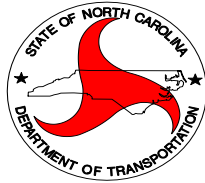


STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**



Division 14

District 1

## **ID/IQ Contract**

**CONTRACT:** DN12194928  
**TIP Number:** N/A  
**FEDERAL:** STATE FUNDED  
**WBS Element:** GMR14.HEN.1N GMR14.HEN.1P GMR14.HEN.2P, ETC  
**LOCATION:** VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT HENDERSON,  
POLK, AND TRANSYLVANIA COUNTIES  
**COUNTY:** HENDERSON, POLK, TRANSYLVANIA  
**DESCRIPTION:** ID/IQ EQUIPMENT AND HAULING AT VARIOUS  
LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT HENDERSON, POLK, AND  
TRANSYLVANIA COUNTIES

**Contractor:** ACE Clearing & Construction Inc  
**Address:** PO Box 128  
Robbinsville, NC 28771

**Division Engineer:** Wesley Grindstaff, P.E.  
**District Engineer:** Troy Wilson, P.L.S.

**Letting Date:** 2/10/2026

**Contract Execution:** 02/27/2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HIGHWAY DIVISION 14

**ID/IQ PROPOSAL**

**DATE AND TIME OF BID OPENING: FEBRUARY 10, 2026 AT 2:00 PM**

**CONTRACT ID: DN12194928**

**WBS ELEMENT NO.: GMR14.HEN.1N GMR14.HEN.1P GMR14.HEN.2P  
GMR14.HEN.2U GMR14.POL.1N GMR14.POL.1P  
GMR14.POL.2P GMR14.POL.2U GMR14.TRA.1P  
GMR14.TRA.2P GMR14.TRA.2U**

**FEDERAL AID NO.: STATE FUNDED**

**COUNTY: HENDERSON, POLK, AND TRANSYLVANIA**

**TIP NO.: N/A**

**MILES: VARIES**

**ROUTE NO.: VARIES**

**★ LOCATION: VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT HENDERSON, POLK, ★  
AND TRANSYLVANIA COUNTIES**

**TYPE OF WORK: ID/IQ EQUIPMENT AND HAULING**

**NOTICE:**

**ALL BIDDERS SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE LAWS REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF GENERAL CONTRACTING AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 87 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES OF NORTH CAROLINA WHICH REQUIRES THE BIDDER TO BE LICENSED BY THE N.C. LICENSING BOARD FOR CONTRACTORS WHEN BIDDING ON ANY NON-FEDERAL AID PROJECT WHERE THE BID IS \$30,000 OR MORE, EXCEPT FOR CERTAIN SPECIALTY WORK AS DETERMINED BY THE LICENSING BOARD. BIDDERS SHALL ALSO COMPLY WITH ALL OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS REGULATING THE PRACTICES OF ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING, HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING AND REFRIGERATION CONTRACTING AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 87 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES OF NORTH CAROLINA. NOTWITHSTANDING THESE LIMITATIONS ON BIDDING, THE BIDDER WHO IS AWARDED ANY FEDERAL - AID FUNDED PROJECT SHALL COMPLY WITH CHAPTER 87 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR LICENSING REQUIREMENTS WITHIN 60 CALENDAR DAYS OF BID OPENING.**

**THIS IS A ROADWAY PROJECT.**

**BID BOND IS NOT REQUIRED.**

**ACE Clearing & Construction Inc**

**NAME OF BIDDER**

**PO Box 128 Robbinsville, NC 28771**

**ADDRESS OF BIDDER**

**PROPOSAL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF  
 CONTRACT No. DN12194928 IN Henderson, Polk and Transylvania Counties, NORTH CAROLINA  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,  
 RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA**

The Bidder has carefully examined the location of the proposed work to be known as Contract No. **DN12194928**; has carefully examined the plans and specifications, which are acknowledged to be part of the proposal, the special provisions, the proposal, the form of contract; and thoroughly understands the stipulations, requirements and provisions. The undersigned bidder agrees to be bound upon his execution of the bid and subsequent award to him by the Department of Transportation in accordance with this proposal. Payment and performance bonds are not required on this project. The undersigned Bidder further agrees to provide all necessary machinery, tools, labor, and other means of construction; and to do all the work and to furnish all materials, except as otherwise noted, necessary to perform and complete the said contract in accordance with the *2024 Standard Specifications for Roads and Structures* by the dates(s) specified in the Project Special Provisions and in accordance with the requirements of the Engineer, and at the unit or lump sum prices, as the case may be, for the various items given on the sheets contained herein.

The Bidder shall provide and furnish all the materials, machinery, implements, appliances and tools, and perform the work and required labor to construct and complete Contract No. **DN12194928** in **Henderson, Polk and Transylvania Counties**, for the unit or lump sum prices, as the case may be, bid by the Bidder in his bid and according to the proposal, plans, and specifications prepared by said Department, which proposal, plans, and specifications show the details covering this project, and hereby become a part of this contract.

The published volume entitled *North Carolina Department of Transportation, Raleigh, Standard Specifications for Roads and Structures, January 2024* with all amendments and supplements thereto, is by reference incorporated into and made a part of this contract; that, except as herein modified, all the construction and work included in this contract is to be done in accordance with the specifications contained in said volume, and amendments and supplements thereto, under the direction of the Engineer.

If the proposal is accepted and the award is made, the contract is valid only when signed either by the Contract Officer or such other person as may be designated by the Secretary to sign for the Department of Transportation. The conditions and provisions herein cannot be changed except over the signature of the said Contract Officer or Division Engineer.

The quantities shown in the itemized proposal for the project are considered to be approximate only and are given as the basis for comparison of bids. The Department of Transportation may increase or decrease the quantity of any item or portion of the work as may be deemed necessary or expedient.

An increase or decrease in the quantity of an item will not be regarded as sufficient ground for an increase or decrease in the unit prices, nor in the time allowed for the completion of the work, except as provided for the contract.



