

*North Carolina Department of Transportation*



## **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

### **DESIGN-BUILD**

**T.I.P. Project I-6064A, B & C / I-5879**

**I-95 Widening and Pavement Rehabilitation from I-74  
(Exit 13) to South of US 301 (Exit 22) and I-95 /  
SR 1536 (Carthage Road) Interchange Improvements**

**Robeson County, North Carolina**

**October 1, 2020**

*Advertisement Date*

**PURPOSE OF REQUEST**

The purpose of this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is to solicit Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) from firms interested in providing design and construction services necessary to rehabilitate the existing I-95 pavement, widen I-95 to eight lanes and modify interchanges from I-74 (Exit 13) to south of US 301 (Exit 22) in Robeson County, herein after referred to as the “Project”. Throughout this RFQ, the terms Design-Build Team, Contractor, Proposer, Bidder, Team, Firm and Company are synonymous and may include consortia, partnerships, joint ventures and others. Throughout this RFQ, the terms NCDOT, Department, Engineer and State are synonymous.

NCDOT will use a two-step process to select a proposer with which to execute a contract for the Project. This RFQ represents the first step in the process. After evaluation of responses to the RFQ, a minimum of two and a maximum of five proposers will be invited to respond to a Request for Proposals (RFP). At the Department’s discretion, an alternate short-listed team may be identified. In the event one of the short-listed teams elects to no longer pursue this Project, the Department may elect to invite the alternate short-listed team to participate. The second step in the process will be to receive a Technical Proposal and Price Proposal from each of the selected proposers. To the extent allowed by law, evaluation results will be confidential to NCDOT.

Upon evaluation of the Technical Proposals and opening of the Price Proposals, an adjusted price will be determined as outlined in the Request for Proposals. The adjusted price will take into account both technical quality and price. The Project award will be based on a determination of which firm submitted a proposal with the lowest adjusted price.

It is not the intention of the NCDOT to receive project specific design or engineering recommendations in response to this RFQ. Proposers should limit their submittals to the information required by this RFQ, including qualifications and experience of the proposer.

To ensure that information is distributed equitably to all short-listed Design-Build Teams, all questions and requests for information shall be directed to the State Contract Officer through the Design-Build e-mail address ([designbuild@ncdot.gov](mailto:designbuild@ncdot.gov)). This precludes any Design-Build team member, or representative, from contacting representatives of the Department, other State or Federal Agencies either by phone, e-mail or in person concerning the Design-Build Project.

Proposer’s attention is directed to the use of consulting engineer requirements in the Design-Build Policy and Procedures dated October 6, 2011 that shall apply to all firms except those that performed location and survey work tasks, geotechnical investigations, SPOT traffic analyses, and / or right of way acquisition activities using publicly available information. If a member of the proposer’s team wishes to be granted an exception to this Policy, then that team member should submit a letter to the Department requesting an exception. The letter should be addressed and submitted to Mr. Ronald E. Davenport, Jr., PE, at the address below:

Mr. Ronald E. Davenport, Jr., PE  
NCDOT - Contract Standards and Development Unit  
1020 Birch Ridge Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27610

## **OVERVIEW**

The proposed improvements shall rehabilitate the existing I-95 pavement, widen I-95 to eight lanes and modify interchanges from I-74 (Exit 13) to south of US 301 (Exit 22) in Robeson County. The project is approximately 8.0 miles long.

Project services shall include but are not limited to:

- **Design Services** - completion of construction plans
- **Construction Services** - necessary to build and ensure workmanship of the designed facility
- **Permit Preparation / Application** - development of all documents for required permits
- **Right of Way** - acquisition of right of way necessary to construct project
- **As-Constructed Drawings**
- **As-Built Plans**

**Construction Engineering Inspection** will be provided by the NCDOT Division personnel or will be performed under a separate contract.

The I-6064A, B & C Type III Categorical Exclusion is anticipated to be approved in December 2020.

The I-5879 Type III Categorical Exclusion was approved on November 15, 2018.

