



Good Life. Great Journey.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Request for Qualifications

Professional Services for Omaha to Lincoln Rail Crossing Safety Improvement Plan

August 13, 2025

Statements of Qualifications are due Wednesday, September 5, 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 Omaha to Lincoln Rail Crossing Safety Improvement Plan. 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 (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/>.

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.

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.

- 100 Corridor Studies
- 102 Transportation Planning

105	Railroad Planning
120	Roadway Design
140	Traffic Operation Studies & Design
115	Other Environmental Studies
211	Public Involvement

SCOPE OF SERVICES

A. OVERVIEW OF THE WORK:

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) Omaha to Lincoln Rail Crossing Safety Improvement Plan (the Corridor Safety Plan) will conduct a comprehensive corridor study encompassing 143 public railroad crossings within a five-county region, generally between Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska, along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway. A corridor safety plan is needed to identify safety improvement opportunities and community needs associated with the railroad crossings within the study area. The Corridor Safety Plan will outline a range of potential safety improvements, including crossing closures, active warning devices, crossing realignments, grade improvements, enhanced warning systems, new roadway connections, and grade separations. This project directly aligns with the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) mission to enhance public safety, improve community facilities, and expand access for active transportation; it will also inform the programs of two Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPOs) in Omaha and Lincoln and the NDOT Section 130 program. The anticipated benefits include improved safety for residents and commuters, enhanced quality of life, increased opportunities for economic growth, improved regional connectivity, and reduced transportation costs. These benefits will strengthen the competitiveness of the study area for private investment and enhance regional economic prosperity.

B. QUALIFICATIONS, KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE:

Previous experience developing **Corridor Safety Plans** or equivalent regional rail crossing studies. Strong project management and coordination capabilities. Understanding of **multimodal transportation**, including bicycle and pedestrian considerations at rail crossings. Innovative thinking toward **community-integrated rail safety solutions** that balance mobility, access, and safety.

- **Technical Planning and Engineering**
- **Environmental & Regulatory**
- **Public and Stakeholder Engagement**
- **Data Analysis and Cost Estimation**
- **Policy and Funding Alignment**

C. EXPECTATIONS FOR THE DELIVERABLES:

- Development of a purpose and need statement
- Completion of conceptual engineering
- Documentation of project alternatives
- Environmental inventory and concerns analysis
- Stakeholder and public involvement
- Cost estimates

DETAILS

It is anticipated that three (3) consultants will be shortlisted 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 payment method for the contract may be Lump Sum, 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

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 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. Applicability and relevance of comparable projects provided by the Consultant.
4. Knowledge directly related to railroad crossing safety, corridor studies and safety planning.
5. Experience on infrastructure planning and safety projects.
6. Experience conducting corridor studies and developing safety improvement plans for public at-grade rail crossing.

7. Knowledge of the NEPA process and adhering to the purpose and need of the project.

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 projects
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 they understand nature and scope of the projects to be assigned under agreement.
2. The consultant has recognized and identified special circumstances to be considered for the projects.
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.

E. COMMITTEE Q&A SESSION (10 PTS)

1. Consultant answered committee questions logically and thoroughly.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES	Date (2025)	Time (CST)
RFQ posted	August 13, 20, 27	
Last day questions will be accepted	August 20	4:00 PM
Last day Q&A or updates to RFQ may be posted	August 27	4:00 PM
NDOT Form 497 & Drug-Free Workplace Policy on file at NDOT	September 5	1:00 PM
Statement of Qualifications Due	September 5	1:00 PM
Post Short-List Consultants & Interview Schedule	September 22	4:00 PM
Interview	October 1	1:30pm-3:30 pm
Post Final Selections	October 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.
4. A narrative responding to the established evaluation factors not to exceed five (5) pages.
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" \(MS Word version\)](#) 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 15 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 Transportat

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER