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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# Request for Qualifications

## Professional Services for Final Design - 33rd/Cornhusker Viaduct

July 23, 2025

**Statements of Qualifications are due Wednesday, August 13, 2025, 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 Final Design - 33rd/Cornhusker Viaduct. 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 and Local Public Agencies (LPAs) 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 (indirect cost rate) 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/>.

NDOT is seeking a statement of qualifications from consultants who wish to be considered to provide these services. The selected consultants will be required to follow the [LPA Guidelines Manual for Federal-Aid Projects](#) and all applicable Federal and State requirements and procedures for the local federal-aid projects.

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.

**Required Title VI Non-discrimination General Assurance**

The Nebraska Department of Transportation, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders/offerors that it will affirmatively insure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

**STANDARD WORK CATEGORIES**

Standard Work Categories anticipated on this project are listed below. Consultant/team must be certified in the following Standard Work Categories. Information regarding the [Standard Work Categories](#) can be found on NDOT's website.

- 112 NEPA Studies - Level 2 Environmental (EA) Re-evaluations
- 115 Other Environmental Studies
- 120 Roadway Design
- 130 Bridge Design
- 132 Bridge Load Rating
- 133 Bridge Girder & Element Fabrication Inspection
- 140 Traffic Operation Studies & Design
- 145 Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)
- 160 Right-of-Way Design – Land Ownership Research
- 161 Right-of-Way Design – ROW Plans
- 162 Right-of-Way Design – Legal Descriptions / Plats
- 181 Electrical and Mechanical Design
- 190 Railroad Design
- 210 Engineering Survey
- 215 Land Surveying (ROW)
- 220 Pavement Design
- 230 Hydraulic and Hydrologic Studies
- 231 Geological Studies
- 240 Value Engineering
- 250 Public Involvement

**PROJECT OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND**

The 33rd & Cornhusker Viaduct Project will improve safety and connectivity by constructing a new grade-separated viaduct over the BNSF railroad tracks, eliminating two at-grade railroad crossings at N. 33rd Street and Adams Street. The project will realign N. 33rd Street, expand Cornhusker Highway (US 6) to six lanes with turn lanes, and enhance local roadways for improved traffic flow.

Key elements include new bridges over Deadman's Run and the BNSF railroad, realignment of Adams Street, upgraded intersections, and improved pedestrian and bicycle access with an 8-foot-wide sidewalk and multi-use trails. The project will also modernize ADA-compliant pedestrian crossings, upgrade utilities, and install fencing along the rail corridor. Temporary detours will be in place during construction to maintain traffic and trail connectivity.

An Environmental Assessment has been completed and it is the desire of RTSD to proceed

into the functional and final design phase of this project with the selection of a professional engineering firm through a Qualification Based Selection process.

NDOT intends to retain a professional engineering firm to perform professional services for final design. It is anticipated one consultant team will be selected for award under this RFQ. The project website contains general project information and background material regarding the [PEL study](#), [Subarea and Corridor Enhancement Plans](#), and [NEPA](#) report documentation. The project website is available at <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/RTSD/33rd-Cornhusker>

Services under this RFQ would be funded with federal and local dollars. As such, the project has been developed as a Federal-aid project and services performed under this RFQ shall be accomplished in close coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Rail Administration (FRA), the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), the City of Lincoln and the Lincoln-Lancaster County Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD). This project has been identified as a Risk-Based Project (RBP) with FHWA and in order to maintain Federal-aid eligibility, the NDOT [LPA Guidelines Manual](#) shall be followed as well as current protocol for coordination with NDOT and FHWA.

### ***Planning Phase (Complete)***

During the planning phase, three main documents were developed:

1. The [Planning and Environmental Linkages \(PEL\) Study](#)
2. The [North 33<sup>rd</sup> & Cornhusker Subarea Plan](#)
3. The [Cornhusker Highway Corridor Enhancement Plan](#)

The planning phase began in 2015 when the RTSD identified and evaluated potential transportation improvements in the area of North 33<sup>rd</sup> & Cornhusker as part of the PEL study. The alternatives were developed with goals to enhance safety along the rail corridor, reduce delays for motorists, accommodate existing and future traffic to reduce congestion, improve mobility across the rail corridor, and improve multi-modal connectivity. The PEL study was completed in August 2016 and recommended two alternatives for further evaluation. The study is available on the project's webpage.