## **PROCUREMENT TIMELINE**

A procurement timeline will be maintained on the NCDOT Design-Build website for this project. This timeline can be accessed through the project link for I-6064A, B & C / I-5879 located at the following website:

[https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/Pages/Letting-List.aspx?let\\_type=Design&let\\_status=Advertised](https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/Pages/Letting-List.aspx?let_type=Design&let_status=Advertised)

Project specific information, including the procurement timeline will be continually updated on the aforementioned website. Therefore, the RFQ holder is encouraged to monitor this website for current information. It should be noted that the dates on the procurement timeline are subject to change without notice.

## **STIPEND**

A stipulated fee of **\$125,000.00** will be awarded to each short-listed Design-Build Team that provides a responsive, but unsuccessful, Design-Build Proposal. If a contract award is not made, all short-listed Design-Build Teams that provide a responsive Design-Build Proposal shall receive the stipulated fee. Once award is made, or a decision is made not to award, unsuccessful Design-Build Teams can apply for the stipulated fee by notifying the State Contract Officer, in writing, and providing an original invoice. If the Design-Build Team accepts the stipulated fee, the Department reserves the right to use any ideas or information contained in the Design-Build

Proposal and / or Alternative Technical Concepts, whether incorporated into the Design-Build Proposal or not, in connection with any contract awarded for the Project, or in connection with any subsequent procurement, with no obligation to pay additional compensation to the unsuccessful Design-Build Team. The stipulated fee will be paid to eligible Design-Build Teams within ninety days after the award of the contract or the decision not to award. Unsuccessful Design-Build Teams may elect to refuse payment of the stipulated fee and retain any rights to its Design-Build Proposal and the ideas and information contained therein.

In the event that the Department suspends or discontinues the procurement process prior to the Technical Proposal or Price Proposal submittal date current at the time of the suspension, no stipulated fee will be paid.

### **SCOPE OF WORK**

The designs shall meet all appropriate latest versions of AASHTO *Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets*, *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices* and all NCDOT design criteria.

Construction shall include, but not be limited to, all necessary work items for roadway, drainage, utility coordination, erosion and sediment control, foundation, substructure and superstructure work. Construction shall comply with 2018 NCDOT *Standard Specifications for Roads and Structures* and all applicable special provisions. Areas of work required for this Project will include, but are not limited to the following items:

1. Permit Application
2. Hydraulic Design
3. Roadway Design
4. Structure Design
5. Geotechnical Engineering
6. GeoEnvironmental Remediation
7. Construction
8. Erosion and Sedimentation Control
9. Utility Construction
10. R/W Utilities, Conflicts and / or Construction
11. Transportation Management Design
12. Pavement Marking Design
13. Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)
14. Lighting (Construction Only)
15. Foundation Design for Structures and Roadway
16. Signing Design
17. Traffic Signal Design
18. Design and Construction Management
19. Construction Surveying
20. Location and Surveys
21. Right of Way Acquisition
22. Public Involvement

## **PREQUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

All firms shall be prequalified by the Department for the work they are identified to perform. Design firms and Natural Systems firms must be prequalified by the particular office doing the work. If the work is to be done by an office other than the one that is prequalified, it will be necessary to have that office prequalified. Prior to the SOQ submittal deadline, the following team members shall be prequalified with the Department:

- Prime Contractor(s) (individually)
- Lead Design Firm (for all disciplines anticipated to provide preconstruction services)

All Joint Ventures, LLCs, or any legal structure that are different than the existing prequalification status must be prequalified prior to the Price Proposal submittal deadline. Subcontractors need only be prequalified prior to performing the work. Design firms should be prequalified prior to the Technical Proposal submittal deadline. If not prequalified at the time of the Technical Proposal submittal deadline, the prime contractor shall be solely responsible for either (1) ensuring that the design firm is prequalified prior to its first design submittal or (2) replacing that firm with a prequalified firm. In addition, the firm developing the Traffic Management Plans (TMP) must be prequalified through NCDOT in Work Code 541 - Traffic Management Plan - Level 1 and 2.

