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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Request for Qualifications

Professional Services for I-480 Corridor Study

September 4, 2024

Statements of Qualifications are due Wednesday, October 2, 2024, 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 I-480 Corridor Study (CN 22953). 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.

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 {ensure} 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.

100	Corridor Studies
112	NEPA Environmental Assessment
120	Roadway Design
130	Bridge Design
140	Traffic Operation Studies & Design
160	Right-of-Way Design (Land Ownership Research)
161	Right of Way Design (ROW plans)
162	Right of Way Design (Legal Descriptions/Plats)
200	Aerial Photography/Photogrammetry
210	Engineering Survey
212	LiDAR Acquisition & Processing
215	Land Surveying (ROW)
230	Hydraulic and Hydrologic Studies
250	Public Involvement

SCOPE OF SERVICES

PROJECT LOCATION

This project is located in Omaha, Nebraska along I-480, beginning just south of the Vinton Street overpass structure over I-480 and continuing north along I-480 to just south of the Harney St. overpass structure over I-480. The project study area would include consideration of the Martha Street, Woolworth Avenue, St Mary's Avenue and Leavenworth Street overpass structures. It does not include any geometric modifications to the I-80/I-480/US-75 interchange at the southernmost end of the project.

OVERVIEW

Beginning in 2013, the Nebraska Department of Roads, now known as the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), began meeting with the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA) to examine the future needs of the interstate and freeway systems in the Omaha Metro area. Following meetings included stakeholders such as the Cities of Omaha, Papillion, La Vista and Bellevue, Sarpy County, Douglas County, Omaha Metro, Iowa DOT and coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The outcome of these meetings was the Metro Area Travel Improvement Study (MTIS). The MTIS is a comprehensive transportation study that recognizes future interstate and freeway needs are linked with arterial, local road and transit system needs in the MAPA region. The study can be found at <https://mapacog.org/projects/metropolitan-travel-improvement-study-mtis/>.

While potential projects were identified, MTIS was a high-level assessment of the needs for the metro transportation system. The potential projects identified as part of MTIS would need to be validated through much more detailed evaluations before advancing through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process and detailed engineering and design. NDOT

has determined that some of the projects were dependent upon another being completed for the system to function at satisfactory levels of service. One of the areas identified is the I-480 corridor (Project).

MTIS provides foundational engineering and operational information related to the transportation corridors in and around the Omaha Metro Area. This project will require an in-depth analysis of the area, including assessment of some of the previous recommendations made for interchange modifications that include overhead bridge replacement and other access modifications. Specifically, this may require a modification to the I-480 mainline horizontal and/or vertical alignments, which may allow for grade raise considerations for structures over I-480 relative to potential I-480 mainline grade modifications. Design alternatives will need to be completed for these locations as well as other interchanges within the Project. Interchange modifications may require an Interchange Modification Report (IMR) or Interchange Access Report (IAR). Design alternatives may need to be completed for these locations within the Project corridor. Phase three of MTIS provides additional information on this Project as well as initial recommendations.

There are several bridges included in this project that will require assessment for replacement or other rehabilitative work. Vertical clearances shall be assessed throughout the Project corridor to determine whether a grade raise is practical or if I-480 should be lowered or shifted to accommodate minimum clearance requirements.

New right-of-way, utility relocation, extensive grading, culvert work, and potential railroad coordination will be required to construct this Project.

This Project will be developed as a Federal-aid eligible project so Consultant must have the capabilities and NDOT certification to conduct the necessary environmental reviews and create documents required for a NEPA evaluation. A NDOT-53, Preliminary Class of Action Determination, has been approved and the project will be reviewed as an Environmental Assessment (EA).

The Project will be developed in two phases as described below.

PHASE I – Corridor Study, Preliminary Design, NEPA Decision

The Consultant will provide survey, environmental resource reviews, traffic analyses, public meetings coordination and materials, and preliminary design of the corridor defined above as part of the alternatives analysis for the NEPA and environmental permitting process.

