

Request for Proposal – Responses to Clarifying Questions

Mississippi River Rail Crossing Study

March 11, 2019

- 1. Can Bi-State confirm what data is and will be made available to support the Study? Both prior to submittal and/or after consultant selection.**

Bi-State will make available any data it has at no cost to the consultant. It is the responsibility of the consultant to determine what data is needed and to work with Bi-State to determine if the data can be furnished by Bi-State or will need to be collected by the consultant. The *Bi-State Region Freight Plan* contains some of the data related to freight that Bi-State has and can be found at the following address. Both Departments of Transportation may have additional information they can share that is publically available and they also have freight plans.

<http://bistateonline.org/documents/transportation/2723-final-bsrc-final-report-pdf>

- 2. Does Bi-State Regional Commission have additional information on the future crossing of passenger rail?**

The focus of this study is the function of the rail crossings within the freight network, but passenger rail is a long range goal in the Quad Cities. Reference to this can be found in the *2045 Quad Cities Long Range Transportation Plan* at the following address. The crossing initially proposed for passenger rail would be over the Government Bridge since service was proposed over the Iowa Interstate Railroad. The State of Iowa is not currently implementing passenger rail at the commuter level into the State.

<http://bistateonline.org/transportation/quad-cities-metro-planning/2012-11-13-20-19-45/quad-cities-metro-lrtp-long-range-transportation-plan>

- 3. Has the Coast Guard been apprised of this study?**

This study is the initial high-level study of the long-range need for river rail crossings in the Quad Cities. As such, this is the very first time many stakeholders will be engaged together on the subject. The Coast Guard has not been directly apprised of this study at this time, but is one of many important stakeholders that should be engaged as a part of this study.

- 4. Are the existing bridge inspection reports and/or plans available?**

Bi-State Regional Commission does not have bridge inspection reports or plans for either bridge at this time. These may be available from the owners of the bridge or railroads who have trackage rights for the bridge. The Crescent Bridge is owned and operated by BNSF. The Arsenal Bridge is owned by the Rock Island Arsenal and IAIS has trackage rights to it. All of these parties are stakeholders who should be engaged as part of this study.

- 5. Does the assessment of environmental and historic issues at a planning level indicate that these issues will be identified and mapped, or is it expected that environmental testing and sampling be conducted to rule out potential future development issues?**

The assessment should be high-level and would not require environmental testing or sampling.