## **QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

The NCDOT will evaluate the Statements of Qualifications according to the criteria contained herein. Listed below are the required items to include in a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) from the proposing Design-Build Team. Also noted is the maximum number of allowable pages for each item.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Maximum Pages</b>
A. Introductory Letter	2
B. Evaluation Criteria	12
1. Project Understanding & Approach	
2. Design-Build Project Team	
3. Proposer's Capabilities	
4. Quality Program	
5. Safety Program	
C. Supportive Material (May include charts, graphs, photos, references, etc. provided maximum page limit is not exceeded)	4
D. Proposer's Information Form (Complete the form attached or a facsimile thereof and include in the Statement of Qualifications)	1
E. Work History Form (Complete the form attached or a facsimile thereof and include in the Statement of Qualifications)	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>22 pages</b>

A page shall be 8½” x 11”, printed on one side. Throughout the entire Statement of Qualifications, no specific font size or line spacing is required. However, all aspects of the Statement of Qualifications, including but not limited to the narrative, tables, charts, and graphics, should be clearly legible.

If dividers are used and contain specific project information they will be counted as pages.

Submissions exceeding the page limitations outlined above may be rejected and the Proposer will be notified in writing of the reason(s) for the rejection.

### **ADJECTIVAL EVALUATION OF CRITERIA**

All SOQ criteria will be evaluated on an adjectival basis, resulting in a determination of an overall Excellent, Good, Acceptable or Unacceptable (E, G, A or U, respectively) rating for each prospective Design-Build Team. Evaluators may also assign a “+” or “-“ to any of the foregoing adjectival ratings. Those categories denoted as primary selection criteria will carry the most weight during the evaluation process. Those categories denoted as secondary selection criteria may also be used to further differentiate the overall evaluation of the Statements of Qualifications.

***EXCELLENT*** ~ The Proposer has provided information relative to its qualifications which is considered to significantly exceed stated objectives / requirements in a beneficial way and indicates a consistently outstanding level of quality. There are essentially no weaknesses.

***GOOD*** ~ The Proposer has presented information relative to its qualifications which is considered to exceed stated objectives / requirements and offers a generally better than acceptable level of quality. Weaknesses are minor, but more significant than the excellent level, as defined above.

***ACCEPTABLE*** ~ The Proposer has presented information relative to its qualifications, which is considered to meet the stated objectives / requirements and has an acceptable level of quality. Weaknesses are moderate, but correctable.

***UNACCEPTABLE*** ~ The Proposer has presented information relative to its qualifications that contains significant weaknesses and / or deficiencies and / or unacceptable level of quality. The SOQ fails to meet the stated objectives and / or requirements and / or lacks essential information and is conflicting and / or unsupportive. Weaknesses / deficiencies are so major and / or extensive that a major revision to the SOQ would be necessary and / or are not correctable.

A determination that a Proposer’s SOQ is “acceptable”, “good” or “excellent” in no way implies that the Proposer will be a short-listed Design-Build Team.

## **SUBMITTAL AND CONTENTS OF SOQ**

Statements of Qualifications must be submitted in .pdf format, **by e-mail only**, to db\_soq\_submittal@ncdot.gov no later than **4:00 p.m. on October 29, 2020**.

If any team member, including an individual, design firm or contractor, identified in the Statement of Qualifications changes, the Design-Build Team shall immediately notify the Department in writing. The Team shall present to the Department the name of the individual, contractor and / or firm that will replace the entity that left the Team. The Department reserves the right to evaluate the new team member(s) and reject the proposed revision to the Team and / or reject the Team from further consideration during the two-step selection process.

