



**Request for Qualifications for Services
related to a Community Needs Study for
the Hood Canal Bridge Ecosystem
Impact Assessment**

RFQ No. LLTK-25-002

Statement of Qualifications Due March 28, 2025

Long Live the Kings

**1326 5th Ave, #450
Seattle, WA 98101**

Request for Qualifications for Services related to a Community Needs Study for the Hood Canal Bridge Ecosystem Impact Assessment

Long Live the Kings (LLTK) is soliciting Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) from firms to provide professional services for a community needs study of the Hood Canal Bridge, the “Services” for this RFQ. The Services will include identifying the needs and priorities in relation to the Hood Canal Bridge of potentially affected communities and bridge users, especially groups commonly excluded from decision-making.

The Services will inform the broader Hood Canal Bridge Ecosystem Impact Assessment (“Assessment”), a multi-faceted initiative addressing the ecological and community impacts of the current bridge and potential redesign.

Through the contract, LLTK will oversee and coordinate the Services as a subrecipient of a grant awarded to the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe (PGST) from the *Restoring Priority Tribal Fish Passage through Barrier Removal* program administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries). In its role as project manager, LLTK will oversee alignment across the involved entities, including PGST, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), the Hood Canal Bridge Assessment Team, the Management Committee and a Project Steering Committee. These entities will provide LLTK with critical input throughout the project’s development. This collaboration is critical to supporting the long-term ecological and community benefits of the Hood Canal Bridge project.

Consultants will be considered for the following Services. LLTK intends to contract with the entity it considers to be most qualified pursuant to this Request for Qualifications (RFQ).

Project Background

Long Live the Kings is seeking Services from a qualified firm, or team of firms, to conduct a study to evaluate the potential impacts of bridge re-design on affected communities and bridge users, especially groups commonly excluded from decision-making.

LLTK will coordinate the Services with WSDOT, which is the current bridge owner (see included letter of support). The selected consultant will work closely with a **Project Steering Committee**, led by LLTK and comprising representatives from WSDOT, PGST, U.S. Navy, and other essential project partners. This work will be supported by the project **Assessment Team** and **Management Committee**, with LLTK managing the effort through a sub-award from the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe.

The primary goal of the current phase of the Assessment is to **implement interim fish passage solutions** to improve salmon and steelhead survival at the Hood Canal Bridge and **inform the**

long-term process of designing a new bridge that eliminates the significant fish passage barrier and supports broader ecological and community needs.

The Hood Canal Bridge plays a critical role in the lifecycle of salmon and steelhead originating from Hood Canal rivers. Juvenile salmonids must navigate the bridge as they migrate to the Pacific Ocean, while adults face the same challenge during their return to spawn. The Bridge significantly contributes to juvenile steelhead mortality by delaying fish passage and facilitating predation. Achieving long-term recovery of threatened salmon and steelhead in Hood Canal necessitates progress on a Bridge design that facilitates unimpeded fish passage.

Given the Bridge's scale and importance, an evaluation of the effects of a bridge re-design is essential to building support and momentum towards a formal redesign process, such as WSDOT's Corridor Studies and Type, Size and Location Reports.

The Services described in this RFQ reflect consultation with WSDOT regional leadership and planners. The evaluation of bridge re-design will enhance WSDOT's existing infrastructure assessment methods by offering an understanding of a redesigned bridge's potential to address salmonid impacts while delivering benefits to surrounding communities. Additionally, the evaluation will clarify the urgency of replacing the bridge. The deliverable outlined in this RFQ will inform a *Hood Canal Bridge Replacement Evaluation Report* developed by LLTK to provide actionable information to state, county, and Tribal decision-makers responsible for evaluating the need for Bridge replacement.

The vision for a re-designed Hood Canal Bridge reflects over a decade of research and ongoing actions to improve fish passage and ecosystem function in the area around the Hood Canal Bridge. These investments aim to mitigate the risks and impacts of the Bridge and improve habitat for salmonids, which are vital to the cultural and economic health of PGST. Beyond ecological concerns, critiques of the current bridge design include its limitations regarding military readiness, tourism, local and regional commerce, emergency response, and traffic congestion.

It is important to note that a new Hood Canal Bridge is not funded or programmed by WSDOT at this time. This study is part of an initial effort to begin the long-term planning discussion about a possible replacement of the SR 104 Hood Canal Bridge.

