



Good Life. Great Journey.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Request for Qualifications

Professional Services for US-81 Expressway
Expansion, York to Columbus

July 28, 2021

Statements of Qualifications are due Wednesday, August 18, 2021, 1:00 P.M.

GENERAL

In accordance with Nebraska Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act ([Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-1702](#)), the Brooks Act ([40 USC 1101](#)), and [23 CFR 172.5](#), the State of Nebraska, Department of Transportation (NDOT), is issuing a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for US-81 Expressway Expansion, York to Columbus. Qualified consultants are invited to submit a statement of qualifications as outlined below. NDOT's website referred to in this document is located at: <http://www.dot.nebraska.gov/business-center/consultant/>

All consultants interested in providing professional services for NDOT are strongly encouraged to review NDOT's template [Standard Professional Services Agreement](#), [Sample Fees and Payments Exhibit](#), and [Insurance Requirements for Professional Service Providers](#) prior to responding to this RFQ. By submitting a statement of qualifications in response to this RFQ, Consultant, and all subconsultants, agree to meet the substantive requirements of these documents. These documents can be found on NDOT's website. An agreement will not be executed unless consultant provides a current overhead schedule and proof of meeting the insurance requirements in the form of an [Insurance ACORD](#). Further information regarding insurance, including a [checklist](#) to assist in submitting an acceptable certificate, can be found at <https://dot.nebraska.gov/business-center/consultant/insurance/>.

This RFQ does not commit NDOT to award a contract, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this request, or to procure or contract for services. NDOT reserves the right to award contracts to more than one qualified consultant, to accept or reject any or all responses received as a result of this request, to negotiate with any qualified consultant or to modify or cancel in part or in its entirety the RFQ, if it is in the best interest of NDOT to do so.

In accordance with Nebraska Revised Statute [84-712](#) et.seq., Nebraska Public Records Act, documents provided to NDOT are public records subject to disclosure unless consultant requests in writing that documents must be kept confidential and can demonstrate that such records are confidential under federal or state law.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

Standard Work Categories anticipated on this project are:

- 100 Corridor Studies
- 101 Environmental Services
- 103 Traffic Operation Studies

105	Highway Design
107	Bridge Design
202	Engineering Survey
209	Hydraulic and Hydrologic Studies
210	Right of Way Design (includes land ownership research, ROW plans, legal descriptions / plats)
211	Public Involvement

Information regarding the [Standard Work Categories](#) can be found on NDOT's website. Basic scopes of services (BSOS) are included with this RFQ as exhibits.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located within York, Polk, and Butler Counties, beginning approximately 0.35 miles north of the North US-34 / US-81 Junction at reference post (RP) 64.39, the end of the existing 4-lane York Bypass, and extending north for 40.55 miles to RP 104.94, 0.29 miles south of the Jct. of N-64 & US-81.

OVERVIEW

NDOT plans to construct a 2+2 expressway strategy which involves utilizing the existing two lanes of US-81 and adding two new lanes adjacent to the existing lanes. The resulting roadway cross section will be a 4-lane divided highway, typically with a 54-foot depressed median. The roadway cross section through Stromsburg will be a three-lane segment with a center two-way left turn lane (planned project in FY22), and similar improvements shall be considered for Osceola and Shelby. The consideration of crossing traffic from one side to the other will be minimized, limiting the opportunity to through towns and at the east and west N-92 Junctions. Where practical, the existing lanes will remain on alignment, and it is proposed to maintain the existing profile. It is assumed that the existing lanes will be resurfaced upon completion of the new lanes.

There are eight (8) existing bridge structures that will be considered for replacement, rehabilitation or repair and twin structures built adjacent to accommodate the new 2+2 expressway.

New right-of-way (ROW), utility rehabilitation, extensive grading, and culvert work will be required for the expansion to a 2+2 expressway.

This project will be developed as a Federal-aid project so Consultant must have the capabilities and NDOT certification to conduct the necessary environmental reviews and create documents required for a NEPA evaluation.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was previously completed in 1997, resulting in a Finding of No Significant Impact. This information is an exhibit to this RFQ.

The US-81 corridor will be developed in two phases, as described below.

PHASE I – Corridor Study, Preliminary/Functional Design and NEPA Decision

The consultant will collect data and conduct a corridor study to start the preliminary design process. The corridor study would determine if the existing two lanes meet 3R minimum design standards. The study would recommend design criteria for the 3R rural segments,

and the new and reconstruction rural segments, typical cross-sections for the rural segments, median width, and which side of existing US-81 the two new lanes should be built to minimize impacts to environmental resources, homes and improved structures and other facilities. The study would propose intersection improvements at the east and west N-92 Junctions.