The following describes more specifically, the content of each part:

### **A. INTRODUCTORY LETTER**

The introductory letter should be addressed to Mr. Ronald E. Davenport, Jr., PE and provide the following:

- An expression of interest in being selected for the Project.
- A statement detailing the legal structure of the Design-Build Team and / or consortium of firms.
- A statement acknowledging that all prime contractor(s) (individually) and the lead design firm(s) are currently prequalified with NCDOT.
- A statement confirming the commitment of the key subcontractors, design firms and personnel included in the Statement of Qualifications, and acknowledging that those identified in the Statement of Qualifications may only be replaced or removed through written Department approval.
- A statement that the Design-Build Team will comply with the NCDOT's Policy on DBE requirements.
- A statement acknowledging that the NCDOT may destroy all Statement of Qualifications not retained by the Department, **or** that the NCDOT should return all Statement of Qualifications not retained by the Department.

### **B. EVALUATION CRITERIA**

#### **1. Project Understanding and Approach** **Primary Selection Criterion**

This criterion relates to the Design-Build Team's basic or preliminary understanding of the Project. Major elements of the design and construction process should be briefly addressed.

- Discuss any major issues, project risks and third-party risks, and associated conceptual solutions.

- Discuss any innovative concepts that may be employed in design or construction.
- Discuss the project-specific technical elements / challenges for each pertinent design discipline and major construction operation.
- Provide a general schedule for the major project milestones, critical tasks and critical events. A graphical depiction, such as a bar chart, will suffice.
- Describe opportunities for the use of recycled products.

## **2. Design-Build Project Team**

## **Primary Selection Criterion**

This criterion relates to the Primary Proposer, the Project Managers, Key Staff and other members of the Design-Build Team. Comment on how well each individual's qualifications, experience and time allocation relate to the Project.

- Identify the legal structure of the Design-Build Team, and / or consortium of firms, submitting the Statement of Qualifications. Describe the business experience of the firm(s) as it relates to carrying out the Project.
- Describe the organizational structure of the Design-Build Team, the management approach and how each team member fits into the structure. Include an Organizational Chart with ample specificity to document the personnel committed to the Project.
- Identify the individuals to serve in the roles outlined in (a) through (d) below. Briefly address these individuals' responsibilities and qualifications. In addition, provide a brief description of work experience for each individual:
  - a. Design-Build Project Manager - Identify the person (or persons) who (1) will be responsible for ensuring that adequate personnel and other resources are made available for the Project; (2) will handle contractual matters; and (3) will be ultimately responsible for the quality and timeliness of the Design-Build Team. Discuss previous similar projects for which this person has performed a similar function.
  - b. Design Project Manager - State who will actively manage the design. Identify any projects that person will be involved with concurrently and time committed to each project. List recent similar projects for which this person has performed a comparable function. Discuss relevant experience, professional registrations, education and other components of qualifications applicable to the Project.
  - c. Construction Project Manager - State who will actively manage the construction. Identify any projects that person will be involved with concurrently and time committed to each project. List recent similar projects for which this person has performed a comparable function. Discuss relevant experience, professional registrations, education and other components of qualifications applicable to the



Project. Individual must have at least three years of experience in the construction of similar projects.

- d. Identify other members of the Design-Build Team including subconsultants / subcontractors (firms) and other Key Staff (individuals) that will provide special expertise or will perform key tasks. At a minimum, the lead designer for the major disciplines and major construction superintendents should be identified. Describe their anticipated roles and responsibilities.

### **3. Proposer's Capabilities**

### **Primary Selection Criterion**

This criterion relates to the Design-Build Team's capabilities regarding the Project. All design firms and contractors are expected to have performed satisfactorily on previous projects.