Prior to advancement of a Bridge re-design concept, WSDOT or a project sponsor will ultimately complete planning, environmental, permitting, and preliminary engineering processes at some point after conclusion of this study. In preparation for these future activities, and outside of the services envisioned in this RFQ, LLTK is conducting a broad community needs assessment. As part of this effort, LLTK will engage with key stakeholders, rightsholders and duty-bearers within the Management Committee, including Tribal Councils, County Commissioners, and State and Federal Agency leadership, to identify their needs and priorities associated with the Bridge. To contribute to this community needs assessment, LLTK is seeking a professional consultant through this RFQ to conduct an initial **community needs study** to ensure that a redesigned

Bridge addresses a broad spectrum of needs without disproportionately burdening the Hood Canal communities. This study will identify groups of people within potentially affected communities and bridge users – especially groups commonly excluded from decision-making – and document their priorities and needs, and concerns regarding potential infrastructure project impacts.

To complete this essential step to inform the Bridge conceptual designs, the consultant’s scope of Services may include direct engagement with Tribes, school districts, and major employers whose workers commute over the Bridge. Approaches to outreach may include:

1. **Interviews** with community-based organizations.
2. **Open houses** (online or in-person)
3. **Community surveys** to gather broad input.
4. **Community briefings and presentations** to share information and receive feedback.
5. **Strategy co-creation workshops** to collaboratively develop solutions and recommendations.

These engagement activities will be done in parallel with the conversations held by LLTK, which are outside of the scope of this RFQ. The community needs study findings will also inform WSDOT's or a project sponsor’s future design process and provide an advantageous starting point for a project sponsor’s formal corridor study and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes, so that community perspectives and equity considerations are incorporated into the Bridge re-design from the outset.

LLTK will use the study results to inform a high-level conceptual design for a bridge that can better serve the community and the Hood Canal ecosystem. Together, these will be the foundation for the *Hood Canal Bridge Evaluation Report*, which will incorporate community input, conceptual design details, cost estimates, identified co-benefits, and a potential replacement timeframe. The Evaluation Report will be shared with the public, organizational stakeholders, and decision makers. This community needs study will also serve as a critical steppingstone, expediting WSDOT's or a project sponsor’s progress in leading the formal assessment and planning process.

Project Objectives

The study will aim to achieve the following:

- **Community Needs:** Provide information on the needs of surrounding communities including, but not limited to military readiness, vessel passage, tourism, emergency response, multi-modal connectivity, and traffic congestion to inform a bridge re-design process.
- **Tribal Treaty Rights:** Provide information on how the bridge re-design can avoid infringing on treaty-protected Tribal rights in usual and accustomed (U&A) fishing areas, and protects related WSDOT infrastructure, and any culturally significant landmarks.

Scope of Services

Long Live the Kings is seeking a professional services consultant or consultant team to complete a community needs study. The following Basic Services are those expected to be completed by the consultant or consultant team. The final scope of work will be mutually agreed upon.

- **Review Key Reports:** Examine the Phase 1 and Phase 2 Assessment Reports and other relevant documents as necessary.
- **Data Familiarization:** Develop a working knowledge of existing data, research, and reporting that may inform the study.
- **Project Management:** Manage internal resources, coordinate external meetings, oversee any sub-contractors, and complete billings and reporting.
- **Baseline Data Collection:** Advance baseline data collection, as necessary, to support the project's objectives.
- **Community Needs Study Engagement Report:** Deliver a final study engagement report that summarizes all engagement activities, methodologies, key themes, and how input can inform the *Hood Canal Bridge Evaluation Report* to be developed by LLTK. Explicitly acknowledge any assumptions and data limitations.
- **Community Engagement:** Attend community meetings to explain the project process. Provide LLTK with relevant images and graphs.
- **Communication Assets:** Create communication assets that effectively demonstrate community needs.

Project Schedule

The period of performance to reach completion of the community needs study is from 5/1/2025 – 3/31/2026.

Qualifications and Experience

A successful applicant is expected to have demonstrated experience in the following areas:

- **Collaborative Study Design:** Working collaboratively with various partners and clients, including Tribes, First Nations and Indigenous groups, counties, state and federal agencies, and incorporating their feedback into study designs.
- **Project Management:** Meeting project timelines and deliverables within estimated budgets.
- **Public Agency Standards:** Production of and/or familiarity with WSDOT's corridor study process, or similar public agency standards.
- **Tribal Consultation:** Engaging with federally recognized Tribes or Indigenous groups, particularly in contexts with similar consultation requirements.
- **Community Engagement:** Conducting community engagement activities, such as interviews, surveys, open houses, and workshops, to document the priorities and needs of potentially affected communities

Evaluation

The Statement of Qualifications (SOQs) will be evaluated and ranked based on the submittals listed below. LLTK, PGST, and other members of the project Steering Committee reserve the right to give each aspect such weight as they deem appropriate. If interviews are held, they will be less than one hour in length. No more than three firms may be interviewed for final ranking. The final evaluation will be made after interviews, if any.

