



# ATP C5 Harkins Slough Request for Proposals (RFP)

## Project Overview

- **Purpose:** The City/County of Watsonville invites proposals from qualified parties to implement a bicycle and pedestrian safety education and engagement program focused on serving low-income and minority communities in Watsonville, CA.
- **Funding:** This project is funded by the California Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 6 as a Non-Infrastructure (education and outreach) project, which may include federal funding. All activities must comply with applicable grant requirements.
- **Ecology Action:** The project will be administered by Ecology Action, which will oversee the contract and project deliverables.
- **Contract:** One consultant (firm, nonprofit organization, or team) will be selected through this RFP to perform the scope of work described below. This is a Non-Architecture & Engineering (Non-A&E) professional services contract.
- **Budget:** The contract total will be determined based on proposals received. The final budget and scope will be finalized during contract negotiation.
- **Application Process:** This RFP uses a streamlined application process to encourage participation from small and community-based organizations. We have tried to make the language and requirements clear and accessible.

## Scope of Work

The selected consultant shall be responsible for the **installation** of a community-based Bicycle and Pedestrian Traffic Garden in the City of Watsonville. This component is part of a broader Safe Routes to School (SRTS) initiative aimed at promoting pedestrian and bicycle safety education.

## Objectives

- Construct a permanent, interactive traffic garden that simulates real-world street conditions for educational use.
- Ensure the installation meets safety, accessibility, and educational standards.



## **Key Responsibilities**

### **1. Site Preparation**

- Coordinate with the City and designated site administrators to prepare the selected location for installation.
- Ensure the site is cleared, leveled, and ready for layout implementation.

### **2. Installation Execution**

- Install traffic garden elements including painted roadways, signage, crosswalks, intersections, and other simulated traffic features.
- Ensure all materials used are durable, weather-resistant, and safe for youth engagement.
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### **3. Quality Assurance**

- Conduct post-installation inspection to verify compliance with design specifications and safety standards.
- Address any deficiencies or adjustments required prior to public use.

### **4. Documentation**

- Provide photographic documentation of the completed installation.
- Submit a summary report detailing installation activities, materials used, and any challenges encountered.

## **Deliverables**

- Completed installation of traffic garden at approved site.
- Photo documentation of installed features.
- Final installation report.

## **Timeline**



- Installation must be completed by June 2027, in alignment with the overall project schedule.

## **Budget**

- Cost to be determined based on proposals received.

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## **Proposal Submission Instructions**

### **Eligibility**

This RFP is open to qualified consultants, nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations (CBOs), or teams consisting of such entities. We especially encourage proposals from local organizations or teams that have direct experience with the Watsonville community. Prior experience with Active Transportation Program (ATP) grants is not required; however, proposers should demonstrate relevant experience in community engagement, bicycle/pedestrian safety education, or similar projects.

### **Proposal Format and Content**

Proposals should be clear, concise, and focused. We encourage brevity (approximately 10–15 pages, not including resumes or appendices). Proposals must be written in English (you may provide Spanish translations of sections for community reviewers, but this is optional). The proposal should contain the following sections:

1. **Cover Letter** – A not-to-exceed one-page cover letter introducing your organization/team and expressing your interest in the project. Include a brief summary of why you are well-suited for this work, and provide the contact information (name, phone, email) of a representative authorized to negotiate on behalf of the proposer.
2. **Organization Background and Experience** – Describe your organization or team, highlighting relevant experience. Emphasize experience working with low-income and minority communities in Watsonville or similar communities. Mention any previous projects involving bicycle/pedestrian education, safety training, or community outreach. If you are a community-based organization, you may include a brief overview of your mission and community ties.



3. **Project Understanding and Approach** – Explain your understanding of the project goals and the needs of the target community. Outline your approach to completing the tasks in the Scope of Work. Rather than repeating the task list, describe key strategies or methods you will use to engage the community and deliver effective programs (for example, culturally appropriate engagement methods, scheduling strategies, or innovative educational techniques). Include a brief proposed timeline or work schedule for the tasks (this can be tentative and will be finalized with the Ecology Action).
4. **Team and Staffing** – Identify the key personnel who will work on this project, including the Project Manager and lead instructors/facilitators for events. For each person, summarize their relevant qualifications (e.g., LCI certification, first aid training, language skills) and experience. Clearly indicate which staff are bilingual in Spanish and English (a requirement for public events). You may attach one-page resumes for key staff as appendices (resumes are not counted toward the page limit).
5. **Community Partnerships** – If applicable, describe any partnerships or collaborations you have that will support this project. For example, you might partner with local schools, community centers, health organizations, or bike clubs to help with outreach or event delivery. Highlight how these partnerships will help reach the target audience and ensure successful events.
6. **References/Past Projects** – Provide 2–3 references for similar work you have done, or brief descriptions of past projects relevant to this RFP. For each reference, include a contact name, organization, phone/email, and a short description of the work performed. Ideally, at least one reference should relate to community-based education or active transportation (bicycle/pedestrian) initiatives.
7. **Cost Proposal** – Provide a budget for the project. Break out the costs by task or activity as much as possible (for example, personnel hours for each task, materials costs for events, travel, indirect costs, etc.). Include the total proposed cost. If you are a nonprofit with a federally approved indirect cost rate, you may use it; otherwise, clearly list any administrative or overhead costs. The cost proposal can be included in the main proposal document or as a separate attachment. **Note:** The contract total will be determined based on proposals received.. While cost is a key



factor, the lowest bid will not automatically be selected; we will consider the overall value and feasibility of your budget.