Signed by:  
  
 29BD93927CF24F6...  
 02/24/2026

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS****PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY  
BEFORE PREPARING AND SUBMITTING YOUR BID.**

All bids shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the following requirements. Failure to comply with any requirement may cause the bid to be considered irregular and may be grounds for rejection of the bid.

**TRADITIONAL PAPER BIDS:**

1. Download the entire proposal from the Connect NCDOT website and return the entire proposal with your bid.
2. In accordance with Article 102-3 of the *Standard Specifications*, registration on the Interested Parties List is required unless SP1 G02 Interested Parties List Not Required provision is included in the proposal.
3. All entries on the itemized proposal sheet (bid form) shall be written in ink or typed.
4. The Bidder shall submit a unit price for every item on the itemized proposal sheet. The unit prices for the various contract items shall be written in figures. Unit prices shall be rounded off by the Bidder to contain no more than FOUR decimal places.
5. An amount bid shall be entered on the itemized proposal sheet for every item. The amount bid for each item shall be determined by multiplying each unit bid by the quantity for that item, and shall be written in figures in the "Amount" column of the form.
6. The total amount bid shall be written in figures in the proper place on the bid form. The total amount bid shall be determined by adding the amounts bid for each item.
7. Changes to any entry shall be made by marking through the entry in ink and making the correct entry adjacent thereto in ink. A representative of the Bidder shall initial the change in ink. Do not use correction fluid, correction tape or similar product to make corrections.
8. The bid shall be properly executed on the included **Execution of Bid – Non-collusion, Debarment and Gift Ban Certification** form. All bids shall show the following information:
  - a. Name of corporation, partnership, Limited Liability Company, joint venture, individual or firm, submitting bid.  
Corporations that have a corporate seal shall include it on the bid, otherwise write your corporations name in the seal location.
  - b. Name of individual or representative submitting bid and position or title held on behalf of the bidder.
  - c. Name, signature, and position or title of witness.
9. The bid shall not contain any unauthorized additions, deletions, or conditional bids.
10. The Bidder shall not add any provision reserving the right to accept or reject an award, or to enter into a contract pursuant to an award.
11. **THE PROPOSAL WITH THE ITEMIZED PROPOSAL SHEET ATTACHED SHALL BE PLACED IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND SHALL BE DELIVERED TO AND RECEIVED IN THE NCDOT DIVISION OFFICE, LOCATED AT 253 Webster Road Sylva, NC 28779, BY 2:00 PM ON, February 10, 2026.**
12. The sealed bid must display the following statement on the front of the sealed envelope:

**QUOTATION FOR – CONTRACT ID DN12194928 – ID/IQ EQUIPMENT AND HAULING AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT HENDERSON, POLK, AND TRANSYLVANIA COUNTIES TO BE OPENED AT 2:00 PM ON, February 10, 2026.**

As well as the following information:

- a. Name of corporation, partnership, Limited Liability Company, joint venture, individual or firm, submitting bid.
- b. Name of individual or representative submitting bid and position or title held on behalf of the bidder.
- c. Address of corporation, partnership, Limited Liability Company, joint venture, individual or firm, submitting bid.
- d. SAP Vendor Number of corporation, partnership, Limited Liability Company, joint venture, individual or firm, submitting bid.

e. Contractor License Number, if available, of corporation, partnership, Limited Liability Company, joint venture, individual or firm, submitting bid.

13. If delivered by mail, the sealed envelope shall be placed in another sealed envelope and the outer envelope shall be addressed as follows:

**N. C. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS, DIVISION 14**

**ATTN: Jeffrey E. Alspaugh, EI  
253 Webster Road  
Sylva, NC 28779**

14. Questions should be emailed 7 calendar days prior to the bid opening to **Jeffrey E. Alspaugh, EI** at **d14contracts@ncdot.gov**. Contact with any other NCDOT personnel concerning this project is strictly prohibited, unless otherwise noted, and may result in bids being considered non-responsive.

**PROJECT SPECIAL PROVISIONS****GENERAL****MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE (Prequalifying To Bid):**

(7-18-06) (Rev. 3-25-13)

SPD 1-310

In order for all prospective bidders to have an extensive knowledge of the project, all prospective bidders shall attend a mandatory pre-bid conference on **Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 1:00 PM.**

Location: **NCDOT Division 14 Office  
253 Webster Rd  
Sylva NC 28779**

Point of Contact: **Troy Wilson  
(828) 435-7300**

The pre-bid conference will include a thorough discussion of the plans, contract pay items, special provisions, etc.

Only bidders who have attended and properly registered at the above scheduled pre-bid conference and who have met all other prequalification requirements will be considered prequalified to bid on this project. A bid received from a bidder who has not attended and properly registered at the above scheduled pre-bid conference will not be accepted and considered for award.

Attendance at the pre-bid conference will not meet the requirements of proper registration unless the individual attending has registered at the pre-bid conference in accordance with the following:

- (A) The individual has signed his name on the official roster prior to the above noted time for the beginning of the conference.
- (B) The individual has written in the name and address of the company he or she represents.
- (C) Only one company has been shown as being represented by the individual attending.
- (D) The individual attending is an officer or permanent employee of the company they are representing.

Any individual arriving after the official roster has been received by the Engineer will not be eligible to bid. Attendance at any prior pre-bid conference will not meet the requirement of this provision.

**INTERESTED PARTIES LIST NOT REQUIRED:**

(6-21-22)(Rev. 2-20-24)

102

SP1 G02

Revise the *Standard Specifications* as follows:

The *Interested Parties List* sign up process is not applicable to this contract.

**Page 1-13, Article 102-3 PROPOSALS AND INTERESTED PARTIES LIST, lines 12-15,** delete the first paragraph.

**Page 1-14, Article 102-8 PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF BIDS, lines 43-44,** delete the first sentence of the first paragraph.