The preliminary plans would be updated as part of the public involvement, NEPA and permitting process. The public involvement process will involve stakeholders and public meetings; a public hearing will be required when the Draft Environmental Assessment is complete.

The Consultant will also prepare an IMR or IAR in accordance with 23 CFR Part 624, which is under final approval by FHWA, and 23 CFR Part 625 as needed with interchange modifications within the Project.

This phase would conclude after establishing the NEPA decision.

PHASE II – Final Design

At the discretion of NDOT, Phase II services will be completed under a supplemental agreement.

Upon receipt of the NEPA decision, the Consultant will recommend construction projects and sequencing within the corridor based off the information developed in Phase I. The Consultant shall consult with NDOT regarding budget limitations and other factors which may affect these decisions, including other ongoing MTIS projects.

Consultant will provide final design services for one or more of the defined construction segments along the Project 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. ROW design and plans will be completed either in house or by the consultant. Services during construction for revisions to the plans may also be requested. Re-evaluation of the NEPA document after final design is complete may be required.

PRELIMINARY SCOPE OF SERVICES

Preliminary Design services, including Environmental Documentation must be completed for corridor and NEPA approval. Following is a general description of the services. A basic scope of services (SOS) for most categories is included with the RFQ supporting documents.

Environmental Services

- Prepare necessary environmental documentation including other environmental surveys or services necessary to support and complete the NEPA decision-making process.
- Wetland and Waters of the U.S. (WOUS) delineation services to support NEPA evaluation and a Section 404 Permit application.
- Development of a 404 Permit application on behalf of NDOT, if necessary. NDOT assumes this project will result in minor wetland or WOUS impacts only, that could be addressed under the Nationwide Permit program.
 - NOTE: Consultant should have the ability to develop an Individual Section 404 Permit application as directed by NDOT should the project design result in WOUS impacts exceeding NWP thresholds.
- Aid in development of wetland mitigation requirements, if necessary
- Complete a Noise Study during the design process in accordance with NDOT's noise guidance documents
- Re-evaluation of NEPA document after final design is complete.
- An SOS for this work category is included as Attachment B1.

Roadway Design Services

- Roadway Design to support the services being performed internally and externally for the other work categories if not provided by selected consultant.
- Preparation of Preliminary plans, Functional plans, and preliminary Limits of Construction plans, plans for distribution to utilities and plans for PS&E submittal.

- 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 exception and relaxations to the Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards and design exceptions to the FHWA. A separate supplemental agreement will be developed if it is determined these items are required.
- Utility coordination services, including utility locates and mapping, Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE), conflict determination, avoidance, and coordination with Utility companies. A separate supplemental agreement will be developed if it is determined these items are required.
- An SOS for this work category is included as Attachment B2.

Interchange Justification/Modification/Access Report (IJR/IMR/IAR)

- The IJR, IMR or IAR will be prepared in accordance with 23 CFR Part 624, which is under final approval by FHWA, and 23 CFR Part 625.

Hydraulic & Hydrologic Services

- Perform hydraulic and hydrologic analysis at all stream crossings and lateral floodplain encroachment analysis along this corridor. This includes bridge size and non-bridge size structure locations.
- Preparation of preliminary bridge hydraulic data sheets and reports.
- Floodplain and floodway analysis in mapped areas to determine the profile of the new roadways.
- Floodplain certifications for all design work in mapped floodplain areas
- An SOS for this work category is included with Roadway Design services as Attachment B2.

Bridge Design Services

- Preliminary Bridge design of the interchange overpasses and mainline structures.
- An SOS for this work category is included as Attachment B3.

Survey Services

- Conducting preliminary surveys which may include traditional ground, photogrammetric or lidar surveys.
- Additional preliminary survey, if necessary.
- Right-of-way survey and any additional right-of-way survey, if necessary, may be performed by the selected Consultant, On-call Survey Firm or NDOT.
- SOSs for this work category are included as Attachment B4 and B5.