The study would evaluate urban segments for use as part of the expressway system through the towns of Stromsburg, Osceola, and Shelby. There is a current three-lane project being prepared for letting in Stromsburg (CN 42782). The segments through Osceola and Shelby will be evaluated for improvements to provide two through lanes with a center two-way turn lane.

The intersections at the east and west N-92 Junctions will be reviewed for operations and safety and alternate intersections considered. The Consultant will consider route continuity, crashes, traffic volumes, turning movements, costs, environmental resources and recommend alternatives to consider as part of the NEPA and permitting process.

Alternatives would be considered as part of the NEPA and environmental permitting process.

The plans would be further developed as part of the preliminary and functional design steps. Construction packages would be determined, and traffic maintenance considered. The plans would be updated as part of the public involvement, NEPA and permitting process. The public involvement process will involve stakeholder and public meetings and a NEPA public information meeting or hearing. This phase would conclude after establishing the Preliminary Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (PLEDPA) and the NEPA decision. It is anticipated that this project will require a new EA. The Consultant will be responsible for developing documentation to support a class of action determination, to be approved by FHWA, at the onset of the study.

PHASE II – Final Design

Consultant will provide final design services for up to two of the defined construction segments along the corridor. Design plans will be detailed, limits of construction developed, and permits secured. Final plans, quantities and specifications would be prepared for PS&E submittal. Final Design for the other segments may be included at NDOT's option. Services during construction for revisions to the plans may also be requested. Phase II services will be completed under a new or supplemental contract.

Consultant shall have the necessary knowledge, education, training, certification, and experience to complete the following tasks which support both phases of this project:

PRELIMINARY SCOPE OF SERVICES

Preliminary Design services, including Environmental Documentation as required by the FHWA, must be completed for project approval and 404 permitting.

Environmental Services

- Assessments required for completion of Class of Action Determination (NDOT-53).
- Prepare necessary environmental documentation including other environmental surveys or services necessary to support and complete the NEPA decision-making process.

- Wetland delineation services to support NEPA evaluation and a Section 404 Permit application.
- Development of a 404 Permit application on behalf of NDOT. NDOT assumes an Individual Section 404 permit will likely be required.
- Aid in development of wetland mitigation requirements:
 - Conceptual mitigation plan and mitigation ratio development
 - Mitigation site baseline delineation
 - Final mitigation plan
- Re-evaluation of NEPA document after final design is complete.
- A preliminary Scope of Services (SOS) for this work category is included with the RFQ supporting documents.

Roadway Design Services

- Roadway Design to support the services being performed internally and externally for the other work categories.
- Preparation of Corridor study, Preliminary plans, Functional plans, Limits of Construction plans, plans for distribution to utilities and plans for PS&E submittal.
- The Roadway Design will be conducted with consideration of practical design opportunities, solving transportation and safety problems in a manner to minimize cost of improvements that provide positive performance benefits.
- Documenting design decisions and, when necessary, preparing and presenting design exceptions to the FHWA and design relaxations to the Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards.
- Utility coordination services, including utility locates and mapping, Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE), conflict determination, avoidance, and coordination with Utility companies.
- A preliminary SOS for this work category is included with the RFQ supporting documents.

Hydraulic & Hydrologic Services

- Includes performing hydraulic and hydrologic analysis at all stream crossings and floodplain analysis along this project
- Preparation of preliminary bridge hydraulic data sheets.
- Flood analysis to determine the profile of the new two lanes and potential modification to the existing two lanes.
- The potential exists that the project may require the preparation of a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR).
- A preliminary SOS for this work category is included with the RFQ supporting documents.
- Additional bridge information listed below.

SN	Location	Feature Intersected	Feature Carried	Type	Length	Year Built	Active CN	Letting	Anticipated Work Description
S081 06464	1N YORK	LINCOLN CREEK	US81	Slab	101	1933			Replace
S081 06780	4N YORK	COON BRANCH	US81	Steel	91	1933			Replace
S081 07797	JCT US81/N66 2.2N	N BR BIG BLUE RIVER	US81	Slab	127	1985	42931	8/29/24	Acc+M (New Project - Still in Scoping)
S081 07815	OS STROMSBURG	PRAIRIE CREEK	US81	Slab	82	1985	42931	8/29/24	Acc+M (New Project - Still in Scoping)
S081 08265	WJCT US81/N92 .3S	DAVIS CREEK	US81	CBC	43	1985	42782	8/26/21	UIP and Extend as Needed
S081 08490R	1W OSCEOLA	DAVIS CREEK	COUNTY ROAD N	Timber	47	1965	42785	4/30/20	Replace with 3 - 10 ft. x 6 ft. CBC, No Grade Raise.
S081 08543	IN OSCEOLA	DAVIS CREEK	US81/N92	Slab	74	1936	42785	4/30/20	Replace with 65 ft. x 40 ft. clear width Bridge, Add Approaches and GB on Pile, 3 in. ACC w/Membrane End of Paving to End of Paving, Access Crossing (Pipes), No grade raise per pavement determination due to proximity to RR Xing. see note in comment.
S081 08578	IN OSCEOLA	DAVIS CREEK	US81/N92	Slab	85	2005	42785	4/30/20	Partial Depth Deck Repair, 2 in. Asphalt Overlay w/Membrane End of Paving to End of Paving, Remodel Buttress to 35 in., Paint Steel Substructure to Below Ground Line at Abutments, 2 in. Grade Raise

