

**A. OVERVIEW**

The Consultant will assist the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) with environmental services to be completed in accordance with the NDOT & Federal Highway Administrations' (FHWA) [Programmatic Categorical Exclusion Agreement](#) (April 2015). Environmental services must be completed in accordance with all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations. The consultant shall demonstrate experience and expertise in the following environmental disciplines:

1. Review or Preparation of the CE Determination Form for Federal-Aid Projects, to be completed in accordance with the Instructions and Guidance for Completing the Nebraska Categorical Exclusion Determination Form for Federal-Aid Projects. The Consultant shall provide CE documentation as directed by NDOT, either by hard copy paper format or by way of the NE-CE "Smart Form" application when available.
2. Re-evaluation of, or Supplement to, existing Categorical Exclusions Documents, including those developed under the December 1, 2008 – Programmatic Agreement for NEPA categorically Excluded Transportation Projects between NDOT and FHWA.
3. Section 4(f) Determinations in accordance with NDOT's Guidance for Completing the Section 4(f) Review Process in Nebraska for Federal-Aid Projects.
4. Hazardous Materials Reviews and Site Assessment in accordance with NDOT's Hazardous Material Review Guidance Manual.
5. Noise Studies, to be completed in accordance with [NDOT's Noise Analysis and Abatement Policy](#) and [Addendum](#)..
  - a. Tasks include field measurement, computer modeling exercises, report preparation, and preparation of information for noise and air conditions for the public involvement process.
  - b. The Consultant will determine noise levels and impacts at project receptors followed by a determination of feasibility and reasonableness. If noise abatement is found to be feasible and reasonable, the firm may manage the public involvement phase based on the NDOT Noise Analysis and Abatement Policy.
  - c. If abatement measures are required, the consultant may be requested to determine design parameters (height and length). Firms should demonstrate their experience in designing abatement strategies.
6. Air Quality Studies to be completed in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding for air quality analysis agreement between FHWA and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and current FHWA Mobile Source Air Toxics (MSAT) guidance. The Consultant shall prepare a qualitative memo comparing MSAT emissions between the no-build and build alternatives, using vehicle miles traveled
7. Threatened and Endangered Species Reviews in accordance with the *Biological Evaluation Process (Matrix) for Federal-Aid Transportation Program in Nebraska* and other pertinent Biological Surveys and Assessments such as:
  - a. Migratory Bird Treaty Act Evaluation and Field Survey

- b. Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Evaluation and Survey
  - c. Nebraska Non-game and Endangered Species Conservation Act Evaluation and Coordination
  - d. Desktop and/or Field Survey for State and Federally listed Threatened and Endangered Species, or other Wildlife Species of Concern as directed by NDOT.
8. Historic Properties Survey and Evaluation in accordance with the 1) Programmatic Agreement among the Federal Highway Administration, 2) the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Officer, 3) The advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and 4) the Nebraska Department of Roads to Satisfy the Requirements of Section 106 for the Federal-Aid Highway Program in the State of Nebraska. This does not include historic bridge recordation services.
  9. Other related environmental services for the assessment of project impacts and appropriate agency coordination including, but not limited to the following: 1) Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act; 2) Prime and Unique Farmlands (Farmland Protection Policy Act); 3) Wild and Scenic River Act, 4) Floodplain Permitting, 5) Socioeconomic studies, and 6) Environmental Justice assessments.
  10. Assistance with Public Involvement activities in accordance with [NDOT's Nebraska Public Involvement Procedure manual](#) and Tribal Coordination activities as directed by NDOT. Tasks may include preparation of public involvement materials and facilitation of public meetings.
  11. Waterway Determination/Delineation and Permitting;
    - a. Wetland Delineation/Determinations to be completed in accordance with NDOT guidance and the [USACE 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual](#) and appropriate Regional Supplements;
    - b. Waterway Permitting to be completed in accordance with Section 401 (State Water Quality Certification) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Nationwide and General (Individual) Permit procedures, and/or NE State Title 117;
    - c. Waterway Permitting in accordance with Section 9 (U.S. Coast Guard) and Section 10 (US Army Corps of Engineers) of the Rivers and Harbors Act as directed by NDOT. Tasks include the following:
      - 1) Preparation of on-site Preliminary Wetland/WOUS Determinations Preparation of Wetland/WOUS delineations using [USACE 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual](#) and appropriate Regional Supplements. Wetland/WOUS delineations shall also follow the NDOT Delineation Practices and Standards.
      - 2) Isolated Wetlands and other Waters of the State shall be delineated and shown on plans and aerial photos as required.
      - 3) Preparation and acquisition of Preliminary or Final Jurisdictional Determination documentation for USACE review, concurrence, and approval. The Consultant will submit this documentation for the review and approval by the NDOT prior to USACE submittal.
      - 4) Prepare Nationwide Permit (NWP) Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) and acquire project authorizations from the USACE.