Traffic Engineering Services

- Traffic data collection (if needed)
- Prepare a comprehensive traffic operations and safety analysis for alternatives being considered along the corridor and an evaluation of any potential impacts to I-80 and I-480, adjacent interchanges, and the local roadway network.
- An SOS for this work category is included as Attachment B6.

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 corridor alternatives and for the NEPA decision-making process.
- Presentation support is anticipated before local boards, chambers of commerce, and citizen groups, and potentially, individual stakeholders and landowners.
- An SOS for this work category is included as Attachment B7.

Right-Of-Way Services

- The following services will be performed either in-house or by the selected Consultant and will be determined when the project schedule is established.
 - Land Survey (ROW)
 - Title research services to establish the boundaries and ownership interests in properties along or affected by the corridor
 - Preparation of ownership and right-of-way (ROW) design plans, creation of legal descriptions and condemnation plats
- NDOT will perform review and oversight for the ROW design process.
- An SOS for this work category is included as Attachment B8.

SCHEDULE

This project is currently in the planning process. Phase I services are anticipated to be complete within 18 months of Notice to Proceed. Once FHWA post the NEPA Process date, which generally would occur in conjunction with the “Agency Scoping Meeting, the EA/FONSI must be completed within eighteen (18) months. Once Phase I is completed, Phase II will be completed under a supplemental agreement with the schedule determined at that time.

DETAILS

It is anticipated that three (3) consultants will be short-listed for interviews, with one (1) consultant 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 services described in this RFQ. Refer to minimum requirements identified in the [NEPA Studies Qualifications Instructions](#).
2. Consultant's knowledge and understanding of NEPA process and of applicable federal regulations, and State and Federal procedures related to providing the environmental services.
3. Consultant has demonstrated they will allocate appropriate and sufficient staff resources or qualified subconsultants to meet corridor objectives and schedules.
4. Qualifications and capability of key subconsultants to perform the services outlined in this RFQ.
5. Applicability and relevance of comparable projects provided by the consultant.
6. Computer capability of the firm; GEOPAK OpenRoads technology for design, and MicroStation CAD platform.
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 and experience in preparing design alternatives for interchanges in both rural and urban environments.

B. PERFORMANCE DATA (20 pts)

1. Cooperation, communication, and timeliness of deliverables with NDOT and/or LPA staff on previous projects. If the consultant's team has no experience with NDOT, the consultant should include three (3) references in their response, including contact information, that have directly been involved with similar services.
2. The consultant's team has authored Environment Assessments and other environmental technical documents with minimal revision.

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

1. Consultant demonstrated understanding of the nature and scope of work for the project.

2. Consultant's team has authored Environmental Assessments, Wetland Delineation Reports Section 404 Permit Applications, and other environmental technical documents. (Consultant should provide a maximum of ten (10) documents in their response).
3. Consultant has provided comparable projects for which they have been involved.
4. The consultant has recognized and identified special circumstances to be considered for the corridor.
5. Consultant provided a logical approach to efficiently get consensus on corridor decisions and complete tasks.

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 on behalf of NDOT.

E. COMMITTEE Q&A SESSION (10 pts)

1. Consultant answered committee questions logically and thoroughly.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES	Date (2024)	Time (CST)
RFQ posted	September 4, 11, 18	
Last day questions will be accepted	September 11	4:00 PM
Last day Q&A or updates to RFQ may be posted	September 18	4:00 PM
NDOT Form 497 & Drug-Free Workplace Policy on file at NDOT	September 25	4:00 PM
Statement of Qualifications Due	September 25 October 2	1:00 PM
Post Short-List Consultants & Interview Schedule	October 9	4:00 PM
Interview	October 15	9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Post Final Selections	October 18	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

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.
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 at the Department of Transportation, Central Complex, Roadway Design Large Conference Room 209, 1500 Highway 2, Lincoln, Nebraska on the date and time specified in the Schedule of Activities. Interviews will be capped at 30 minutes, followed by up to 15 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

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER