



I-95 and US 70 Broadband Infrastructure Project
Response to Questions on the Request for Qualifications (“RFQ”)
April 30, 2020

Introduction

Based on the questions received for the I-95 and US 70 Broadband Infrastructure Project (“Project”) regarding the Request for Qualifications (“RFQ”), the North Carolina Department of Transportation (“Department”) has determined an addendum will not be issued. The Department is providing the below clarifications. The Department has considered all Proposer questions for the development of the clarifications. All other information beyond the clarifications will be provided within the Request for Proposal (“RFP”). Clarifications below have been arranged according to commercial and technical categories.

Commercial Clarifications

1. Procurement track selection and envisioned commercial structure
 - a. The Department is planning to use Statement of Qualification (“SOQ”) responses to contribute toward the decision regarding the procurement track selection. However, decisions on the preferred procurement track will be made at the RFP stage. Bidder evaluation criteria and preferred procurement track selection criteria will focus on maximizing value for North Carolina.
 - b. From a commercialization perspective, the envisioned commercial structure will be revenue risk in nature and will not consider availability payments, nor payments paid by the Department for the capex required for the commercialization scope.
 - c. Furthermore, key considerations for Bidder selection will include the price of the Design-Build scope and the share in commercialization potential, used to offset the overall cost of the Project for the Department.
2. Ownership of assets on the Department’s Right of Way (“R/W”).
 - a. The Department will exclusively own all right, title, and interest in the Department’s R/W, including the broadband infrastructure and any new assets added to the Department's R/W.
 - b. This will include any small cells / microcells installed per the Design-Build scope of work.
 - c. The RFP will provide additional information regarding access to the Department's R/W for routine, preventative, and emergency repairs / maintenance of the Broadband Infrastructure and related assets
3. Commercialization
 - a. It is anticipated that The Proposer will be given the right to commercialize, on a wholesale, open-access, and non-discriminatory basis, the broadband infrastructure, to the extent that it has not been reserved for NCDOT’s use.
 - b. It is also anticipated that the Proposer will have the right to install, operate, and maintain additional conduit(s), fiber strands, and related communications infrastructure and components for commercial uses for the length of the contract term.
4. Additional R/W Proposers require for commercialization
 - a. The Department owns all required R/W for the Project.
 - b. The selected OMC or P3 Entity will be required to acquire any additional R/W necessary for the commercialization services.

5. Procurement of State-Wide broadband infrastructure (further to this Project)
 - a. This Project is a part of the Department's broader broadband initiative to develop a statewide network across all of North Carolina's approximately 1,200 miles of interstate and approximately 4,000 miles of four-lane highways.
 - b. The Department is planning to procure each phase via a separate procurement.
6. Payment terms for the Design-Build contract
 - a. The RFP will provide additional information in terms of required deliverables and measurement and payment for each track.

Technical Clarifications

7. Environmental Document
 - a. The Department will complete the Environmental Document for this project.
8. Scope of Work
 - a. All requirements to complete the fiber network as well as other scopes of work will be detailed in the RFP.
9. Pre-qualification requirements
 - a. Proposers shall be pre-qualified by the Department for the work they are identified to perform.
 - b. If the Prime Contractor has been pre-qualified by the Department for design services, no additional pre-qualification will be required for this discipline.
10. Response requirements
 - a. Proposers are required to submit one SOQ response for each track they are interested in submitting their response(s). Refer to RFQ Section Part A - Sub-section 3 for additional information
11. Preclusion from participation in future NCDOT projects
 - a. The selected Proposer team will not be precluded from participating in future planned NCDOT design-build projects within the I-95 and US 70 corridors.
12. Coordination with other Projects
 - a. A detailed listing of NCDOT TIP projects, will be provided as a part of the RFP in the project special provision "Cooperation between Contractors".
 - b. The current construction schedules will be posted with provided materials.
 - c. Additionally, requirements for coordination (including maintenance of traffic for optimal construction time and coordination with other NCDOT projects) will be provided as part of the RFP.
 - d. During the operational phase of the Project, the Department will coordinate with the selected entity for any relocation of broadband network to accommodate the planned capital improvement projects, as necessary.
13. Project documents
 - a. Project Documents developed and available in support of this Project can be found at <https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/Pages/Design-Build.aspx>. Proposers can access information by navigating to the Project link at this website. Information will continually be placed here as we obtain it.

14. Structure design examples

- a. Examples of structure design that may be required includes attachments to the existing structures, Junction Boxes, equipment racks, poles/structures required for river crossing, aerial fiber locations, etc.

15. Relocation of utilities

- a. The selected Design-Build Entity / P3 Proposer should make every effort to avoid utility conflicts in the Broadband Infrastructure Project; in the event they cannot be avoided, it will be the responsibility of the successful Proposer to coordinate and relocate existing utilities impacted within the Department's R/W.