The planning phase continued in 2017, following completion of the PEL study, when efforts began to develop the North 33<sup>rd</sup> & Cornhusker Subarea Plan and the Cornhusker Highway Corridor Enhancement Plan. The RTSD and the City of Lincoln determined that a comprehensive analysis of the subarea should be conducted before making any major transportation investments so that any transportation changes would align with the future vision for the subarea. To establish this vision, a community consensus-building process was initiated, focusing on refining land use and zoning regulations, promoting economic development, enhancing Cornhusker Highway, improving mobility and connectivity, creating advocates for plan implementation, and improving safety.

The North 33<sup>rd</sup> & Cornhusker Subarea Plan outlines the city's plans for improvement, beautification, and overall revitalization of the subarea. The goal of the subarea plan was to develop a long-term vision and identity related to the unique needs of this area that optimizes economic and fiscal sustainability, creates a mix of land uses and provides opportunities for redevelopment or development. This plan addresses the immediate needs and current

issues while providing recommendations for future improvements and redevelopment over the next 10 to 20 years. It includes information on:

- Existing Conditions
- Market Position Strategy
- Public Engagement
- Illustrative Subarea Plan
- Land Use and Zoning
- Development and Redevelopment
- Transportation and Infrastructure
- Aesthetics and Quality of Life
- Economic Sustainability

The subarea plan was adopted by the City of Lincoln in December 2020 and incorporates the preferred transportation alternative developed as part of the North 33<sup>rd</sup> & Cornhusker Environmental Assessment. The Corridor Enhancement Plan, completed in December 2020, includes considerations for landscaping, lighting, screening, setbacks, and planting requirements along the corridor.

### ***Environmental Phase***

The PEL Study investigated environmental conditions in an area bounded by 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Holdrege Street, 48<sup>th</sup> Street, and Superior Street and included an overview of typical social, economic, and environmental investigations such as land use, floodways and floodplains, parks and recreational resources, historic resources, hazardous materials, wetlands, and T&E species. Various agencies were engaged in the process for input and multiple public meetings were held to receive comments as well as a public hearing on September 5, 2024.

During the PEL Study, the Project coordinated with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the Deadmans Run Flood Risk Management Project. The Deadmans Run project is currently being led as a joint effort between the Lower Platte South NRD and the City of Lincoln and federal funding is no longer involved. Although the USACE is no longer the lead agency, coordination between the two projects will continue with services under this RFQ. Information regarding the Deadman's Run Project can be found at <https://www.lincoln.ne.gov/City/Departments/LTU/LTU-Projects/WSM/Bond-Issues/Deadmans-Run> and <https://www.lpsnrd.org/projects/major-projects/deadmans-run-flood-reduction-project-updated-2024>.

Environmental services to be accomplished under this RFQ includes re-evaluations of the Environmental Assessment developed during the Environmental Phase as required. The Final Environmental Assessment - ERRATA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) document was approved by FHWA on May 9, 2025 and the document will be sent to FRA for review and comment.

As part of the NEPA process, all reasonable alternative alignments were considered and analyzed. The screening of alternatives indicated why and how the alternatives were developed and explained why and how alternatives were removed. Alignments that advanced to further analysis met the project Purpose and Need. After developing, reviewing and screening transportation alternatives, one preferred transportation alternative, "Revised Modified C", was identified in the Environmental Assessment (Figure 11).

***Preliminary Engineering Phase***

The Preliminary Engineering Phase was performed concurrently with the Environmental Phase. The transportation components of this Project are located generally in a half-mile radius area centered on the North 33<sup>rd</sup> & Cornhusker intersection in north-central Lincoln. The PEL study and the Environmental Assessment were conducted in part to identify and evaluate potential transportation improvements in the project area which met the project's objectives:

- ♦ Improve safety along the rail corridor between 27<sup>th</sup> and 48<sup>th</sup> streets by eliminating or reducing the potential conflict points between trains and other transportation modes (vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists)
- ♦ Reduce delay for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists crossing the rail corridor
- ♦ Accommodate existing and future traffic to reduce congestion along roadways crossing the rail corridor
- ♦ Improve mobility across the rail corridor in north Lincoln
- ♦ Improve multi-modal connectivity in north Lincoln for vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists, and bus transit.

Preliminary plans were developed for the preferred alternative identified in the EA and are available as supplemental information for this RFQ. CAD files of the preliminary plans are available from the City of Lincoln upon request for purposes of this RFQ.