- Provide a brief profile (recommended one page maximum per entity) of the prime contractor(s) and lead design firm(s) capabilities.
- Provide a brief profile (recommended ½-page maximum per entity) for those design firms and construction subcontractors deemed by the Design-Build Team to be the most pertinent to the Project.
- Describe the current NCDOT workload for the prime contractor(s) identifying all projects currently under contract with a bid more than \$20 million. Identify all design projects (excluding minor bridge replacements) that the lead design firm(s) currently have under contract with NCDOT. It is recommended that this discussion include a reference to current NCDOT workload versus capacity, as well as the percent complete for all projects. A table of projects will suffice and it is recommended, but not required, that this information be provided in the Supportive Materials Section. The workload discussion need not include projects where the contractor(s) and / or design firm(s) are currently short-listed for another Design-Build Project under procurement.
- List projects (over the last five years) that have resulted in the assessment of liquidated damages against any major participant for a delay in the substantial or final completion of a project. If recent North Carolina experience (over the last five years) includes schedule delays, identify these delays and address how the Design-Build Team will alleviate similar issues on the Project. Furnish examples of similar projects in which the major participants have completed their tasks ahead of schedule, including an explanation of how this was accomplished. Describe the Design-Build Team's internal procedures for developing, monitoring and maintaining project schedules.
- List all project / construction related Notice of Violations (NOVs) received by any team member within the last five years on projects in the United States and the disposition of each listed NOV. Explain the Design-Build Team's approach to environmental responsibilities and permit compliance.
- Indicate the activities that the prime contractor(s) will self-perform to accomplish a minimum of 30% of the work.

- Indicate the resources that will be made available, and from what source, to complete the Project. Demonstrate that appropriate resources will be committed to perform the work. Describe any equipment or other resources the Design-Build Team has that will enhance their ability to accomplish the Project.
- Discuss methods that the Design-Build Team has in place for addressing claims and contract modifications. For similar type projects, describe total project costs and the total value of change orders and verified claims. If recent North Carolina experience (over the last five years) includes any active verified claims, identify these verified claims and address how the Team will alleviate similar issues on the Project. Furnish examples of similar projects in which the major participants have completed their tasks below budget, including an explanation of how this was accomplished.
- The Design-Build Team shall complete the Work History Form provided. This form requires the Design-Build Team to list five projects completed within the last eight years individually for both the prime contractor(s) and lead design firm(s) with a brief description of each project. A reference shall be included for each project listed. At a minimum, all references shall include an individual's name and current telephone number.
- Discuss the Design-Build Team's recent relevant experience. Projects listed should be similar in nature to the Project and, to the extent possible, involve team members proposed for the Project. Projects discussed in this portion of the Statement of Qualifications may expand on those projects listed in the Work History Form or may provide a discussion on other relevant projects.
- Describe the Design-Build Team's design expertise, including structure design, roadway design, traffic control, geotechnical and other key disciplines for the Project. The level of experience for the lead designers, engineers, natural systems personnel (if applicable) for each primary discipline (e.g. Structures, Roadway, Permits, Geotechnical, Hydraulics and Traffic Control) is expected to be five years minimum.
- Describe any notable expertise, increase in capacity or other special capabilities of the team members that are unique and / or critical to the Design-Build Team's Statement of Qualifications.
- Describe the Design-Build Team's approach to including DBE subcontractors as part of the Team. Detail how this plan will be implemented and monitored throughout the life of the Project.

#### **4. Quality Program**

#### **Secondary Selection Criterion**

This criterion relates to the Design-Build Team's quality management capabilities.

- Describe the qualifications of the Design-Build Team's Quality Manager.
- Describe any significant design, material and / or construction quality control issues experienced on NCDOT projects in the last five years and the measures taken to ensure similar issues will not impact the Project.

- Identify the prime contractor's and lead design firm's policies and / or procedures for quality control in design and construction phases.
- Describe the Design-Build Team's control measures that ensure the quality of subcontractors, suppliers and producers.

## **5. Safety Program** **Secondary Selection Criterion**

This criterion relates to the Design-Build Team's safety program.

- Describe the qualifications of the Design-Build Team's Safety Officer.
- List the Design-Build Team's experience modification rate for the three (3) most recent years. It is recommended, although not required, that this information be provided in the Supportive Materials Section.
- Provide a brief overview of the Design-Build Team's safety program, including orientation programs, if any.
- Provide documentation of the past five (5) year safety record on all construction projects (i.e. OSHA citations - list circumstances and outcome, etc.). It is recommended, although not required, that this information be provided in the Supportive Materials Section.