**HAUL ROADS:**

(7-16-24)

105

SP1 G04

Revise the *Standard Specifications* as follows:

**Page 1-45, Article 105-15 RESTRICTION OF LOAD LIMITS, line 31,** add the following after second sentence of the second paragraph:

At least 30 days prior to use, the Contractor shall notify the Engineer of any public road proposed for use as a haul road for the project.

**CONTRACT TIME FOR ID/IQ:**

(2-15-22)(Rev. 4-15-25)

108

SP1 G11

The date of availability for this contract is **March 9, 2026.**

The completion date for this contract is **March 8, 2027.**

Except where otherwise provided by the contract, observation periods required by the contract will not be a part of the work to be completed by the completion date and/or intermediate contract times stated in the contract. The acceptable completion of the observation periods that extend beyond the final completion date shall be a part of the work covered by the performance and payment bonds.

Work shall be accomplished in a continuous manner once the contractor begins.

The liquidated damages for this contract will be assessed per the Mobilization and Liquidated Damages for ID/IQ provision located elsewhere in this contract.

**NON-EXCLUSIVE CONTRACT:**

(6-1-15)

SPD 01-750

The Department may, as it deems to be in the best interest of the state and the Department of Transportation, execute more than one contract based on this proposal. The Contractor(s) understands and agrees, by signature on the Purchase Order Contract Bid Proposal, that this agreement does not constitute an exclusive contract. If awarded, the contracts will be executed with the lowest responsible bidders. The Department of Transportation reserves the right to make

multiple awards for the services provided by this contract. Furthermore, the Department reserves the right to reject all bids received.

**WORK ORDER ASSIGNMENT (MULTIPLE AWARDS) FOR ID/IQ:**

(2-15-22)(Rev. 4-19-22)

SPD 01-800B

Work orders will be assigned based on the lowest work order cost for the line items and estimated quantities necessary to complete the work order. Unit prices from each awarded contractor's bid will be used to determine the lowest cost for each work order. The assigned Contractor shall respond to the work order assignment with the anticipated start date, within three working days of notification unless noted otherwise. Failure on the part of the Contractor to reply within the specified time frame may be received as a rejection of the work order. If the Contractor with the lowest work order cost cannot complete the work within the time specified in the assignment, the Engineer may contact the Contractor with the next lowest work order cost. If that Contractor can complete the work within the time specified in the assignment, then the work order will be assigned to that contractor. If not, assignment of work order will continue in order of work order cost until all awarded Contractors have had a chance to accept the terms of the assignment.

For federal ID/IQ contracts, all work orders will be assigned via the Work Order Assignment form (Form IDIQ-1MA), and the Contractor is required to formally respond in writing for federal work orders within three working days, unless noted otherwise. The Work Order Assignment form will also be used for any state ID/IQ contract in which the estimated work order cost meets the threshold for Performance and Payment Bonds in accordance with the Bonding Requirements for ID/IQ provision found elsewhere in this contract. For state ID/IQ contracts in which the work order assignment doesn't meet the threshold for bonds, the Department has the option to use the Work Order Assignment Form or other methods for work order assignments as agreed upon by the Engineer and Contractor.

The Contractor shall be required to prosecute the work in a continuous and uninterrupted manner from the time they begin the work until completion and final acceptance of the work order. Multiple failures of the Contractor to mobilize and begin work on the work order within the agreed upon time frame or failure to complete the work within the given time frame may result in the Contractor being excluded from future work on this contract in accordance with the *Standard Specifications*.

**BONDING REQUIREMENTS FOR ID/IQ:**

(2-15-22)

SPD 01-810

For purposes of this ID/IQ contract, the following definitions apply:

**Project Agreement:** A transportation improvement with a defined scope of work; a written agreement between NCDOT and the Federal Government defining the extent of construction work to be undertaken in accordance with the submitted plans, specifications and estimates. Execution of the agreement prompts the authorization to proceed (construction funding).

**Project:** An undertaking issued to a contractor through a Work Order Assignment. The construction under a Project Agreement may be accomplished by one or more work order assignments, from one or more ID/IQ contracts. Note that for ID/IQ contracts this definition supersedes the definition in the Standard Specifications.

Award: The issuance of a signed Work Order Assignment by NCDOT shall constitute the notice of award of a project.

In accordance with North Carolina General Statute 44A-26, bonds are required on contracts awarded for any one project that exceeds \$500,000. Beyond statutory requirements, NCDOT policy requires payment and performance bonds on all projects where the engineer's estimate is \$450,000 or greater, all Asphalt Surface Treatment projects, and projects containing the 12-month guarantee provision. The limit for waiving bonds for all bridge replacement and major bridge rehabilitation projects (latex overlays, etc.) is \$300,000 based on the engineer's estimate. The decision of bonding of a work order assignment below the dollar amounts listed shall be at the discretion of the Division's evaluation of the risks associated with the project.

The need for contract payment and performance bonds will be determined at the Work Order Assignment level. The Work Order Assignment will notify the Contractor of an award of a project and if required, to provide contract payment and performance bonds per Article 103-7 of the *Standard Specifications*. The Work Order Assignment replaces the Notification of Award Letter mentioned in Article 103-4(A) of the *Standard Specifications*.

**MOBILIZATION AND LIQUIDATED DAMAGES FOR ID/IQ:**

(2-15-22)

SPD 01-820

The Contractor shall mobilize to each location he is required to perform work. There will be no direct pay for Mobilization as it will be incidental to the other bid items. The only exception is if there is an Emergency Mobilization provision within the contract.

The Contractor will be provided a Work Order Assignment for each project with location(s), estimated quantities, and liquidated damages unless waived by the Engineer. Notification will be verbal followed by a faxed or emailed signed Work Order Assignment. There will be no minimum quantities for any line item associated with a particular mobilization. The Contractor shall complete the work identified on each Work Order Assignment.

