

**Business Case for Resilience for SE FL
Economic Modeling Consultant RFP Q&A
November 6, 2019**

The ULI Urban Resilience program hosted a webinar on November 5th at 12 noon ET to introduce the *Business Case for Resilience for Southeast Florida* project, introduce relevant partners, discuss the role of the economic modeling consultants, and go over the application and selection processes. A recording of the webinar can be found [here](#) and a PDF of the powerpoint can be found [here](#). Read the full RFP [here](#).

Below are questions received by the ULI project team either before or during the webinar. Note that some similar questions have been merged for brevity. The questions and answers are organized by topic: the economic modeling consultant's scope, application and selection process, and timeline and resources.

If further clarification is required, please reach out to resilience@uli.org by close of business on November 8th to receive responses before the RFP deadline. All questions and answers will be circulated to all firms and individuals which have expressed interest in the process and engaged in the pre-deadline RFP process.

RFP responses are due by 1 pm ET on Wednesday, November 13th to resilience@uli.org.

Economic Modeling Consultant's Scope

Question: What is meant by “representative corridors” in the second bullet on page 2?

Answer: “Representative corridors” refers to corridors in the public realm, agreed upon by the economic modeling consultant and project manager, to exemplify physical and economic characteristics that can be used as a microcosm for resilient investment throughout the region. These corridors will be helpful in gathering more minute data and information.

Question: What output will the economic modeling team receive from the “vulnerability assessments” completed by others and mentioned in the third bullet on page 2? In other words, what does this clause in the RFP mean? "this proposal assumes complementary vulnerability assessments will be completed separate from this study to provide return on investment estimates for various stakeholders for specific physical infrastructure adaptations"

Answer: The consultant will work with the project manager to identify existing vulnerability assessments already conducted by local governments in the region.

Question: Under Task A, will the counties provide GIS-compatible data or a list of “necessary public infrastructure” that should be considered in this assessment?

Answer: The local project manager will work with the economic consultant team to provide the data in the best format available for the consultant.

Question: Under Task A, Data Collection & Scenario Selection, redevelopment projects under construction are to be considered. Will the respective jurisdictions in the study provide a list and associated descriptions of these projects?

Answers: The appropriate county government will provide this information for the projects they wish to be considered. Note that this is likely to include major and strategic projects as opposed to a comprehensive list of all redevelopment projects.

Question: Under Task A, Data Collection & Scenario Selection, one of the deliverables is a description and discussion of scenario selections. Is this discussion related to the characteristics of the scenarios, or meant to reflect the selection of the scenarios as described in bullet 2, Scenario Selection?

Answer: This is intended to reflect the discussion of the rationale behind the selection of the scenarios noted in bullet 2.

Question: Under Task B, Avoided Losses, can you elaborate on the request to develop loss curves by sector, including examples of this approach?

Answer: The concept is to develop a user-friendly way to use the data in future modeling efforts, such as a loss curve-type approach. The economic modeling firm will work with the local project manager and appropriate stakeholders to refine this during the modeling process.

Question: The relationship between Task B and C is still somewhat unclear to me. Avoided losses seems to indicate that some adaptation will be done to mitigate the potential consequences. Task B also says that select adaptation options should be evaluated. Task C seems to be requesting additional analysis on the economic benefits provided beyond avoided damages. Can you please elaborate.

Answer: Task B contains the bulk of the economic modeling work. Task C is specifically about creating the business case for local government adaptation, and looking at the cost-benefit in a framework best utilized by local governments.

Question: What is meant by “recommendations for the criteria for economic resilience at the regional and corridor scale” noted in Task E, Bullet No. 1?

Answer: The economic modeling consultant will work with the project manager and ULI team to provide recommendations on metrics and key performance indicators to measure resilience at the local and regional scales.

Question: The notice refers to REMI; Is there an existing REMI model that has been purpose-built and is a requirement, or is IMPLAN an option? The question arises because while REMI models government spending, it does not explicitly capture government revenues, which appear to be an area of interest for the RFP.

Answer: REMI was referred to because it was used for a previous study in Dania Beach, so there is existing cost-benefit methodology. In addition, there is a discounted price for using the model for this study. It would be the version provided through the SE Florida Economic Partnership. As long as the outcomes of the modeling are similar to what is

requested in the RFP, and the approach is achievable within the project budget, other models can be used.

Question: What topographic and structure elevation data is available for use by the consulting team?

Answer: The local project manager will work with the counties/compact, to provide available elevation and structure elevation data. The modeling consultant should be able to use publicly available elevation dataset. If the economic consultant prefers to use different data sets, they will need to be agreed upon by the project manager.

Question: Who does the economic modeling consultant work with day to day?

Answer: The economic modeling consultant will work directly with the local project manager, Alec Bogdanoff on day to day matters, and will review work with the broader stakeholder team from the SE FL Regional Climate Compact in structured, regular check-ins set by Alec. ULI's Urban Resilience team will also participate in these check-ins, will provide input into some aspects of the study and will collaborate directly with the consultant on matters related to the draft and full report, national research and communications.

Question: Is the economic modeler expected to do flood modeling for various adaptation measures, or more hypothetical?

Answer: Detailed flood modeling on specific adaptation measures will not be required.

Question: What is the geographic scale of results...zip code, city, county, southeast Florida?

Answer: Where not specified, the results should be provided at the highest resolution feasible, and in a manner that can be aggregated on a greater geographic scale.

Question: The RFP repeatedly refers to “infrastructure investments” for adaptation. Should other adaptation actions (such as land use change) to be considered?

Answer: Yes, the study should refer to the range of resilience and adaptation actions that can be led by local governments, including land use strategy as well as infrastructural investment.