Bridge Design Services

- Bridge recommendations must be coordinated with the added two lanes and minimize grade changes to the existing alignment
- A preliminary SOS for this work category is included with the RFQ supporting documents.
- A listing of bridge sized structures is listed above.

Survey Services

- Preliminary and photogrammetric surveys are being completed by NDOT.
- Additional preliminary survey, if necessary, may be performed by the Consultant.
- Right-of-way survey and any additional right-of-way survey, if necessary, will be performed by NDOT.

Traffic Engineering Services

- The study would propose intersection improvements or alternative intersection designs at the east and west N-92 Junctions with US-81.

- The study would evaluate urban segments for use as part of the expressway system through the towns of Stromsburg, Osceola, and Shelby.
- There is a current three-lane project being prepared for letting in Stromsburg (CN 42782).
- The segments through Osceola and Shelby will be evaluated for improvements to provide two through lanes with a center two-way turn lane.

Public Involvement Services

- Public Involvement services would include public mailers, meeting notices, legal notices, news releases, website development, planning and coordinating stakeholder and public meetings, and responding to public comments.
- Public Involvement services necessary to gather input on project alternatives and for the NEPA and USACE decision-making process.
- Presentation support for the NDOT staff to present the project information to the Highway Commission for their recommendation for Governor Approval to advance the project is anticipated.
- Presentation support is anticipated before local boards, chambers of commerce, and citizen groups, and potentially, individual stakeholders and landowners.
- A preliminary SOS for this work category is included with the RFQ supporting documents.

Right-Of-Way Services

- The following services will be performed either in-house or by the selected consultant and will be determined when individual project schedules are established.
 - Preparation of ownership and right-of-way (ROW) design plans, creation of legal descriptions and condemnation plats
 - Title research services to establish the boundaries and ownership interests in properties along or affected by the project
- ROW survey for the entire corridor has been completed
- NDOT will perform review and oversight for the ROW design process.
- A preliminary SOS for this work category is included with the RFQ supporting documents.

SCHEDULE:

This project is currently in the planning process. The schedule will be established once the NEPA is completed, which is anticipated by spring of 2024.

DETAILS

It is anticipated that one (1) consultant will be awarded the contract for this work. The payment method for the contract may be Cost Plus Fixed Fee or Specific Rates of Compensation.

A minimum of three (3) consultants will be short-listed for interviews. The evaluation criteria to be used for the short-listing and final selection is outlined below.

NDOT reserves the right to abandon or terminate any contract at any time and either re-advertise services or utilize its own forces. NDOT also reserves the right to

accomplish services for future phases on all projects with the selected consultant, select another consultant, or utilize its own forces.

NDOT will not hold a briefing. All information is contained within this RFQ and on NDOT's website. If additional information is deemed necessary, it will be posted on the same web page as this RFQ and will be labeled as an update. Consultants interested in this RFQ are responsible for checking for updated information.

Interested consultants must have a current [NDOT Form 497, "Architect, Engineer, and Related Services Certification Form"](#) on file with NDOT prior to the deadline identified in the Schedule of Activities. If necessary, a completed NDOT Form 497 should be submitted to: NDOT.PDAnnualCertification@nebraska.gov.