The Contractor shall mobilize and complete the work within the time specified on the Work Order Assignment. Failure to complete the work by the completion date may result in the application of liquidated damages. Liquidated damage amounts will be based on the work order estimate and the liquidated damage table below.

<b>Work Order Value</b>	<b>Liquidated Damages (per calendar day)</b>
\$0 - \$100K	\$100.00
\$100K - \$200K	\$250.00
\$200K - \$300K	\$500.00
\$300K - \$500K	\$600.00
\$500K - \$1M	\$700.00
\$1M - \$2M	\$850.00

**EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION FOR ID/IQ:**

(2-15-22)

SPD 01-830

The Contractor shall arrive on site within **Forty Eight (48)** hours of notification. Compensation will be in addition to the specific line items in the contract. *Emergency Mobilization* will be paid for at the contract unit price per each. Failure to respond within the time frame will result in nonpayment of this item.

Payment will be made under:

<b>Pay Item</b>	<b>Pay Unit</b>
Emergency Mobilization	Each

**RENEWAL OF CONTRACT (CPI PRICE ADJUSTMENT) FOR ID/IQ:**

(2-15-22)(Rev. 9-19-23)

SPD 01-840

The Contractor shall submit a bid for one year. At the option of the Department, this contract may be extended for **Two (2)** additional periods of one year each (maximum (3) three years total). Each year shall have a limit of **Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00)**.

The compensation payable to the contractor shall be fixed for the first twelve months of this contract. However, upon an application of renewal of the contract, or thirty days prior to the end of each contract period, the renewal contract may be adjusted to reflect the adjustment in the Consumer Price Index over the latest twelve month period as published by the US Bureau of Labor and Statistics at <http://www.bls.gov/cpi> to be applied to new work order assignments. The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), US City Average, All Items, 1982-84=100, not seasonally adjusted will be used. If the amount of the requested adjustment is more than ten percent, the Department of Transportation reserves the right to cancel this contract.

CPI adjustment values can be determined using the calculator on the NCDOT Construction website.

This price escalation method will not be applied to items of work that are separately covered under commodity price escalation clauses. No other changes in the terms, conditions, etc. of this contract will be made when an extension to the contract is implemented. The Engineer will notify the Contractor in writing by **60** if the contract may be extended. The Contractor must notify the Engineer in writing by **30** of his acceptance or rejection of this offer. Failure on the part of the Contractor to reply will be received as a rejection of contract extension.

**DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS FOR ID/IQ:**

(2-15-22)(Rev. 1-16-24)

SPD 01-850

If a question should arise on the contract or assignment of a work order, the contractor should notify the Engineer noted on the assignment documentation or the Division Engineer within 48 hours after the scheduled time of bid opening or work order assignment. The following should be included in the notification if applicable:

- (A) the contract for which bids were solicited;
- (B) the particular law, regulation, or contract specification violated;
- (C) a detailed description of the alleged violation; and
- (D) any other information deemed to be relevant.

Once the initial evaluation has been completed, the contractor may be asked to attend a meeting for further discussion and clarification.

Once a determination has been made, the contractor will be notified of the decision by the Division Engineer. If the decision does not meet the satisfaction of the contractor, they have 24 hours from the Division Engineer's notification to elevate the dispute to the Chief Engineer. The Chief Engineer will make the final decision and will not be subject to further review by NCDOT.

**INTERMEDIATE CONTRACT TIME NUMBER 1 AND LIQUIDATED DAMAGES:**

(2-20-07)

108

SP1 G14 A

The Contractor shall complete the required work of installing, maintaining, and removing the traffic control devices for lane closures and restoring traffic to the existing traffic pattern. The Contractor shall not close or narrow a lane of traffic on **ANY ROAD** during the following time restrictions:

**DAY AND TIME RESTRICTIONS**

**MONDAY THRU FRIDAY**

**7:00 AM TO 8:00 AM**

**AND**

**5:00 PM TO 6:00 PM**

In addition, the Contractor shall not close or narrow a lane of traffic on **ANY ROAD**, detain and/or alter the traffic flow on or during holidays, holiday weekends, special events, or any other time when traffic is unusually heavy, including the following schedules:

**HOLIDAY AND HOLIDAY WEEKEND LANE CLOSURE RESTRICTIONS**

1. For **unexpected occurrence** that creates unusually high traffic volumes, as directed by the Engineer.
2. For **New Year's Day**, between the hours of **4:00 PM** December 31st and **7:00 AM** January 2nd. If New Year's Day is on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday, then until **7:00 AM** the following Tuesday.
3. For **Easter**, between the hours of **4:00 PM** Thursday and **7:00 AM** Monday.
4. For **Memorial Day**, between the hours of **4:00 PM** Friday and **7:00 AM** Tuesday.
5. For **Independence Day**, between the hours of **4:00 PM** the day before Independence Day and **7:00 AM** the day after Independence Day.

If **Independence Day** is on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday or Monday, then between the hours of **4:00 PM** the Thursday before Independence Day and **7:00 AM** the Tuesday after Independence Day.

6. For **Labor Day**, between the hours of **4:00 PM** Friday and **7:00 AM** Tuesday.

7. For **Thanksgiving Day**, between the hours of **4:00 PM** Tuesday and **7:00 AM** Monday.
8. For **Christmas**, between the hours of **4:00 PM** the Friday before the week of Christmas Day and **7:00 AM** the following Tuesday after the week of Christmas Day.

Holidays and holiday weekends shall include New Year's, Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The Contractor shall schedule his work so that lane closures will not be required during these periods, unless otherwise directed by the Engineer.

The time of availability for this intermediate contract work shall be the time the Contractor begins to install all traffic control devices for lane closures according to the time restrictions listed herein.

The completion time for this intermediate contract work shall be the time the Contractor is required to complete the removal of all traffic control devices for lane closures according to the time restrictions stated above and place traffic in the existing traffic pattern.