**SCOPE OF SERVICES****A. OVERVIEW OF THE WORK:**

1. The Consultant will perform normal and customary functional and final roadway design and bridge related services on this project. The services may include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - a. Project Scope Review
  - b. Engineering services may include, but not limited to the following tasks:
    - I. Engineering and Land Surveys
    - II. Roadway horizontal and vertical alignment
    - III. Pavement geometrics and design
    - IV. Earthwork quantities
    - V. Drainage design/hydraulic analysis
    - VI. Storm sewer and culvert design
    - VII. Alternatives Analysis as required for 404 permits and flood plain permits
    - VIII. Erosion Control
    - IX. ADA design and compliance
    - X. Guardrail layout
    - XI. Retaining/MSE wall layout
    - XII. Watermain design
    - XIII. Wastewater design
    - XIV. Property access location refinement
    - XV. Bridge design
    - XVI. Pavement marking and signage design
    - XVII. Cost estimates

- XVIII. Utility coordination
  - XIX. Right of Way Design activities
  - XX. Quantity calculations
  - XXI. Construction and Traffic Phasing
  - XXII. Traffic Control design
  - XXIII. Construction Staking calculations
  - XXIV. Preparation of Final Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) package
- c. Public Involvement
  - d. Value engineering activities
  - e. Railroad and utility coordination
  - f. Coordination with appraisers and negotiators
  - g. Project management services
2. On federally funded projects, the Consultant's roadway and bridge design will be accomplished in coordination with the Environmental Specialists assigned to the project (either NDOT personnel or an assigned Environmental Services Consultant) to assure the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process is followed accurately and completely during the design process. Re-evaluation of the NEPA document after final design is completed will be required.

**B. QUALIFICATIONS, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE:**

1. All work shall be completed by or under the direct supervision of a Nebraska licensed professional civil engineer. The consultant firm shall use engineers experienced with all aspects of roadway design related to the services to be provided.
2. The Consultant shall have a working knowledge of and use, when applicable, the following non-exclusive list of references:
  - a. A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets 2011 (AASHTO)
  - b. Access Control Policy to the State Highway System, 2006 (or latest) (NDOT)
  - c. Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines
  - d. Design Process Outline (NDOT)
  - e. Drainage Design & Erosion Control Manual, 2006 (or latest) (NDOT)
  - f. Highway Capacity Manual 2010 (HCM2010), Transportation Research Board
  - g. Local, State and federal laws and regulations that pertain to roadway design
  - h. Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (FHWA), 2009 Edition
  - i. MUTCD - Nebraska 2011 Supplement to the MUTCD
  - j. Nebraska Minimum Design Standards – Counties, Municipalities, State - 2010 (or most current) (Nebraska Administrative Code Title 428; Rules and Regulations of the Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards
  - k. National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process
  - l. Preliminary Survey Manual (NDOT)
  - m. Roadside Design Guide, 2011 (AASHTO)
  - n. Roadway Design Manual, 2010 (or latest) (NDOT)
  - o. Standard and Special Plans Manual (NDOT)
  - p. Standard Specifications for Highway Construction 2007 (or latest edition) (NDOT)
  - q. Traffic Control Devices Handbook, 2001 (or latest) (ITE)

- r. United States Access Board Guidelines, Standards, and Publications

**C. SOFTWARE AND EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS:**

1. The Consultant's design and drafting software and design files must be compatible with NDOT's design and drafting software and be able to import into the City of Lincoln's record file GIS system. Information on NDOT's design protocol can be found on NDOT's website on the Roadway Design page; <http://roads.nebraska.gov/business-center/design-consultant/>.
2. The Consultant's design must be accomplished using the design software GEOPAK version SS4 or later but no later than that in use by NDOT. The consultant's design must follow NDOT's drafting procedures, guidelines, and file naming convention using the appropriate version of MicroStation CAD software. Consultant's use of an earlier version of GEOPAK OpenRoads may be approved for specific activities with written permission of NDOT and at NDOT's sole discretion.
3. The project may require a 3D model be generated.
4. Reports and documents must be submitted in a form compatible with Microsoft Office Products unless otherwise directed.
5. The Consultant will provide all software and computer equipment required to complete the work including any analysis software required to perform the bridge design work.

**D. EXPECTATIONS FOR THE DELIVERABLES:**

1. The consultant shall provide to NDOT acceptable final plans, specifications and estimates (PS&E) for use in a bid letting and construction of the project. The Consultant shall seal and sign the final plans and applicable deliverables in accordance with the Nebraska Engineers and Architects Regulation Act. Consultant shall also provide to NDOT all applicable supporting documentation and reports as described in the Task Order.
2. Plans and special provisions shall be developed in compliance with the manuals, guidelines and specifications as listed in the Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience section, paragraph B.
3. Consultant shall submit to the NDOT roadway design plans at the following stages, when applicable: before the plan-in-hand field inspection, before public meetings, at 90% completion stage, and final PS&E package. Deliverables must be completed and submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in the Task Order.
4. Deliverables must be submitted in hard copy and electronic form as outlined in the Task Order.
5. Submittals will be reviewed and approved by NDOT. Consultant shall address all issues raised by NDOT's review and make all necessary changes to the work.
6. The consultant shall maintain an electronic cloud-based document management system during final design services to store, track, and share documents in a central location.