*Optional:* You may include additional supporting materials (such as letters of support from partner organizations, samples of educational materials you have developed, etc.) as appendices. If provided, keep these supplemental materials brief.

### **Submission Method**

Submit your proposal in electronic format (PDF or Word document) via email to **celeste.gutierrez@ecoact.org**. If you are unable to submit electronically, please contact **Celeste Gutierrez** at **831.515.1393** to discuss alternate delivery options. **Proposals are due by March 31, 2026 at 5 PM PST**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

If submitting by email, include “**Proposal for Watsonville Bike/Ped Education Project**” in the subject line. You should receive a confirmation email within one business day of submission. If you do not receive confirmation, please reach out to the contact person above to ensure your proposal was received.

### **Pre-Proposal Assistance**

We understand that some community-based groups may be new to responding to RFPs. As such, questions regarding this RFP may be submitted via email to **celeste.gutierrez@ecoact.org** by **March 31, 2026**. Answers to all questions will be compiled and shared with all potential proposers – either via an emailed addendum or posted on Ecology Action’s website – so that everyone has access to the same information. We encourage you to ask any questions that will help clarify the requirements.

### **Evaluation and Selection**

Proposals will be evaluated by a committee of Ecology Action staff and/or project partners. Our goal is to select a consultant who offers the best combination of relevant experience, community understanding, and value. All proposals that meet the submission requirements will be reviewed. The evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

- **Relevant Experience and Community Knowledge (30 points):** Demonstrated experience in community outreach, bicycle/pedestrian safety education, and working with low-income and Spanish-speaking communities. This includes assessment of past project success and references, as well as knowledge of Watsonville’s community or similar communities.



- **Project Approach and Work Plan (25 points):** Quality and feasibility of the proposed approach to the Scope of Work. This includes the proposer’s understanding of the project goals, proposed strategies for effective outreach and education, and a logical timeline/work plan. Innovative and culturally appropriate approaches will earn higher scores.
- **Qualifications of Team (15 points):** The expertise and capabilities of the project team. Evaluators will consider relevant certifications (e.g., LCI), experience of key staff, language abilities (Spanish/English), and the overall capacity to deliver the project successfully. Involvement of local staff or partners can be a plus.
- **Cost Proposal (30 points):** The cost-effectiveness of the proposal. This considers the total proposed cost and its breakdown. Lower costs will score higher, but this score also reflects whether the budget is reasonable and appropriate for the scope. (A very low bid that raises feasibility concerns may score lower than a slightly higher bid that is well-justified.)

*Optional Interview:* After the initial evaluation, Ecology Action may invite one or more top-ranked proposers to a brief interview (in person or via video conference) to provide clarifications or answer questions. If interviews are conducted, they will be factored into the final evaluation (for example, by adjusting the Project Approach or Team Qualifications scores). We will keep this process as simple and accessible as possible and only use interviews if necessary to distinguish between top proposals.

Local or small community-based organizations will receive full consideration. While we value local experience, we **cannot** give an automatic preference to local firms due to public contracting laws. However, demonstrated knowledge of and connections to the Watsonville community are reflected in the above criteria and will be taken into account in scoring.

The contract will be awarded to the proposer with the highest overall score, provided that the cost is within the project budget and the proposer meets all minimum requirements. Ecology Action will notify all proposers of the outcome once a selection is made.

## **General Conditions and Requirements**

### **Budget and Contract Term**



**Budget:** The contract total will be determined based on proposals received. This project is funded through the California Active Transportation Program. The final contract will be a **not-to-exceed** amount, and payments will be made on a reimbursement basis (the consultant will invoice Ecology Action for actual costs incurred, up to the budget limit).

**Timeline:** The expected contract term is approximately 3 months, starting around April 2026 and concluding by June 2026. The precise timeline for completing all tasks will be finalized in consultation with the selected consultant and must align with the requirements of the ATP grant.

**Contract Form:** The selected consultant will be required to enter into a standard professional services agreement with Ecology Action. A sample agreement can be provided for review upon request. The contract will include all terms and conditions required for state-funded projects.

### **Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Equal Opportunity**

Because this project may utilize federal funds, it is subject to Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) requirements. The **DBE goal** for this contract is **21.25%**. (DBEs are businesses owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, certified through the California Unified Certification Program.)

- If your organization is a certified DBE or you plan to utilize certified DBE subconsultants, please indicate this in your proposal (include the firm's name and DBE certification number, if available). Participation of DBE firms will count toward meeting the contract's DBE goal.
- If you cannot meet the DBE goal, you must demonstrate a "Good Faith Effort" to solicit and utilize DBE firms. In practical terms, this means you should reach out to potential DBE subconsultants or vendors (for example, for providing materials, translation, outreach support, etc.) and document those efforts.
- Assistance is available if you need help identifying DBE partners or understanding the DBE requirements. Please contact us for guidance or refer to the state's online DBE directory to find certified DBE firms in relevant services.