Please submit your Drug-Free Workplace Policy (DF Policy) separate from the response to this RFQ ([DF Policy Example](#)). The DF Policy is a one-time submittal to NDOT. Please do not re-submit unless your DF Policy has changed, or you never have previously submitted a DF Policy. While the DF Policy is not a submittal requirement, all consultants must have an acceptable DF Policy on file prior to the deadline identified in the Schedule of Activities. If necessary, the consultant's DF Policy may be submitted via email to: NDOT.PDAnnualCertification@nebraska.gov

Please do not call or write NDOT staff for information regarding the services in this RFQ. Email all inquiries/questions to Randy Eldorado, Procurement Engineer, at: randy.eldorado@nebraska.gov or call (402) 479-4778.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Short List (60 pts)

A. QUALIFICATIONS (30 PTS)

1. Qualifications of the project manager and key team members to perform the work.
2. Firm's demonstrated capacity to manage project teams with multiple consultants.
3. Computer capability of the firm.
4. Qualifications and capability of team members and subconsultants.
5. Expertise of consultant's design team with New and Reconstruction projects.
6. Applicability and relevance of comparable projects/corridors provided by the Consultant.
7. Knowledge of NDOT Roadway Design Manual, Nebraska Board of Public Roads Minimum Design Standards, Federal Design Standards, and AASHTO's "A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets".
8. Knowledge of the NEPA process and developing/adhering to the purpose and need of the project.

B. PERFORMANCE DATA (10 PTS)

1. Performance evaluations by NDOT regarding the work of the Consultant.
2. Adherence to applicable standards and completeness of previous plan submittals to NDOT.
3. Project schedule adherence on previous projects with NDOT.
4. Cooperation with NDOT staff on previous projects.
5. If firm has no experience with NDOT, review information obtained from Consultant's references for Consultant's performance with other states, local governments, or

appropriate clients. The team should list a minimum of two (2) references in their proposal.

C. UNDERSTANDING OF THE SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED (20 PTS)

1. Consultant demonstrated understanding of the nature and scope of work along this corridor.
2. The consultant has recognized and identified special circumstances to be considered as part of the projects.
3. Consultant provided a logical approach to efficiently get consensus on project decisions and complete tasks.

Final Selection (40 pts, 100 pts total)

D. QUALITY OF INTERVIEW (40 PTS)

1. Consultant answered committee questions logically and thoroughly (20 points)
2. Consultant demonstrated the ability and availability of their team to complete these services on behalf of NDOT (10 points)
3. Consultant’s interview was clear and concise (10 points).

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES	Date (2021)	Time (CST)
RFQ Posted	July 28, August 4, 11	
Last Day Updates to RFQ may be posted	Aug 11	1:00 PM
NDOT Form 497 & Drug-Free Workplace Policy on File at NDOT	Aug 11	4:00 PM
Statement of Qualifications Due	Aug 18	1:00 PM
Post Short-List Consultants & Interview Schedule	Aug 31	4:00 PM
Interview	Sep 10	8:30am-11:30am
Post Final Selections	Sep 14	4:00 PM

NOTE – THE Selected Firm must provide verification that they and all subconsultants have submitted their indirect cost rates and certifications for their latest fiscal year. Latest fiscal year means the last fiscal year with an end date no more than 6 months in the past.

SUBMITTAL OF QUALIFICATIONS

All information must be received by the deadline identified in the Schedule of Activities. No exceptions to this deadline will be given.

One (1) electronic copy (PDF format) of your firm's statement of qualification (SOQ) must be submitted using the Online [“SOQ Submittal Form”](#) link found on the Consultant Services Business Opportunities page.

Submittals are to include the following in the order given below:

1. Front cover to include the consultant, subconsultants (if applicable), and number and title of the RFQ.
2. A letter of interest not to exceed one (1) page.
3. Organizational Chart not to exceed one (1) page.
4. A narrative responding to the established evaluation factors not to exceed five (5) pages. Submittal covers and dividers between the sections are allowed and not included in the page limit.

5. A maximum of five (5) pages of additional supportive material such as charts, tables, resumes, or photos.
6. NDOT Form 498, "Architect, Engineer, & Related Services Supplement to Statement of Qualifications" not to exceed six (6) pages for the consultant and six (6) pages for each subconsultant. A separate NDOT Form 498 must be submitted for each subconsultant to be used.

INTERVIEWS

Interview date and times for short-listed consultants will be posted on NDOT's website. Interviews will be capped at 30 minutes, followed by up to 15 minutes of Q&A with the selection committee members.

NDOT will make every effort to post the short-listed consultants and the interview schedule on NDOT's website prior to the deadline identified in the Schedule of Activities.

NDOT's selection committee will conduct interviews with the short-listed consultants at the Department of Transportation, Central Complex, Highway Commission Room 103, 1500 Highway 2, Lincoln, Nebraska. Consultant's may request an interview via telephone, and will need to contact the Procurement Engineer at randy.eldorado@nebraska.gov or (402) 479-4778 to make arrangements.

Upon completion of all the interviews and approval of the Deputy Director, NDOT will post the final selections on NDOT's website prior to the deadline identified in the Schedule of Activities, or as soon as possible.

John Selmer, P.E., Director
Nebraska Department of Transportation

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