1 page maximum – not included in the 25 page limit)
 - Project understanding and commitment to JADA's mission
 - Contact information for proposal lead
2. **Project Understanding & Approach** (5–7 pages)
 - Detailed understanding of freight challenges and regional priorities
 - Proposed methodology addressing each scope element
 - Timeline and milestones
 - Innovative approaches for quick wins and long-term solutions
3. **Team Qualifications and Organization** (4–5 pages)
 - Firm background, relevant experience, and certifications
 - Key staff resumes (highlights only, full resumes in appendix)
 - Proposed project manager and team structure
 - Relevant prior projects in Illinois or comparable regions
4. **Work Plan & Timeline** (2–3 pages)
 - Detailed task breakdown with assigned responsibilities
 - Gantt chart or timeline showing milestones and deliverables

- Resource allocation and staffing plan
- Quality assurance and review processes

5. References (1 page)

- Minimum of three (3) references
- Include contact name, organization, project description, and phone/email
- Preferably include freight planning, multimodal transportation, or regional governance projects

6. Required Forms & Certifications (See Section 11)

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated on a 100-point scale based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Description	Points
Project Understanding & Approach	Demonstrates clear understanding of freight challenges (routing inefficiencies, bottlenecks, enforcement gaps) and proposes a methodology aligned with regional priorities. Includes innovative approaches for both short-term "quick wins" and long-term connectivity solutions.	25
Experience & Qualifications	Proven track record in freight planning, multimodal transportation studies, and regional governance. Experience with similar projects in Illinois or comparable regions. Strong team credentials and relevant certifications (AICP, PLA, etc.).	20
Data & Analysis Capability	Ability to collect, integrate, and analyze GPS, traffic counts, cell phone tracking, and GIS datasets. Demonstrates capacity to identify freight corridors, bottlenecks, and operational patterns with actionable insights.	20
Stakeholder Engagement	Comprehensive plan for engaging municipalities, freight operators, logistics centers, and community organizations. Includes strategies for transparent communication (quarterly meetings, newsletters, digital platforms) and conflict resolution.	15
Implementation & Quick Wins	Ability to deliver interim recommendations within 6–9 months. Identifies feasible short-term actions	10

	(signal timing, signage, enforcement, digital advisories) while building momentum for long-term solutions.	
Funding Strategy	Knowledge of federal/state funding opportunities (INFRA, BUILD, CRISI, TARP, etc.) and ability to align recommendations with grant eligibility and requirements.	5
Innovation & Technology	Willingness to explore pilot freight management technologies, corridor alerts, real-time route advisories, and emerging data integration methods.	5

Total Possible Points: 100

Minimum threshold for advancement to interviews: 75 points (if interviews are held).

Administrative Requirements

Reservation of Rights

JADA reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all proposals
- Waive irregularities in format or submission
- Request clarification or supplemental information from proposers
- Negotiate with the selected firm regarding scope, deliverables, or timeline
- Cancel this RFQ at any time without obligation

Addenda and Changes

All questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted in writing to the contact listed in Section 11. Responses will be posted as written addenda on JADA's website. All addenda become part of the RFQ.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

All materials submitted in response to this RFQ become public records subject to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Proprietary or confidential information should be clearly marked; however, JADA cannot guarantee protection under FOIA exemptions.

Conflicts of Interest

Proposers must disclose any real or potential conflicts of interest consistent with Illinois ethics statutes (5 ILCS 430) and JADA governance policies. Conflicts include financial interests, family relationships, or prior business relationships that may affect objectivity.

Insurance Requirements

The selected consultant must obtain and maintain, at its own expense, the following insurance coverage:

- **Commercial General Liability:** \$1,000,000 per occurrence / \$2,000,000 aggregate
- **Professional Liability (Errors & Omissions):** \$1,000,000 per claim / \$2,000,000 aggregate
- **Auto Liability:** \$1,000,000 combined single limit
- **Workers' Compensation:** Statutory limits per Illinois law

JADA shall be named as additional insured on all policies except Workers' Compensation.

Compliance Requirements

By submitting a proposal, the firm certifies compliance with:

- **Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)** and non-discrimination laws
- **Illinois Human Rights Act** (775 ILCS 5)
- **Drug-Free Workplace** certification
- **Debarment/Suspension Certification** (not on federal, state, or local debarment lists)

Contract Terms

- Contract will be negotiated with the selected vendor.
- **Contract Term:** 24 months from Notice to Proceed, with option to extend by mutual agreement
- **Payment:** Monthly invoicing with detailed progress reports; payment within 30 days of invoice receipt

- **Ownership of Work Products:** JADA retains all rights to deliverables, data, maps, and recommendations
- **Subconsultants:** All subconsultants must be disclosed in proposal and approved by JADA prior to engagement
- **Termination:** JADA may terminate for cause (material breach) with 30 days written notice, or for convenience with 15 days notice
- **Indemnification:** Consultant shall indemnify and hold harmless JADA from claims arising from consultant's negligence or willful misconduct

Submission Instructions

Email Submission:

- **To:** annschneider100@gmail.com
- **Subject Line:** "RFQ -- Regional Mobility and Freight Management Study -- [Firm Name]"
- **Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. Central Time, February 11, 2026
- **Format:** Single PDF file with all required components

Contact for Questions:

Ann Schneider, Consulting Project Manager
Joliet Arsenal Development Authority
Email: annschneider100@gmail.com

Questions must be submitted by **January 27, 2026**. Responses will be posted by January 28, 2026.

Required Forms & Certifications

The following forms must be included with the proposal (in the main PDF or clearly separated):

1. **Non-Collusion Affidavit** — Certifying that the proposal was prepared independently without collusion or coordination with other bidders
2. **Conflict of Interest Disclosure** — Identifying any real or potential conflicts and mitigation measures

3. **Insurance Attestation** — Confirming ability to obtain required insurance coverage
4. **Certification Regarding Debarment/Suspension** — Certifying that the firm and its principals are not debarred or suspended from federal or state contracts
5. **Equal Opportunity Certification** — Affirming compliance with EEO laws and non-discrimination policies
6. **Proposal Signature Page** — Authorized representative signature with name, title, and date

Background: JADA's Mission and Vision

JADA's transformation of the former Joliet Army Ammunition Plant into a premier logistics hub represents one of Illinois' most successful redevelopment initiatives. The authority continues to:

- **Create Economic Opportunity:** Over 7,750 permanent jobs and \$3 billion in private investment demonstrate JADA's catalytic impact on the region.
- **Advance Multimodal Transportation:** CenterPoint Intermodal Center connects rail, truck, and barge transportation, positioning Will County as a national leader in freight logistics.
- **Support Regional Coordination:** Through partnerships with municipalities, counties, and state agencies, JADA promotes integrated planning and shared prosperity.
- **Embrace Sustainability:** JADA prioritizes environmental stewardship, clean transportation, and livable communities in all redevelopment efforts.

This RFQ reflects JADA's commitment to addressing regional freight challenges in a collaborative, data-driven manner that enhances mobility, safety, and economic competitiveness.

Inquiry and Contact Information

For more information about JADA, the Joliet Arsenal redevelopment, or this RFQ:

Joliet Arsenal Development Authority
Phone: [217.622.0693]



Website: www.jada.org

Email: annschneider100@gmail.com

For media inquiries, project updates, or partnership opportunities, please contact JADA directly.

End of Request for Proposals

This RFQ document is official JADA correspondence. All information is subject to the terms and conditions outlined herein.