

## **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**

### **Comprehensive Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Safety Plan**

Responses to this RFP are due by 4:30 p.m., Friday, January 11, 2008, at the Town of Somerset, Town Hall, 4510 Cumberland Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

#### **Introduction**

The Town of Somerset is soliciting proposals for a comprehensive plan to improve traffic calming and pedestrian safety. The Town is a small incorporated community in southern Montgomery, County, MD. It is an entirely residential community which is becoming surrounded by more intensive urban development that has brought an increase in traffic and commuter parking to the community. The Town has within its boundaries an elementary school, a community swimming pool and tennis courts, so safe passage to these facilities is an important concern. Somerset would like to maintain its small-town character and provide safe and attractive walkways for pedestrians, dog-walkers, and bicyclists. Therefore, it is interested in reducing traffic volume and having the traffic proceed at safe speeds.

#### **Purpose**

Development of a comprehensive plan that assesses all elements of the community in order to promote maximum traffic calming and enhanced public safety.

## **Background Information**

The Town of Somerset was incorporated in 1906 and has a population of 1,200 in 413 houses. The Town has 4.24 miles of streets, mostly 22 feet wide with a 50-foot right of way. There are four major entrances and exits to the Town plus one smaller entrance from Drummond Avenue. Dorset Avenue is the main entrance and egress for residents and commuters. Over the years, much development has occurred in the region, and traffic has increased. Nearby development, especially around the Friendship Heights Metro station and in downtown Bethesda, has also increased traffic, and more construction in these adjacent areas is planned, along with expected redevelopment of the adjacent River Road and nearby Westbard commercial strips.

The Town has undertaken various traffic surveys over the years. The most recent ones show substantial traffic growth and an increase in cut-through traffic. The Town has installed speed humps on some streets to slow traffic. It has added STOP signs. It is experimenting with using an off-duty police officer to control traffic. However, in the face of increasing development, many Town residents believe more must be done to enhance safety and retain the small-town character of the community.

The Town can provide the traffic survey reports and related documentation to potential bidders. The reports provide some basis for future action.

## **Project Description and Requirements**

Somerset invites proposals to provide a comprehensive plan for enhancing pedestrian safety and traffic flow that, when implemented, would provide safe and attractive walkways for pedestrians and bikers while reducing the speed and volume of traffic in the Town.

The proposal must assess, but not be limited to, the following elements, with specific recommendations for maintenance, change, and/or additions on a street-by-street basis:

- Street signage (including in-street crossing paddles): design, location and coloration
- Sidewalks, crosswalks, curbs, and off-road public walkways, including elevated crosswalks
- Speed bumps/humps/cushions and speed limits
- Street use restrictions, including use of STOP signs and parking restrictions
- Restrictions on internal entry, external entry and turns on all streets, with an assessment of effects such restrictions would have on other Town streets in terms of volume of traffic and safety
- Traffic lights and use of dynamic speed displays and radar cameras
- Street design, including circles, islands, bump-outs, rumble strips, bicycle routes, and intersections

Current traffic calming measures need not be retained if the contractor thinks that better solutions are appropriate; i.e., the contractor should start from a clean slate.

**Cost estimates for recommendations should be provided.**

**Required Information**

Proposals shall include time, costs and schedule for completing the master plan. The proposal shall include resumes for staff undertaking the work and a summary of experience in working with similarly situated communities.