**DETAILS**

It is anticipated that up to three (3) consultants will be short-listed for interviews, with one (1) consultant will be awarded the contract for the work. The evaluation criteria to be used for the short-listing and final selection is outlined below. The agreement will be executed with a single firm. The payment method for the contract may be Cost Plus Fixed Fee, or Specific Rates of Compensation.

***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 be certified by NDOT or have a completed certification form on file with NDOT prior to the deadline identified in the Schedule of Activities. Instructions for completing the NDOT Annual Consultant Certification form is available at: <https://dot.nebraska.gov/media/g1qb344b/cert-instruc-annual-certification.pdf>

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](mailto: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 NDOT Procurement Engineer, at: [ndot.pdRFQinfo@nebraska.gov](mailto:ndot.pdRFQinfo@nebraska.gov) or call (402) 479-4778.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

### Short List (70 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; GEOPAK Open Roads technology for design, and MicroStation CAD platform, as mentioned above.
4. Qualifications and capability of key subconsultants.
5. Expertise of consultant's design team with 3R and New and Reconstruction projects.
6. Applicability and relevance of comparable projects 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 adhering to the purpose and need of the project.
9. Knowledge and expertise working with federal, state, and local agencies and entities anticipated for projects in this RFQ, including railroads.

**B. PERFORMANCE DATA (20 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, City of Lincoln and RTSD 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 they understand nature and scope of the project.
2. The consultant has recognized and identified special circumstances to be considered for the project.
3. Consultant provided a logical approach to complete tasks and resolve issues of the project.

**Final Selection (30 pts, 100 pts total)**

**D. DISCUSSION OF FOCUS AREA TOPICS (20 PTS)**

1. Consultant’s interview presentation was clear and concise.
2. Consultant showed knowledge and understanding of topics.
3. Consultant demonstrated the ability and availability of their team to complete these services.

**E. COMMITTEE Q&A SESSION (10 PTS)**

1. Answered Consultant committee questions logically and thoroughly.

<b>SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>Date (2025)</b>	<b>Time (CST)</b>
RFQ posted	July 23, 30, August 6	
Last day questions will be accepted	July 30	4:00 PM
Last day Q&A or updates to RFQ may be posted	August 6	4:00 PM
NDOT Form 497 & Drug-Free Workplace Policy on file at NDOT	August 13	4:00 PM
<b>Statement of Qualifications Due</b>	<b>August 13</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>
Post Short-List Consultants & Interview Schedule	August 22	4:00 PM
Interview	August 29	9:00am-11am
Post Final Selections	September 3	4:00 PM

*NOTE – Shortlisted Firms may be asked to 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. Please "reduce file size" of PDF before submitting.

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 showing lines of responsibility and extent of involvement for subconsultants.

A narrative responding to the established evaluation factors not to exceed fifteen (15) pages. Describe the ability of the firm to meet the intent of required services outlined in this RFQ, including the time availability of key team members to meet the tentative project schedule, a statement of general qualifications and background experience of the firm and key project team members. Also Identify Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) review procedures to be utilized on this project as well as cost estimating and cost control procedures to be utilized. The QA/QC discussion shall identify the personnel assigned to monitor the program and the key milestones in which the program will be administered

4. A maximum of five (5) pages of additional supportive material such as charts, tables, resumes, or photos.
5. NDOT Conflict of Interest Disclosure Forms for Consultants  
<http://dot.nebraska.gov/business-center/lpa/projects/downloads/>
6. [NDOT Form 498, "Architect, Engineer, & Related Services Supplement to Statement of Qualifications" \(MS Word version\)](#) 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.

Additional submittal requirements are:

1. All material in the submittal must be formatted for 8½ x 11 paper, single or double spaced. Font size for narrative text no smaller than 11 point.
2. Submittal covers and dividers between the sections are allowed and not included in the page limit.

## INTERVIEWS

NDOT's selection committee will conduct interviews with the short-listed consultants via WebEx on the date and time specified in the Schedule of Activities. Interviews will be capped at 20 minutes, followed by up to 10 minutes of Q&A. Consultant may contact the Procurement Engineer to make any special arrangements.

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

Upon completion of scoring 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.

Vicki Kramer, Director  
Nebraska Department of Transportation

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