## **DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES**

The NCDOT is committed to complying with the North Carolina General Statute 136-28.4 with respect to disadvantaged minority-owned and women-owned business enterprises (MBE and WBE) for state funded projects and supporting Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms on federally funded projects. DBE construction goals will be set forth in the Request for Proposals. Utilization of additional Small Professional Service Firms is encouraged in the use of design subconsultants.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS**

The NCDOT reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to either proceed no further with the Project procurement process or to re-advertise in another public solicitation.

The NCDOT reserves the right to accept or reject any and all responses and / or discontinue the selection process at any time prior to contract execution. In the event that the Department suspends or discontinues this procurement prior to the Technical Proposal or Price Proposal submittal date current at the time of the suspension, no stipulated fee will be paid.

The NCDOT assumes no liability and will not reimburse costs incurred by firms (whether selected or not) in developing responses to this RFQ.

The NCDOT will not be bound by oral explanations or instructions given at any time during the procurement process or after award. Only information that is received in response to this RFQ

will be evaluated; references to information previously submitted will not suffice as a response to this solicitation.

The NCDOT reserves the right to request or obtain additional information about any and all responses to this RFQ. NCDOT may also issue addenda to this RFQ which will be mailed / e-mailed to all RFQ holders.

The prime proposer must perform at least 30% of the work.

A proposer can only appear as a prime in one Statement of Qualifications for the Project. Proposers are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the North Carolina Public Records Act, North Carolina General Statute § 132-1 et seq. In the event the Proposer submits any documents which the Proposer believes are not subject to disclosure pursuant to the aforementioned Act, it must conspicuously mark each document “CONFIDENTIAL” or “CONFIDENTIAL TRADE SECRETS”. All unmarked pages will be subject to release in accordance with the North Carolina Public Records Act. Proposers should be prepared, upon request, to provide justification of why any or all marked materials should not be disclosed under the aforementioned Act.

**All questions** must be directed to Mr. Ronald E. Davenport, Jr., PE via the Design-Build e-mail address at [designbuild@ncdot.gov](mailto:designbuild@ncdot.gov). For tracking purposes, questions will **only** be answered through e-mail requests.

**PROPOSER'S INFORMATION FORM**

**I-6064A, B & C / I-5879**

**\*\* NOTE: The person indicated here will receive all RFP's, correspondence and other information provided by the Department to the short-listed teams.**

<b>*CONTACT PERSON</b>	
DESIGN-BUILD TEAM:	_____
ADDRESS:	_____
	_____
CITY, STATE, ZIP:	_____
TELEPHONE:	_____
FAX NUMBER:	_____
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	_____

CONTACT PERSON	_____
DESIGN-BUILD TEAM:	_____
ADDRESS:	_____
	_____
CITY, STATE, ZIP:	_____
TELEPHONE:	_____
FAX NUMBER:	_____
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	_____

CONTACT PERSON	_____
DESIGN-BUILD TEAM:	_____
ADDRESS:	_____
	_____
CITY, STATE, ZIP:	_____
TELEPHONE:	_____
FAX NUMBER:	_____
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	_____

**WORK HISTORY**

**Work by firms or joint-venture members which best illustrates current qualifications relevant to this project. List projects, completed in the last eight years. Five projects shall be listed for the prime contractor(s) and five projects shall be listed for the lead design firm(s). No more than ten projects shall be listed.**

a. Project Name & Location	b. Nature of Firm's Responsibility	c. Project Owner's Name & Address and Project Manager's Name & Phone Number	d. Completion Date	e. Estimated Cost (In Thousands)		
				Entire Project	Work for which firm was responsible	Work for which firm self-performed
(1)						
(2)						
(3)						
(4)						

(5)						
(6)						
(7)						
(8)						
(9)						
(10)						