The liquidated damages are **Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$ 250.00)** per hour.

**CONSTRUCTION MORATORIUM:**

(7-15-14)

SP1 G18A

No in-water work or land disturbance within the 25 foot wide buffer zone will be allowed from **OCTOBER 15** through **APRIL 15** of any year.

**CONSTRUCTION MORATORIUM:**

(1-19-16)

SP1 G18C

No tree cutting will be allowed from **APRIL 1** through **OCTOBER 15** of any year.

**NO MAJOR CONTRACT ITEMS:**

(2-19-02) (Rev. 8-21-07)

104

SP1 G31

None of the items included in this contract will be major items.

**NO SPECIALTY ITEMS:**

(7-1-95)(Rev. 1-16-24)

108-6

SP1 G34

None of the items included in this contract will be specialty items (see Article 108-6 of the *Standard Specifications*).

**SCHEDULE OF ESTIMATED COMPLETION PROGRESS:**

(7-15-08)(Rev. 6-17-25)

108-2

SP1 G58

The Contractor's attention is directed to the Standard Special Provision entitled *Availability of Funds Termination of Contracts* included elsewhere in this proposal. The Department of Transportation's schedule of estimated completion progress for this project as required by that Standard Special Provision is as follows:

	<b><u>Fiscal Year</u></b>	<b><u>Progress (% of Dollar Value)</u></b>
2026	(7/01/25 - 6/30/26)	<b>31%</b> of Total Amount Bid
2027	(7/01/26 - 6/30/27)	<b>69%</b> of Total Amount Bid

The Contractor shall also furnish his own progress schedule in accordance with Article 108-2 of the *Standard Specifications*. Any acceleration of the progress as shown by the Contractor's progress schedule over the progress as shown above shall be subject to the approval of the Engineer.

**MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AND WOMEN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DIVISIONS):**

(10-16-07)(Rev. 10-21-25)

102-15(J)

SP1 G67

**Description**

The purpose of this Special Provision is to carry out the North Carolina Department of Transportation's policy of ensuring nondiscrimination in the award and administration of contracts financed in whole or in part with State funds.

**Definitions**

*Additional MBE/WBE Subcontractors* - Any MBE/WBE submitted at the time of bid that will not be used to meet the Combined MBE/WBE goal. No submittal of a Letter of Intent is required.

*Combined MBE/WBE Goal*: A portion of the total contract, expressed as a percentage that is to be performed by committed MBE/WBE subcontractors.

*Committed MBE/WBE Subcontractor* - Any MBE/WBE submitted at the time of bid that is being used to meet the Combined MBE / WBE goal by submission of a Letter of Intent. Or any MBE or WBE used as a replacement for a previously committed MBE or WBE firm.

*Contract Goal Requirement* - The approved participation at time of award, but not greater than the advertised Combined MBE/WBE contract goal.

*Goal Confirmation Letter* - Written documentation from the Department to the bidder confirming the Contractor's approved, committed participation along with a listing of the committed MBE and WBE firms.

*Manufacturer* - A firm that owns (or leases) and operates or maintains a factory or establishment that produces on the premises, the materials or supplies obtained by the Contractor. A firm that makes minor modifications to the materials, supplies, articles, or equipment is not a manufacturer.

*MBE Participation (Anticipated)* - A portion of the total contract, expressed as a percentage that is anticipated to be performed by committed MBE subcontractor(s).

*Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)* - A firm certified as a Disadvantaged Minority-Owned Business Enterprise through the North Carolina Unified Certification Program.

*Regular Dealer* - A firm that owns (or leases), and operates a store, warehouse, or other establishment in which the materials or supplies required for the performance of the contract are bought, kept in sufficient quantities, and regularly sold to the public in the usual course of business. A regular dealer engages in, as its principal business and in its own name, the purchase and sale or lease of the products in question. A regular dealer in such bulk items as steel, concrete or concrete products, gravel, stone, asphalt and petroleum products need not keep such products in stock, if it owns and operates distribution equipment for the products. Any supplement of regular dealers' own distribution equipment shall be by a long-term operating lease and not on an ad hoc or contract-by-contract basis.

*Distributor* – A firm that engages in the regular sale or lease of the items specified by the contract. A distributor assumes responsibility for the items it purchases once they leave the point of origin (e.g., a manufacturer's facility), making it liable for any loss or damage not covered by the carrier's insurance.

*Replacement / Substitution* – A full or partial reduction in the amount of work subcontracted to a committed (or an approved substitute) MBE/WBE firm.

*North Carolina Unified Certification Program (NCUCP)* - A program that provides comprehensive services and information to applicants for MBE/WBE certification. The MBE/WBE program follows the same regulations as the federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26.

*United States Department of Transportation (USDOT)* - Federal agency responsible for issuing regulations (49 CFR Part 26) and official guidance for the DBE program.

*WBE Participation (Anticipated)* - A portion of the total contract, expressed as a percentage that is anticipated to be performed by committed WBE subcontractor(s).

*Women Business Enterprise (WBE)* - A firm certified as a Disadvantaged Women-Owned Business Enterprise through the North Carolina Unified Certification Program.

### **Forms and Websites Referenced in this Provision**

*Payment Tracking System* - On-line system in which the Contractor enters the payments made to MBE and WBE subcontractors who have performed work on the project.  
<https://apps.dot.state.nc.us/Vendor/PaymentTracking/>

*DBE-IS Subcontractor Payment Information* - Form for reporting the payments made to all MBE/WBE firms working on the project. This form is for paper bid projects only.

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/business/Turnpike/Documents/Form%20DBE-IS%20Subcontractor%20Payment%20Information.pdf>

RF-1 *MBE/WBE Replacement Request Form* - Form for replacing a committed MBE or WBE.

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/construction/Construction%20Forms/DBE%20MBE%20WBE%20Replacement%20Form%20and%20Instructions.pdf>

SAF *Subcontract Approval Form* - Form required for approval to sublet the contract.

