



**Procurement Launch Announcement**

**North Carolina Department of Transportation  
I-95 & US-70 Broadband Infrastructure Project (I-5986C/R-5777D)  
(Funded with Federal INFRA Grant)**

NCDOT was awarded a USDOT INFRA Grant for the I-95 & US-70 Innovative Technology and Rural Mobility Corridor Improvements, which includes the addition of broadband for 181 miles from the South Carolina to the Virginia border and 125 miles between I-40 and Havelock. On April 15, 2020 the North Carolina Department of Transportation (“NCDOT” or “Department”) plans to issue a Request for Qualification (“RFQ”) for the installation of fiber along I-95 and US-70 for approximately 306 miles (the “Project”).

The Project will be an opportunity for Design-Build (“DB”) teams, Operations, Maintenance and Commercialization (“OMC”) teams, and Public Private Partnership (“P3”) teams to propose for the design, installation, operation and maintenance, commercialization, and finance (as required) of broadband infrastructure.

Key Project objectives:

- Create a fiber backbone for NCDOT’s current and future technology needs;
- Expand universal access to broadband infrastructure across the state for schools, law enforcement, emergency response, and economic development; and
- Leverage excess capacity to support maintenance and other state needs.

NCDOT is using a unique approach to procure this Project to maximize value for North Carolinians. In addition to a standard DB procurement, NCDOT will add two procurement tracks in order to better assess the overall asset value. Two additional tracks will include one that targets OMC services and one for P3. At the end of the RFP process, a preferred procurement track and winning bidder will be selected.

NCDOT will invite Proposers to submit SOQ responses **for one or more** of the procurement tracks below:

- **Procurement track 1a – DB:** For Proposers that are interested in submitting an SOQ response addressing only the DB services;
- **Procurement track 1b – OMC:** For Proposers that are interested in submitting an SOQ response addressing only the OMC services;
- **Procurement track 2 – P3:** For Proposers that are interested in submitting an SOQ response for Design, Build, Finance, Operate, Maintain and Commercialization services.

More than one proposal may be submitted for example, DB proposers can propose on Track 1a and can team with P3 proposers on Track 2. OMC proposers can propose on Track 1b and team with P3 proposers on Track 2. P3 proposers should only submit proposals on Track 2. There will be no teaming of OMC and DB proposers for Tracks 1a and 1b. NCDOT will use a two-step procurement process to select a single DB Proposer (Track 1a); a single DB Proposer and a single OMC Proposer(Track 1a and 1b); or a single P3 Proposer (Track 2). NCDOT reserves the right at certain stages of the procurement to terminate Track 1b and Track 2 if it does not provide a benefit to the Department and State.

NCDOT’s selection of the preferred procurement track will be driven by maximizing value to the Department and State, which includes, but is not limited to, minimizing NCDOT payments for capital expenditure; minimizing NCDOT payments for O&M and lifecycle costs for NCDOT’s technical scope requirements; and maximizing commercialization sharing potential including any committed commercialization revenues, upfront payments cost offsets for OMC and/or P3 Services. Details of the assessment criteria will be communicated to bidders in the RFP.

The Procurement schedule below details the process and dates (subject to change due to COVID-19 impacts).

RFQ Advertisement	April 15, 2020
Statement of Qualifications due from DB, OMC and P3 Teams	May 29, 2020
Department announces short-listed teams	June 12, 2020

First industry draft RFP issued to short-listed teams	June 12, 2020
First 1-on-1 meetings with short-listed teams	July 14, 2020
Second industry draft RFP issued to short-listed teams (if required)	July 30, 2020
Second meeting with short-listed teams (if required)	August 12, 2020
Department issues final RFP to short-listed teams	August 26, 2020
Proposals due	October 9, 2020
Preferred procurement track and bidder selection	October 30, 2020

All procurement documents will be posted on the following Project website:

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/Pages/Design-Build.aspx>. Questions related to this procurement should be directed to [designbuild@ncdot.gov](mailto:designbuild@ncdot.gov).