

## 15253 Responses to Vendor questions Set 1

### General Questions

1. Is the contractor responsible for designing a database schema to support the application? Or does DOT staff already have a schema design in mind?  
**Response: The design of the database schema will be a contractor responsibility.**
2. Does the DOT envision a static list of exercises that won't change over the course of time? If not, how does the DOT plan on maintaining the exercise list and order of appearance in the survey?  
**Response: The exercises for a particular round of input would not change. There would be different exercises between rounds of input if multiple rounds are held (such as one round in late winter and one round in late summer).**
3. Will a specific order be followed in the survey where Exercise#1 is always followed by Exercise#2? Or, will the order be more dynamic than that (e.g. based on the response to Exercise#1, the user should proceed to either Exercise#2 or Exercise#3)?  
**Response: There would be a specific order to the exercises.**
4. Will the user be required to enter a response of some sort prior to moving forward in the survey?  
**Response: We do not anticipate requiring a response on every exercise. However, some exercises may require an answer on a previous exercise in order to be completed.**
5. Can the user move back to previous exercises to edit his/her response?  
**Response: Yes, users should be able to move back and forth within the exercise to edit their responses.**
6. Is the entire survey considered a transaction where the responses are only valid and committed to the database upon completion of the entire list of exercises? Or is each survey exercise considered a transaction where as soon as the user enters a response, it is committed to the database?  
**Response: Our preference is that any data entered is captured, but that completed exercises can be distinguished from non-completed exercises.**

### Specific Questions

#### **Baseline Requirement #8**

1. Is it safe to assume that, "Prioritizing categories or projects," means the user will be asked to rank or re-order a list of items?  
**Response: Yes.**
2. Will the user be manipulating filters/parameters in the "Comparing different scenarios..." exercise and viewing reports and charts? If not, how exactly will he/she be comparing these scenarios and their effects?  
**Response: This is a possibility. There may also be preloaded scenario examples the user is asked to review and select between. In any scenario exercise, we will work with the vendor to discuss the best way to display different scenario impacts to the user.**
3. Could you please elaborate on what "Budgeting exercises" will entail?  
**Response: An example budgeting exercise would be providing users with an allotment of funding and multiple categories in which to spend it, and asking them how they would allocate the funding among those categories.**

4. What types of details will need to be displayed on maps for the mapping exercises?  
**Response: We would expect the map to look like a standard base road map, preferably with the option to turn an aerial photograph background on or off. We will work with the vendor if any additional specific layers of information need to be displayed.**
5. Will the DOT require the display of DOT specific layers on top of any base maps the contractor provides (e.g. highlighting particular sections of road)?  
**Response: This is a possibility. We will work with the vendor if there are any specific layers to be shown.**
6. Does the DOT currently store any spatial data in any of its databases or file systems? If so, where exactly is the spatial data stored and will it need to be utilized within this application?  
**Response: Regarding the first question – yes. Much of the data is web-based. Regarding the second questions – no, it is not anticipated that preexisting data would need to be utilized within the application. We will work with the vendor if there are any specific layers to be shown.**
7. What input will the user supply through the mapping exercises? Is it as simple as a map will display alongside some type of survey question, where the user will view the map in order to answer the question? If it's more complicated than that, could you please elaborate on how you envision the user interacting with the maps and what will need to be captured during the exercise?  
**Response: Our preference would be to have some level of interactivity available. For example, allowing users to drop points or symbols on the map and type in a comment.**

#### **Enhancement #1**

1. Is the "Iowa DOT website" a public facing, or internal website?  
**Response: Public facing.**
2. Would the embedded tool be accessible for the purposes of completing the survey (for the public), viewing live results (by Iowa DOT staff), or both?  
**Response: Completing the survey.**
3. Does the term "embed" mean placing a link on the DOT website? Or does it mean the features of the tool should display and function within the DOT website?  
**Response: Embed references the latter. Accessing the tool through a link is considered a minimum requirement.**

#### **Enhancement #2**

1. Where should the user be taken if he/she didn't access the tool through the DOT website?  
**Response: This would be discussed with the vendor. Our preference is that the user is routed to a specific Iowa DOT website upon completion of the exercises, regardless of how it was accessed.**

#### **Enhancement #4**

1. How does DOT staff plan on reviewing these flagged entries?  
**Response: Staff's intent would be to perform a manual review on flagged entries to determine if there appears to be inappropriate use of the tool. For example, the same answers being repeatedly entered from the same IP address.**
2. What action, or actions, does the DOT wish to be implemented if an entry is indeed deemed invalid?  
**Response: Our preference would be that these entries be flagged and that any analytics or analysis of the data could be completed both with and without these entries.**