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/construction/Construction%20Forms/SAF%20Form%20-%20Subcontract%20Approval%20Form%20Revised%2004-19.xlsm>

JC-1 *Joint Check Notification Form* - Form and procedures for joint check notification. The form acts as a written joint check agreement among the parties providing full and prompt disclosure of the expected use of joint checks.

<http://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/construction/Construction%20Forms/Joint%20Check%20Notification%20Form.pdf>

*Letter of Intent* - Form signed by the Contractor and the MBE/WBE subcontractor, manufacturer or regular dealer that affirms that a portion of said contract is going to be performed by the signed MBE/WBE for the estimated amount (based on quantities and unit prices) listed at the time of bid.

<http://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/LetCentral/Letter%20of%20Intent%20to%20Perform%20as%20a%20Subcontractor.pdf>

*Listing of MBE and WBE Subcontractors Form* - Form for entering MBE/WBE subcontractors on a project that will meet the Combined MBE/WBE goal. This form is for paper bids only.

[http://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/Bid%20Proposals%20for%20LGA%20Content/09%20MBE-WBE%20Subcontractors%20\(State\).docx](http://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/Bid%20Proposals%20for%20LGA%20Content/09%20MBE-WBE%20Subcontractors%20(State).docx)

*Subcontractor Quote Comparison Sheet* - Spreadsheet for showing all subcontractor quotes in the work areas where MBEs and WBEs quoted on the project. This sheet is submitted with good faith effort packages.

<http://connect.ncdot.gov/business/SmallBusiness/Documents/DBE%20Subcontractor%20Quote%20Comparison%20Example.xls>

*DBE Regular Dealer/Distributor Affirmation Form* – Form is used to make a preliminary counting determination for each DBE listed as a regular dealer or distributor to assess its eligibility for 60 or 40 percent credit, respectively of the cost of materials or supplies based on its demonstrated capacity and intent to perform as a regular dealer or distributor, as defined in section 49 CFR 26.55 under the contract at issue. A Contractor will submit the completed form with the Letter of Intent.

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/construction/Construction%20Forms/DBE%20Regular%20Dealer-Distributor%20Affirmation%20Form%20-%20USDOT%202024.pdf>

### **Combined MBE/WBE Goal**

**There is NO MBE/WBE Goal for this project.**

### **Directory of Transportation Firms (Directory)**

Real-time information is available about firms doing business with the Department and firms that are certified through NCUCP in the Directory of Transportation Firms. Only firms identified in the Directory as MBE and WBE certified shall be used to meet the Combined MBE / WBE goal. The Directory can be found at the following link.

<https://www.ebs.nc.gov/VendorDirectory/default.html>

The listing of an individual firm in the directory shall not be construed as an endorsement of the firm's capability to perform certain work.

### **Listing of MBE/WBE Subcontractors**

At the time of bid, bidders shall submit all MBE and WBE participation that they anticipate to use during the life of the contract. Only those identified to meet the Combined MBE/WBE goal will be considered committed, even though the listing shall include both committed MBE/WBE subcontractors and additional MBE/WBE subcontractors. Any additional MBE/WBE subcontractor participation above the goal will follow the banking guidelines found elsewhere in this provision. All other additional MBE/WBE subcontractor participation submitted at the time of bid will be used toward the Department's overall race-neutral goals. Only those firms with current MBE and WBE certification at the time of bid opening will be acceptable for listing in the bidder's submittal of MBE and WBE participation. The Contractor shall indicate the following required information:

(A) Electronic Bids

Bidders shall submit a listing of MBE and WBE participation in the appropriate section of the electronic submittal file.

- (1) Submit the names and addresses of MBE and WBE firms identified to participate in the contract. If the bidder uses the updated listing of MBE and WBE firms shown in the electronic submittal file, the bidder may use the dropdown menu to access the name and address of the firms.
- (2) Submit the contract line numbers of work to be performed by each MBE and WBE firm. When no figures or firms are entered, the bidder will be considered to have no MBE or WBE participation.
- (3) The bidder shall be responsible for ensuring that the MBE and WBE are certified at the time of bid by checking the Directory of Transportation Firms. If the firm is not certified at the time of the bid-letting, that MBE's or WBE's participation will not count towards achieving the Combined MBE/WBE goal.

## (B) Paper Bids

- (1) *If the Combined MBE/ WBE goal is more than zero,*
  - (a) Bidders, at the time the bid proposal is submitted, shall submit a listing of MBE/WBE participation, including the names and addresses on *Listing of MBE and WBE Subcontractors* contained elsewhere in the contract documents in order for the bid to be considered responsive. Bidders shall indicate the total dollar value of the MBE and WBE participation for the contract.
  - (b) If bidders have no MBE or WBE participation, they shall indicate this on the *Listing of MBE and WBE Subcontractors* by entering the word “None” or the number “0.” This form shall be completed in its entirety. **Blank forms will not be deemed to represent zero participation.** Bids submitted that do not have MBE and WBE participation indicated on the appropriate form will not be read publicly during the opening of bids. The Department will not consider these bids for award and the proposal will be rejected.
  - (c) The bidder shall be responsible for ensuring that the MBE/WBE is certified at the time of bid by checking the Directory of Transportation Firms. If the firm is not certified at the time of the bid-letting, that MBE’s or WBE’s participation will not count towards achieving the Combined MBE/WBE goal.
- (2) *If the Combined MBE/WBE Goal is zero,* entries on the *Listing of MBE and WBE Subcontractors* are not required for the zero goal, however any MBE or WBE participation that is achieved during the project shall be reported in accordance with requirements contained elsewhere in the special provision.