Application & Selection Process

Questions: How will the consultant be selected?

Answer: A selection committee will review and determine the winning proposal for the economic modeling consultant/team. The committee will feature a number of voting members, with $\frac{2}{3}$ of the votes coming from the SE FL Climate Compact representatives and $\frac{1}{3}$ coming from the ULI project management team and member leadership. The selection committee will be made up of the following voting members:

1. Megan Houston, Director, Office of Resilience, Palm Beach County
2. Jennifer Jurado, Chief Resilience Officer, Broward County
3. Amy Knowles, Deputy Chief Resilience Officer, City of Miami Beach

4. Jim Murley, Chief Resilience Officer, Miami-Dade County
5. ULI Staff & Member (averaged into 2 voting members)
 - a. Co-Chair Resilience Committee, ULI SE Florida (½ vote)
 - b. ULI Resilience Team (3 staff members, averaged into 1.5 votes)

The selection committee will review proposals for their alignment with the scoring criteria and clarity and completeness of application. The selection committee will convene to score applications during the week of November 18th.

Question: Would ULI accept subcontractor costs as a Firm Fixed Price labor line item in the budget?

Answer: ULI expects that RFP respondents provide background on how their staff budget is determined, such as a breakdown of staff members’ time working on the project, including estimates of hours/days per person and hourly or day rates. This information should be provided as supplemental information to the overall budget.

Question: It seems that no interviews are expected. Is that the case?

Answer: Due to the quick turnaround of the Economic Modeling consultant selection process, ULI does not plan to hold interviews.

Question: What do you mean when you say “case studies” on page 2 of the RFP?

Answer: Case Studies refer to smaller jurisdictional areas than the counties focused on in this project, selected to tell a narrative around the economic benefits of resilient infrastructure. Case studies will be determined through conversations with the local project manager.

Question: What does a “road map” look like (referenced as deliverable on page 3)?

Answer: A roadmap will include a series of recommendations supported by economic analysis on how resilient infrastructure can be implemented in a way that creates economic benefit for all. The road map should also include strategic advice about what roles different organizations and public official and staff have in taking the next steps. Recommendations will be fleshed out with the help of the Urban Resilience program who is doing research on national best practice and relevant studies.

Question: What is an adaptation area, as referenced in the RFP?

Answer: Adaptation area refers to the location in which resilient infrastructure is physically implemented. The goal of the study is to find how those investments benefit surrounding areas.

Timeline and Resources

Question: Can you provide pdfs for the following reports referenced in the RFP?

Answer: The referenced documents are available on this [webpage](#) or below:

- Stronge, W. B. and R. R. Schultz. 1997. Broward County Beaches: An Economic Study 1995-96. Technical Report 97-03. Department of Natural Resources Protection, Biological Resources Division. Broward County, Florida ([link](#))
- Cost-Benefit of Flood-Proofing/Buy Out Programs, Metropole (2015)
 - Adaptive Capacity Index ([link](#))
 - Final Report ([link](#))
 - Presentation to Stakeholders ([link](#))

Question: Can you clarify the project timeline? The RFP says the Consultant's Contract will have a term of 4 months, but the Project Summary Schedule extends to a longer time to include continued Report Rollout in Spring/Summer 2020.

Answer: Assuming that the selected firm contracts with ULI in late November, the project will have a roughly 4.5 month timeline through mid-April. There may also be an opportunity to continue with outreach, communications and project roll-out in the Spring and Summer.

Question: How can we complete this project with such a short timeline?

Answer: The project deadline aligns with a State grant with a set deadline. The timeline and plan for delivery and stakeholder review will be a key component of the RFP responses. ULI anticipates working closely with the consultant to develop a strategy about how to meet this deadline. There should also be an opportunity to continue aspects of outreach and communications roll-out after the April deadline.

Question: Defining adaptation options and estimating their costs for the four county region would seem to require a large amount of planning and preliminary engineering work. Can ULI elaborate more on what is expected from the consulting team in this regard, that can reasonably be accomplished given the time and budget resources?

Answer: The project team understands this is project includes a large scope for the economic modeling consultant. However, the team is interested in seeing what processes and actions are proposed by firms in order to complete a high quality product within the parameters of the timeline and budget.

Question: What are the key dates that applicants need to know?

- Friday, November 8th 2019 – inquiry submission deadline
- Wednesday, November 13th 2019, 1 PM ET – Proposals are due in a PDF format (max 25 MB) to resilience@uli.org or leah.sheppard@uli.org. *Early submissions are encouraged.*
- Week of November 18th: Selection Committee meets; announcement shortly thereafter
- December 3-5th 2019 – Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact Leadership Summit in Key West
- December 2019-April 2020 – Project duration
- April 10th 2020 – Final deliverables deadline
- April onwards – Likely continued outreach/communications

Question: Are consultants required to attend the SE FL Climate Compact Summit? The early December dates mean there is little time to plan for this.

Answer: RFP respondents are not required to plan to attend this conference. However, if the selected consultant is planning to be there, or is able to be there, the project team will take advantage of the opportunity to meet. It is also a fantastic conference and opportunity to be informed about best practices in resilience in southeast Florida.

Question: Will an extension of the RFP deadline be possible, should the webinar show areas that require significant clarification to allow for a week of adjustments once questions from all interested parties has been addressed and distributed?

Answer: ULI cannot offer a significant timeline extension given the tight timeline for the overall project. However, ULI will provide a small extension (noted by email to webinar participants and above in this document) to ensure that all respondents have a full week after the RFP Q&A doc has been circulated. **RFP responses are due by 1 pm ET on Wednesday, November 13th to resilience@uli.org.**