Qualifications Submittal

Qualified professional services firms interested in providing the services described in this request are invited to submit qualifications (SOQ) by **5 pm P.S.T. on Friday, March 28th, 2025**. Minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to apply. Please submit by email or other electronic means in a pdf format to Shaara Ainsley, sainsley@lltk.org.

The SOQ should:

- a) Include a cover letter summarizing why LLTK should select your firm/team and outlining your understanding and approach to the project described above. [2 pages max.]
- b) Provide contact information (name, title, email address, phone number) for the primary point of contact. Identify the Project Manager and their office location. [1 page max.]
- c) Include resumes of up to six key staff detailing experience with the methods used on this project and coordinating with public transportation agencies and Indigenous groups (i.e., why are those particular skill sets important to the success of the project). [2 pages max. each resume]
- d) Detail the team's experience in managing up to three similar projects.[4 pages max.]
- e) Demonstrate experience managing similar projects from study design to implementation. [2 pages max.]
- f) Include contact information for three Past Performance references. [1 page max.]

Schedule

Listed below are the important dates and times related to this solicitation. LLTK may find it necessary to change any of these dates or times. All dates are subject to change.

Action	Estimate completion
Advertise RFQ	February 28, 2025
SOQ Due Date	March 28, 2025
Evaluation Committee Meets	April 3-7, 2025
Selection Announced	April 11, 2025

Contracting

LLTK intends to negotiate a contract with fair and reasonable compensation with the entity considered to be most qualified based on the submittals. The secured contract value to

complete the community needs study phase of **this project is currently estimated at less than \$249,000.**

All costs for preparation of the SOQ incurred by the proposer, regardless of whether they lead to execution of a contract with LLTK, must be borne entirely by the proposer.

Long Live the Kings reserves the right to amend terms of this Request for Qualifications, to circulate various addenda, or to withdraw the RFQ at any time, regardless of how much time and effort consultants have spent on their responses.

Long Live the Kings Contact Information

All questions regarding this RFQ, the process, or contracting should be directed to Shaara Ainsley, Senior Project Manager at sainsley@lltk.org. Please submit questions before March 26, 2025.

Persons with disabilities may request this information be prepared and supplied in alternate forms by calling 206-382-9555 ext. 33.



Olympic Region
7407 31st Ave NE, Lacey
P.O. Box 47440
Olympia, WA 98504-7440
360-357-2600 / Fax 360-357-2601
TTY: 1-800-833-6388
www.wsdot.wa.gov

December 5, 2024

Long Live the Kings
Attn: Lucas Hall, Associate Director Government Relations and Special Projects
1326 5th Ave. Ste. 450
Seattle, WA 98101

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR LONG LIVE THE KINGS –
PRELIMINARY PLANNING STUDY FOR THE HOOD CANAL BRIDGE

Dear Mr. Hall:

On behalf of the Washington State Department of Transportation, I would like to express our support for Long Live the Kings' (LLTK) and the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's (PGST) planned study to conduct a preliminary socioeconomic and environmental justice study and identify a conceptual bridge design for a future Hood Canal Bridge replacement.

This project is a continuation of LLTK's and PGST's earlier work and commitment to advance fish passage at the Hood Canal Bridge. This will be the first effort to begin the long-term planning discussion about a possible replacement of the SR 104 Hood Canal Bridge and engage communities, interested parties, and work collaboratively with infrastructure owners and partners.

Therefore, based on the information provided to us to date, WSDOT is in support of Long Live the Kings' efforts to conduct this study, provided that these improvements meet all applicable WSDOT design and construction requirements, including all applicable American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, for any work that occurs on the SR 104 state highway system.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this Long Live the Kings project. If you have any questions, please contact me at (360) 357-2798 or email at SchuelJ@wsdot.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'JoAnn Schueler'.

JoAnn Schueler, P.E.
Assistant Region Administrator for Multimodal Development and Delivery

JS:lhbm