**MBE or WBE Prime Contractor**

When a certified MBE or WBE firm bids on a contract that contains a Combined MBE/WBE Goal, the firm is responsible for meeting the goal or making good faith efforts to meet the goal, just like any other bidder. In most cases, a MBE or WBE bidder on a contract will meet the Combined MBE/WBE goal by virtue of the work it performs on the contract with its own forces. However, all the work that is performed by the MBE or WBE bidder and any other similarly certified subcontractors will count toward the goal. The MBE or WBE bidder shall list itself along with any MBE or WBE subcontractors, if any, in order to receive credit toward the goals.

MBE/WBE prime contractors shall also follow Sections A or B listed under *Listing of MBE/WBE Subcontractors* just as a non-MBE/WBE bidder would.

**Written Documentation – Letter of Intent**

The bidder shall submit written documentation for each MBE/WBE that will be used to meet the Combined MBE/WBE goal of the contract, indicating the bidder’s commitment to use the

MBE/WBE in the contract. This documentation shall be submitted on the Department's form titled *Letter of Intent*.

The documentation shall be received in the office of the Engineer no later than 2:00 p.m. of the fifth calendar day following opening of bids, unless the fifth day falls on Saturday, Sunday or an official state holiday. In that situation, it is due in the office of the Engineer no later than 10:00 a.m. on the next official state business day.

If the bidder fails to submit the Letter of Intent from each committed MBE and WBE to be used toward the Combined MBE/WBE goal, or if the form is incomplete (i.e. both signatures are not present), the MBE/WBE participation will not count toward meeting the Combined MBE/WBE goal. If the lack of this participation drops the commitment below the Combined MBE/WBE goal, the Contractor shall submit evidence of good faith efforts for the goal not met, completed in its entirety, to the Engineer no later than 2:00 p.m. of the eighth calendar day following opening of bids, unless the eighth day falls on Saturday, Sunday or an official state holiday. In that situation, it is due in the office of the Engineer no later than 10:00 a.m. on the next official state business day.

### **Banking MBE/WBE Credit**

If the committed MBE/WBE participation submitted exceeds the algebraic sum of the Combined MBE/WBE goal by \$1,000 or more, the excess will be placed on deposit by the Department for future use by the bidder. Separate accounts will be maintained for MBE and WBE participation and these may accumulate for a period not to exceed 24 months.

When the apparent lowest responsive bidder fails to submit sufficient participation by MBE and WBE firms to meet the advertised goal, as part of the good faith effort, the Department will consider allowing the bidder to withdraw funds to meet the Combined MBE/WBE goal as long as there are adequate funds available from the bidder's MBE and WBE bank accounts.

### **Submission of Good Faith Effort**

If the bidder fails to meet or exceed the Combined MBE/WBE goal, the apparent lowest responsive bidder shall submit to the Department documentation of adequate good faith efforts made to reach that specific goal.

One complete set and 2 copies of this information shall be received in the office of the Engineer no later than 2:00 p.m. of the fifth calendar day following opening of bids, unless the fifth day falls on Saturday, Sunday or an official state holiday. In that situation, it is due in the office of the Engineer no later than 10:00 a.m. on the next official state business day.

Note: Where the information submitted includes repetitious solicitation letters, it will be acceptable to submit a representative letter along with a distribution list of the firms that were solicited. Documentation of MBE/WBE quotations shall be a part of the good faith effort submittal. This documentation may include written subcontractor quotations, telephone log notations of verbal quotations, or other types of quotation documentation.

### **Consideration of Good Faith Effort for Projects with a Combined MBE/WBE Goal More Than Zero**

Adequate good faith efforts mean that the bidder took all necessary and reasonable steps to achieve the goal which, by their scope, intensity, and appropriateness, could reasonably be expected to obtain sufficient MBE/WBE participation. Adequate good faith efforts also mean that the bidder actively and aggressively sought MBE/WBE participation. Mere *pro forma* efforts are not considered good faith efforts.

The Department will consider the quality, quantity, and intensity of the different kinds of efforts a bidder has made. Listed below are examples of the types of actions a bidder will take in making a good faith effort to meet the goals and are not intended to be exclusive or exhaustive, nor is it intended to be a mandatory checklist.

- (A) Soliciting through all reasonable and available means (e.g. attendance at pre-bid meetings, advertising, written notices, use of verifiable electronic means through the use of the NCDOT Directory of Transportation Firms) the interest of all certified MBEs/WBEs that are also prequalified subcontractors. The bidder must solicit this interest within at least 10 days prior to bid opening to allow the MBEs/WBEs to respond to the solicitation. Solicitation shall provide the opportunity to MBEs/WBEs within the Division and surrounding Divisions where the project is located. The bidder must determine with certainty if the MBEs/WBEs are interested by taking appropriate steps to follow up initial solicitations.
- (B) Selecting portions of the work to be performed by MBEs/WBEs in order to increase the likelihood that the Combined MBE/WBE goal will be achieved.
  - (1) Where appropriate, break out contract work items into economically feasible units to facilitate MBE/WBE participation, even when the prime contractor might otherwise prefer to perform these work items with its own forces.
  - (2) Negotiate with subcontractors to assume part of the responsibility to meet the advertised goal when the work to be sublet includes potential for MBE/WBE participation (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> tier subcontractors).
- (C) Providing interested certified MBEs/WBEs that are also prequalified subcontractors with adequate information about the plans, specifications, and requirements of the contract in a timely manner to assist them in responding to a solicitation.
- (D) (1) Negotiating in good faith with interested MBEs/WBEs. It is the bidder's responsibility to make a portion of the work available to MBE/WBE subcontractors and suppliers and to select those portions of the work or material needs consistent with the available MBE/WBE subcontractors and suppliers, so as to facilitate MBE/WBE participation. Evidence of such negotiation includes the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of MBEs/WBEs that were considered; a description of the information provided regarding the plans and specifications for the work selected for subcontracting; and evidence as to why additional agreements could not be reached for MBEs/WBEs to perform the work.

