



**Date:** Friday, January 13, 2023

**To:** Recipients

**Re:** FY 2023 Demographics Analysis  
Questions and Answers

**Q1. The RFP mentions that the tool will allow SJTPO to produce what-if scenarios for the RTP 2050 update in the summer of 2023. Do you expect to use the tool for regular updates and what-if scenario planning?**

**A1.** While SJTPO will need an “official” set of forecasts for the RTP 2050 update, staff would like to have the ability to run “what-if” demographic scenarios that will be utilized for an RTP 2050 update scenario planning exercise to be conducted later this calendar year, as well as beyond.

**Q2. Do you need forecasts for each year, every five years, or every decade?**

**A2.** At a minimum, forecasts for 2030, 2040, 2050, and 2060 should be provided, as stipulated in the RFP. The consultant is welcome to submit forecasts for more than those years prescribed. However, only the forecast years, as noted, are required.

**Q3. The quality of a forecast diminishes as the span of the forecast grows. Would you consider probability forecasts or ranges for the 2050 and 2060 forecasts?**

**A3.** While probability ranges for the outer years would be useful and informative and could accompany any “fixed” set of numbers, the consultant should provide a single set of numbers for 2050 and 2060. One of the main applications of these demographic forecasts is input into SJTPO’s Regional Travel Demand Model, which only accepts “fixed” numbers.

**Q4. Several commercial subscription services include forecasts. Are there reasons why SJTPO is not using one of these tools?**

**A4:** While these externally prepared forecasts may be good and useful on an aggregate scale, such as state and county, they generally do not provide a more granular scale, such as municipality and Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ), which is needed for this analysis. It should be noted that past forecasts developed for the SJTPO have incorporated the use of outside commercially prepared datasets. The consultant is welcome to use commercial subscription forecasts, as cited on page 9 of the RFP under Task 3.

**Q5. Do you have an expected budget range for this effort?**

**A5:** SJTPO’s Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) essentially serves as the budget for SJTPO, identifying funding to support planning efforts, including consultant-led technical studies. The budget for this study is included in the FY 2023 UPWP, which can be found on the SJTPO website at [www.sjtpo.org/UPWP](http://www.sjtpo.org/UPWP). The effort is identified as a two-year study, as Task 23/403 FY 2023 Demographics Analysis. The budget represents the entire two-year expected duration of the study.



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It is important to note that SJTPO expects firms should address the needs and scope of work communicated in the RFP. The costs should reflect the workload and the benefit demonstrated in the proposal. Efficiencies that achieve the objectives are welcomed. Ultimately, the firm will be selected that demonstrates the best technical approach (40%), the best value given the cost (20%), with a strong team (30%), and satisfies the DBE/ESBE requirements (10%). SJTPO will negotiate with the preferred firm, and the budget can be considered further in the evaluation process.

**Q6. What has been your experience with, or what is your opinion of, the projections produced by the state as an initial baseline?**

[www.nj.gov/labor/labormarketinformation/demographics/population-labor-projections/](http://www.nj.gov/labor/labormarketinformation/demographics/population-labor-projections/)

**A6:** The demographic projections utilized for the current RTP 2050, adopted by the SJTPO Policy Board in September 2019, used the same growth rates as the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development at that time. Refer to [www.sjtpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/RTP-2050-Appendix-C.-Demographics-Forecast.pdf](http://www.sjtpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/RTP-2050-Appendix-C.-Demographics-Forecast.pdf) for more details on this process. For this upcoming set of forecasts, SJTPO would defer to the professional judgment of the consultant to assess if the state's projections make sense for use as an initial baseline.