

NEW HANOVER COUNTY

REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST (RFLOI)

U-5527 C - MULTI-PURPOSE TRAIL ALONG MIDDLE SOUND LOOP FROM OYSTER LANE TO MIDDLE SOUND VILLAGE

TITLE: **U-5527 C-Construction Engineering and Inspection** ISSUE DATE: **September 1, 2020** SUBMITTAL

DEADLINE: **September 14, 2020** ISSUING AGENCY: **New Hanover County**

SYNOPSIS

SUBCONSULTANTS ARE PERMITTED UNDER THIS CONTRACT.

This contract shall be partially reimbursed with Federal – aid funding through the North Carolina Department of Transportation (hereinafter referred to as the Department). The solicitation, selection and negotiation of a contract shall be conducted in accordance with all Department requirements and guidelines.

The primary and/or subconsultant firm(s) shall be pre-qualified by the Department to perform ALL or ANY COMBINATION of the work codes listed below for New Hanover County.

Work codes required are:

- 00195 Roadway Construction Engineering and Inspection

WORK CODES for each primary and/or subconsultant firm(s) SHALL be listed on the respective RS-2 FORMS (see section 'SUBMISSION ORGANIZATION AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS').

This RFLOI is to solicit Letters of Interest (LOI's) from qualified firms to provide professional consulting services to:

Provide construction engineering and inspection services for a multi-use trail along Middle Sound Loop Road from Oyster Lane to Middle Sound Village.

Electronic LOIs should be submitted in .pdf format using software such as Adobe, CutePDF PDF Writer, DocuDesk PDF, etc.

LOIs SHALL BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY VIA EMAIL or BY MAIL. no later than **5:00 pm** on **September 14, 2020**. **No HAND-DELIVERY** please due to COVID-19.

The address for electronic deliveries is: tduckwroth@nhcgov.com.

LOIs received after this deadline will not be considered.

Except as provided below, any private engineering firm (PEF) wishing to be considered must be properly registered with the Office of the Secretary of State and with the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Professional Engineers and Surveyors. Any firm proposing to use corporate subsidiaries or subcontractors must include a statement that these companies are properly registered with the NC Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors. The Engineers performing the work and in responsible charge of the work must be registered Professional Engineers in the State of North Carolina and must have a good ethical and professional standing. It will be the responsibility of the selected private firm to verify the registration of any corporate subsidiary or subcontractor prior to submitting a Letter of Interest. Firms which are not providing engineering services need not be registered with the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors. Some of the services being solicited may not require a license. It is the responsibility of each firm to adhere to all laws of the State of North Carolina.

The PEF will be responsible for providing engineers and technicians with the appropriate skills and qualifications to ensure contract compliance. The PEF shall indemnify and save harmless New Hanover County for claims and liabilities resulting from negligence, errors or omissions of the PEF, including, but not limited to, the engineers, technicians or sub-consultants.

The firm must have the financial ability to undertake the work and assume the liability. The selected firm(s) will be required to furnish proof of Professional Liability insurance coverage in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000.00. The firm must have an adequate accounting system to identify costs chargeable to the project.

SCOPE OF WORK

New Hanover County desires to engage a PEF to provide Construction Engineering and Inspections (CEI) services for an upcoming construction project scheduled for 2020. The selected PEF will report directly to the New Hanover County Parks & Gardens Department and is to administer the contract and ensure all work is performed in accordance with the contract requirements.

The project consists of construction of approximately 1,000 linear feet of trail along Middle Sound Loop Road from Oyster Lane to Middle Sound Village. The project will include traffic control, clearing and grubbing, asphalt, concrete' landscaping, drainage, and erosion control.

The PEF shall provide Construction Engineering and Inspection Services as per NCDOT Standards and Specifications. Specifically, the PEF shall comply with the NCDOT Construction Manual as referenced at <https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/construction/pages/construction-manual.aspx> which outlines the procedures for records and reports that must be adhered to in order to obtain uniformity of contract administration and documentation. This includes, but is not limited to, inspections, inspection reports, material test reports, materials certification, documentation of quantities, project diaries, and pay records. The PEF shall perform the construction engineering, sampling and testing required during construction of the Project, in accordance with Departmental procedures, including the Department's Guide for Process Control and Acceptance Sampling and Testing. The PEF shall document that said compliance was accomplished in

accordance with State and Federal procedures, guidelines, standards and specifications.