- 5) Prepare Individual Permit (IP) applications and acquire 404 permit approvals; Prepare Section 404(b)(1) guideline analysis and reporting; Prepare USACE permits decision documentation if required.
  - 6) Coordinate and acquire Section 401 Water Quality Certification and/or State Title 117 (NE Surface Water Quality Standards) signoff/approvals from the NDEQ as appropriate.
  - 7) Coordinate and attend pre-application meetings as required.
  - 8) Additional Services associated with 404 permit acquisitions that may be required on a limited basis including: USACE Section 10 authorization acquisition, coordination and acquisition of US Coast Guard permits, floodplain permit acquisition, coordination and acquisition of Section 401 Water Quality Certifications from the EPA (tribal lands).
12. Wetland and Stream Mitigation Design and Monitoring, to include the following:
    - a. Develop mitigation site suitability reports to identify potential onsite mitigation or mitigation bank site opportunities addressing existing and potential wetland and/or stream channel site characteristics.
    - b. Develop conceptual and/or final mitigation site grading plans and written mitigation site plans in conjunction with NDOT and appropriate resource agencies, NPO's and landowners.
    - c. Perform mitigation site monitoring using approved NDOT/USACE methods to include routine small site methods and large site transect methods.
  13. Floodplain Permitting and agency coordination (may include Letters of Map Revision).
  14. Water quality assessment, coordination and permitting associated with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) under Section 402 of the Clean Water Acts, and/or NDOT's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program.
  15. Completion of NDOT Initial, Preliminary, or Design Environmental Review Forms.
  16. Project Green Sheet preparation for local Federal-aid projects in accordance with NDOT's [Green Sheet Procedures](#).

**B. QUALIFICATIONS, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE**

1. NEPA/CE Documentation
  - a. The Consultant shall demonstrate experience and efficiency in preparation and coordination of CE documentation for the Nebraska Transportation program. The consultant's Principal Author shall demonstrate continued training and education specifically associated with NDOT environmental guidance manuals and programmatic agreements.
  - b. The Consultant team must demonstrate Training and/or Experience with NDOT processes and guidance for the following: Historic Properties Assessment and Section 106 Coordination, Section 4(f) Coordination, Hazardous Materials Evaluation, Threatened and Endangered Species Survey and Evaluation, Public Involvement Plan Development and Coordination, and Social/economic evaluation.
2. Noise and Air

- a. The Consultant must have experience in preparing noise studies using the latest FHWA-approved version of the Traffic Noise Model (TNM), and in preparing air quality studies using the latest FHWA-approved version of the Mobile Vehicle Emissions Simulator (MOVES). Work experience must be demonstrated for air quality studies in non- attainment areas as it relates to transportation conformity.
  - b. The proposal should reference certificates of training for the latest Traffic Noise Model (TNM) and the latest Mobile Vehicle Emissions Simulator (MOVES) for key project personnel that were included with the NEPA certification submittal.
  - c. The Consultant should also demonstrate knowledge of, or experience and training using FHWA or EPA approved software for air dispersion and intersection modeling (AERMOD, CAL3QHC, CALINE3).
3. Wetland and Waterway Permitting
- a. The Consultant's wetland scientist must meet [NDOT's definition of "Qualified Scientist."](#)
  - b. The Consultant's wetland scientist must also have Nebraska experience with: proficiency in wetland delineation/wetland monitoring principals; and Section 404 permitting experience with the USACE Nebraska Regulatory office.
  - c. The Consultant must demonstrate experience in the fundamentals of wetland mitigation site planning, design and development.
4. The Consultant must demonstrate high level knowledge of transportation engineering concepts, transportation planning, and technical writing.
5. The Consultant must demonstrate an effective Quality Assurance and Quality Control program that has resulted in minimal repeat field work and document resubmittals.

**C. SOFTWARE AND EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS**

1. The Consultant must have Google Chrome web browser to complete the CE Smart Form using NDOT's NE-CE web-based application.
2. The Consultant must have an ANSI Type 1 or 2 noise meter to obtain accurate field measurements of noise levels. The field equipment must be capable of measuring decibels weighted with the A-level frequency response referred to as dB(A).
3. Consultant may be required to use prepare modeling input files, conduct modeling, and provide results using the latest version of the following software:  

CALINE3, CAL3QHC/CAL3QHCR, Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator (MOVES),  
and Traffic Noise model (TNM)
4. Consultant shall employ the use of a GPS unit capable of achieving sub-meter accurate data (differentially corrected). All geospatial data shall be post-processed to correct GPS data inaccuracies, compile all required information in the State geodatabase attribute tables, and checked for completeness, accuracy, and conformance to State data standards. Specific post-processing methods are dependent upon the applied software application. Commonly applied (and acceptable) software applications include Trimble® GPS Pathfinder® Office and ESRI's ArcPad® GPSCorrect® GPS Analyst®.

**D. EXPECTATIONS FOR THE DELIVERABLES**

1. The CE document must conclude with a CE Determination Form, complete with required attachments, signed by the Consultant Principal Author. The document submittal may be by hard copy paper format, or the NE-CE "Smart Form" application when available, as directed by NDOT. All technical documents generated by the Consultant must be in Microsoft Office and/or Adobe Acrobat formats. The final CE submittal must be accompanied by file data, not included as an attachment, to support the CE document. The Consultant must submit documentation of QA/QC review by a qualified NEPA Principal Author.
2. State funded projects will be supported through generation of technical specialty reports as outlined in Section 1, paragraphs (d) through (p). All technical documents generated by Consultant must be in Microsoft Office and/or Adobe Acrobat formats. The Consultant must submit documentation of QA/QC review by a qualified technical specialist.
3. All technical specialty reports and studies must conclude with a report and executive summary suitable to support the project environmental document.
4. Consultant will submit all geospatial data in the State's GIS Geodatabase (.mdb or .gdb). Coordinate system projections for all submittals shall be: NAD 1983 State Plane Nebraska FIPS 2600 (Feet). The submittal will include a completed attribute table with relevant information, such as wetland name and type, for each feature.
5. The Consultant shall conduct on-site visits required to support all environmental studies, assessments, evaluations and permitting actions. All documents must be presented to NDOT for review, comment and approval. NDOT reserves the right to make all decisions concerning the conclusions, findings and recommendations of the documents created by Consultant.
6. As applicable, plans, permits, studies and other documents provided by the Consultant will be incorporated into State project plans and/or used to obtain environmental clearances as needed to bid and construct State projects.