All proposers must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related nondiscrimination laws. In plain language, this means the consultant must agree not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or any other



protected status in its employment practices or in the execution of this project. Ecology Action is an equal opportunity employer and requires the same commitment from its consultants.

## **Procurement Conditions & Compliance Requirements**

### **Protest / Appeals Procedure**

Proposers may protest any aspect of this solicitation by submitting a written protest to the Agency Contract Manager within five (5) business days of the Notice of Intent to Award. The protest must state the grounds, relevant facts, and the relief requested. The Agency will issue a written decision before contract award; that decision is final.

### **Minimum Competition**

The Agency seeks at least three (3) responsive proposals. If fewer than three are received, the Agency may either re-advertise or proceed only after completing a Cost-Effective / Public-Interest Finding (Exhibit 12-F).

### **Advertising Period**

This RFP will remain publicly advertised for no fewer than fourteen (14) calendar days before the submission deadline.

### **No Transaction Splitting**

The Agency will not split, subdivide, or incrementally award contracts to evade competitive procurement requirements.

### **Evaluation Records**

Proposal evaluations will use the criteria and weights published in this RFP. Completed score sheets and the final ranking will become public record after contract award.

### **DBE Documentation**

Links to the “Notice to Proposers DBE Information” (Exhibit 10-I) is below. Proposers must either (1) meet the stated DBE goal and submit Exhibits 10-O1 and 10-O2, or (2) document Good-Faith Efforts using Exhibit 15-H.

### **Conflict-of-Interest & Lobbying Certifications**

All evaluation-committee members will sign Exhibit 10-T (Conflict of Interest &



Confidentiality Statement). The successful proposer must complete Exhibit 10-Q (Disclosure of Lobbying Activities) if applicable.

#### **Suspension / Debarment Check**

Before contract execution, the Agency will verify that the selected consultant is not suspended or debarred at SAM.gov.

#### **Follow-On Contracting Limitation**

Per PCC §10365.5, the consultant may not receive a later contract for goods or construction that results from this work if that subsequent contract exceeds ten percent (10 %) of the value of this agreement.

#### **Record Retention & Audit Access**

The consultant shall retain all project records for at least three (3) years after final payment and shall make them available to the Agency, Caltrans, FHWA, or other authorized auditors upon request.

### **Insurance and Legal Requirements**

The successful proposer will be required to obtain and maintain insurance coverage as required by Ecology Action. This typically includes general liability insurance, automobile liability insurance, workers' compensation coverage, and may include professional liability (errors and omissions) insurance. Minimum coverage amounts will be specified in the contract. If you have not worked with public agency contracts before, please be aware that these insurance requirements are standard; Ecology Action can provide guidance if you have questions about obtaining the required coverage.

The consultant will be responsible for obtaining any necessary permits or permissions for carrying out the project activities (for example, event permits for Open Streets – note that Ecology Action can assist as required with permits on public streets). The consultant must also comply with all applicable local and state laws in performing the work.

### **Reservation of Rights**

Ecology Action reserves the right to:



- Cancel or modify this RFP, or reject all proposals, if it is in Ecology Action's best interest.
- Request clarification or additional information from any proposer during the evaluation process.
- Award the contract in whole or in part, or negotiate contract terms with the selected proposer before finalizing an award.
- Verify the information provided in any proposal. Misrepresentations or omissions may be grounds for disqualification.

### **Proposal Costs**

All costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a proposal are the sole responsibility of the proposer. Ecology Action will not reimburse any expenses related to participating in this procurement, such as the cost of preparing proposals or attending interviews (if held).

### **Contract Award and Execution**

After the selection process is complete, Ecology Action will notify all proposers of the outcome. The top-ranked proposer will be invited to negotiate the final scope, schedule, and fee in order to enter into a contract. If an agreement cannot be reached with the top-ranked proposer within a reasonable timeframe, Ecology Action may end negotiations and invite the next-highest-ranked proposer.

The award of the contract is subject to final approval by Ecology Action and contingent on compliance with all applicable requirements of the Active Transportation Program funding. The selected consultant must be prepared to begin work promptly after contract execution.

*Thank you for your interest in making Watsonville a safer and more bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly community. We look forward to reviewing your proposal!*

### **Proposal Resource Links:**



- **Exhibit 10-I** — Notice to Proposers DBE Information: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/local-assistance/documents/lapm/c10/10i.pdf>
- **Exhibit 10-O1** — Consultant Proposal DBE Commitment: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/local-assistance/documents/lapm/c10/10o1.pdf>
- **Exhibit 10-O2** — Consultant Contract DBE Commitment: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/local-assistance/documents/lapm/c10/10o2.pdf>
- **Exhibit 15-H** — Proposer/Contractor Good-Faith Efforts: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/local-assistance/documents/lapm/c15/15h.pdf>