PROPOSED CONTRACT TIME: 180 days

PROPOSED CONTRACT PAYMENT TYPE: COST PLUS

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

All LOI's are limited to FIFTEEN (15) pages (RS-2 forms are not included in the page count) inclusive of the cover sheet, and shall be typed on 8 ½" x 11" sheets, single-spaced, one-sided.

Fold out pages are not allowed.

LOI's containing more than FIFTEEN (15) pages will not be considered. The submittal package should include the proposal in PDF format sent via email.

Firms submitting LOI's are encouraged to carefully check them for conformance to the requirements stated above. If LOIs do not meet ALL of these requirements they will be disqualified. No exceptions will be granted.

SELECTION PROCESS

Following is a general description of the selection process:

- New Hanover County will review all qualifying LOI submittals.
- New Hanover County may shortlist a number of firms to be interviewed. IF APPLICABLE, dates of shortlisting and dates for interviews will be communicated as soon as practical.
- In order to be considered for selection, consultants must submit a complete response to this RFLOI prior to the specified deadlines. Failure to submit all information in a timely manner will result in disqualification.

SMALL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE FIRM (SPSF) PARTICIPATION

The Department encourages the use of Small Professional Services Firms (SPSF). Small businesses determined to be eligible for participation in the SPSF program are those meeting size standards defined by Small Business Administration (SBA) regulations, 13 CFR Part 121 in Sector 54 under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). The SPSF program is a race, ethnicity, and gender neutral program designed to increase the availability of contracting opportunities for small businesses on federal, state or locally funded contracts. SPSF participation is not contingent upon the funding source.

The Firm, at the time the Letter of Interest is submitted, shall submit a listing of all known SPSF firms that will participate in the performance of the identified work. The participation shall be submitted on the Department's Subconsultant Form RS-2. RS-2 forms may be accessed on the Department's website at [NCDOT Connect Guidelines & Forms](#).

The SPSF must be qualified with the Department to perform the work for which they are listed.

Real-time information about firms doing business with the Department and firms that are SPSF certified through the Contractual Services Unit is available in the Directory of Transportation Firms. The Directory can be accessed on the Department's website at [Directory of Firms](#) -Complete listing of certified and prequalified firms.

The listing of an individual firm in the Department's directory shall not be construed as an endorsement of the firm.

PREQUALIFICATION

The Department maintains on file the qualifications and key personnel for each approved discipline, as well as any required samples of work. Each year on the anniversary date of the company, the firm shall renew their prequalified disciplines. If your firm has not renewed its application as required by your anniversary date or if your firm is not currently prequalified, please submit an application to the Department **prior to submittal of your LOI**. An application may be accessed on the Department's website at [Prequalifying Private Consulting Firms](#) --Learn how to become Prequalified as a Private Consulting Firm with NCDOT. Having this data on file with the Department eliminates the need to resubmit this data with each letter of interest.

Even though specific DBE/MBE/WBE goals are not required for this project, the Department of Transportation is committed to providing opportunity for small and disadvantaged businesses to perform on its contracts through established Department goals. The Firm, subconsultant and subfirm shall not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, age, disability or sex in the performance of this contract.

SELECTION CRITERIA

All prequalified firms who submit responsive letters of interest will be considered.

In selecting a firm/team, the selection committee will take into consideration qualification information including such factors as:

1. Firm's experience, knowledge, familiarity and past performance with similar federally funded CEI projects. 20%
2. The experience of the firm's proposed staff to perform the type of work required. 20%
3. Firm's understanding of the project specific issues and their responsibility in delivering services for the advertised project. 20%
4. Firm's ability to meet established budgets and schedules. 20%
5. Firm's prior related experience with the New Hanover County and NCDOT review. 20%

After reviewing qualifications, if firms are equal on the evaluation review, then those qualified firms with proposed SPSF participation will be given priority consideration.

SUBMISSION ORGANIZATION AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

The LOI should be addressed to **Tara Duckworth, Director of Parks & Gardens**, and must include the name, address, telephone number and e-mail address of the prime consultant's contact person for this RFLOI.

The LOI must also include the information outlined below:

Chapter 1 -Introduction

The Introduction should demonstrate the consultant's overall qualifications to fulfill the requirements of the scope of work and should contain the following elements of information:

- Expression of firm's interest in the work;

- Statement of whether firm is on register;
- Date of most recent private engineering firm qualification;
- Statement regarding firm's(') possible conflict of interest for the work; and
- Summation of information contained in the letter of interest.

Chapter 2 -Team Qualifications

This chapter should elaborate on the general information presented in the introduction, to establish the credentials and experience of the consultant to undertake this type of effort. The following must be included:

1. Identify recent, similar projects the firm, acting as the prime contractor, has conducted which demonstrates its ability to conduct and manage the project. Provide a synopsis of each project and include the date completed, and contact person.
2. If subconsultants are involved, provide corresponding information describing their qualifications as requested in bullet number 1 above.

Chapter 3 -Team Experience

This chapter must provide the names, classifications, and location of the firm's North Carolina employees and resources to be assigned to the advertised work; and the professional credentials and experience of the persons assigned to the project, along with any unique qualifications of key personnel. Although standard personnel resumes may be included, identify pertinent team experience to be applied to this project. Specifically, the Department is interested in the experience, expertise, and total quality of the consultant's proposed team. If principals of the firm will not be actively involved in the study/contract/project, do not list them. The submittal shall clearly indicate the Consultant's Project Manager, other key Team Members and his/her qualifications for the proposed work. Also, include the team's organization chart for the Project / Plan. A Capacity Chart / Graph (available work force) should also be included. Any other pertinent information should also be listed in this section.

Note: If a project team or subconsultant encounters personnel changes, or any other changes of significance dealing with the company, NCDOT and the Town of Blowing Rock should be notified immediately.

Chapter 4 -Technical Approach

The consultant shall provide information on its understanding of, and approach to accomplish, this project, including their envisioned scope for the work and any innovative ideas/approaches, and a schedule to achieve the dates outlined in this RFLOI (if any project-specific dates are outlined below).

APPENDICES-CONSULTANT CERTIFICATION Form RS-2

Completed Form RS-2 forms SHALL be submitted with the firm's letter of interest.

This section is limited to the number of pages required to provide the requested information.

Submit Form RS-2 forms for the following:

- Prime Consultant firm
 - Prime Consultant Form RS-2 Rev 1/14/08; and
 - ANY/ALL Subconsultant firms to be, or anticipated to be, utilized by your firm.
 - Subconsultant Form RS-2 Rev 1/15/08.

- In the event the firm has no subconsultant, it is required that this be indicated on the Subconsultant Form RS-2 by entering the word “None” or the number “ZERO” and signing the form. **Complete and sign each Form RS-2 (instructions are listed on the form).**

The required forms are available on the Department’s website at:

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/business/consultants/Pages/GuidelinesForms.aspx>

[Prime Consultant Form RS-2 Subconsultant Form RS-2](#)

All submissions, correspondence, and questions concerning this RFLOI should be directed to **Tara Duckworth**, tduckworth@nhcgov.com.

IF APPLICABLE, questions may be submitted electronically only, to the contact above. Responses will be issued in the form of an addendum available to all interested parties. Interested parties should also send a request, by email only, to the person listed above to be placed on a public correspondence list to ensure future updates regarding the RFLOI or other project information can be conveyed. Questions must be submitted to the person listed above no later than September 10, 2020. The last addendum will be issued no later than September 11, 2020.

SUBMISSION SCHEDULE AND KEY DATES

RFLOI Release – September 1, 2020

Deadline for LOI Submission – 5:00 pm, September 14, 2020

Shortlist Announced (if applicable) by* -September 15, 2020

Interviews (if applicable) -the week of September 21, 2020

PEF Selection and Notification ** -by September 24 2020

Anticipated Notice to Proceed – by October 12, 2020

* **Notification will ONLY be sent to shortlisted firms.**

** **Notification will ONLY be sent to selected firms.**