- (2) A bidder using good business judgment would consider a number of factors in negotiating with subcontractors, including MBE/WBE subcontractors, and would take a firm's price and capabilities as well as the advertised goal into consideration. However, the fact that there may be some additional costs involved in finding and using MBEs/WBEs is not in itself sufficient reason for a bidder's failure to meet the advertised goal, as long as such costs are reasonable. Also, the ability or desire of a prime contractor to perform the work of a contract with its own organization does not relieve the bidder of the responsibility to make good faith efforts. Bidding contractors are not, however, required to accept higher quotes from MBEs/WBEs if the price difference is excessive or unreasonable.
- (E) Not rejecting MBEs/WBEs as being unqualified without sound reasons based on a thorough investigation of their capabilities. The bidder's standing within its industry, membership in specific groups, organizations, or associates and political or social affiliations (for example, union vs. non-union employee status) are not legitimate causes for the rejection or non-solicitation of bids in the bidder's efforts to meet the project goal.
- (F) Making efforts to assist interested MBEs/WBEs in obtaining bonding, lines of credit, or insurance as required by the recipient or bidder.
- (G) Making efforts to assist interested MBEs/WBEs in obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or related assistance or services.
- (H) Effectively using the services of available minority/women community organizations; minority/women contractors' groups; Federal, State, and local minority/women business assistance offices; and other organizations as allowed on a case-by-case basis to provide assistance in the recruitment and placement of MBEs/WBEs. Contact within 7 days from the bid opening the Business Opportunity and Work Force Development Unit at [BOWD@ncdot.gov](mailto:BOWD@ncdot.gov) to give notification of the bidder's inability to get MBE or WBE quotes.
- (I) Any other evidence that the bidder submits which shows that the bidder has made reasonable good faith efforts to meet the advertised goal.

In addition, the Department may take into account the following:

- (1) Whether the bidder's documentation reflects a clear and realistic plan for achieving the Combined MBE/WBE goal.
- (2) The bidders' past performance in meeting the contract goal.
- (3) The performance of other bidders in meeting the advertised goal. For example, when the apparent successful bidder fails to meet the goal, but others meet it, you may reasonably raise the question of whether, with additional reasonable efforts the apparent successful bidder could have met the goal. If the apparent successful bidder fails to meet the advertised goal, but meets or exceeds the average MBE and WBE participation obtained by other bidders, the Department may view this,

in conjunction with other factors, as evidence of the apparent successful bidder having made a good faith effort.

If the Department does not award the contract to the apparent lowest responsive bidder, the Department reserves the right to award the contract to the next lowest responsive bidder that can satisfy to the Department that the Combined MBE/WBE goal can be met or that an adequate good faith effort has been made to meet the advertised goal.

### **Non-Good Faith Appeal**

The Engineer will notify the Contractor verbally and in writing of non-good faith. A Contractor may appeal a determination of non-good faith made by the Goal Compliance Committee. If a Contractor wishes to appeal the determination made by the Committee, they shall provide written notification to the Engineer. The appeal shall be made within 2 business days of notification of the determination of non-good faith.

### **Counting MBE/WBE Participation Toward Meeting the Combined MBE/WBE Goal**

#### **(A) Participation**

The total dollar value of the participation by a committed MBE/WBE will be counted toward the contract goal requirements. The total dollar value of participation by a committed MBE/WBE will be based upon the value of work performed by the MBE/WBE and the actual payments to MBE/WBE firms by the Contractor.

#### **(B) Joint Checks**

Prior notification of joint check use shall be required when counting MBE/WBE participation for services or purchases that involves the use of a joint check. Notification shall be through submission of Form JC-1 (*Joint Check Notification Form*) and the use of joint checks shall be in accordance with the Department's Joint Check Procedures.

#### **(C) Subcontracts (Non-Trucking)**

A MBE/WBE may enter into subcontracts. Work that a MBE subcontracts to another MBE firm may be counted toward the anticipated MBE participation. The same holds for work that a WBE subcontracts to another WBE firm. Work that a MBE/WBE subcontracts to a non-MBE/WBE firm does not count toward the contract goal requirement. It should be noted that every effort shall be made by MBE and WBE contractors to subcontract to the same certification (i.e., MBEs to MBEs and WBEs to WBEs), in order to fulfill the MBE or WBE participation breakdown. This, however, may not always be possible due to the limitation of firms in the area. If the MBE or WBE firm shows a good faith effort has been made to reach out to similarly certified firms and there is no interest or availability, and they can get assistance from other certified firms, the Engineer will not hold the prime responsible for meeting the individual MBE or WBE breakdown. If a MBE or WBE contractor or subcontractor subcontracts a significantly greater portion of the work of the

contract than would be expected on the basis of standard industry practices, it shall be presumed that the MBE or WBE is not performing a commercially useful function.

(D) Joint Venture

When a MBE or WBE performs as a participant in a joint venture, the Contractor may count toward its contract goal requirement a portion of the total value of participation with the MBE or WBE in the joint venture, that portion of the total dollar value being a distinct clearly defined portion of work that the MBE or WBE performs with its forces.

(E) Manufacturer, Regular Dealer, Distributor

A Contractor may count toward its MBE/WBE requirement 40 percent of its expenditures for materials or supplies (including transportation costs) from a MBE/WBE distributor, 60 percent of its expenditures for materials or supplies (including transportation costs) from a MBE/WBE regular dealer and 100 percent of such expenditures obtained from a MBE/WBE manufacturer.

A Contractor may count toward its MBE/WBE requirement the following expenditures to MBE/WBE firms that are not manufacturers, regular dealers or distributors:

- (1) The fees or commissions charged by a MBE/WBE firm for providing a *bona fide* service, such as professional, technical, consultant, or managerial services, or for providing bonds or insurance specifically required for the performance of a DOT-assisted contract, provided the fees or commissions are determined to be reasonable and not excessive as compared with fees and commissions customarily allowed for similar services.
- (2) With respect to materials or supplies purchased from a MBE/WBE, which is neither a manufacturer, regular dealer, nor a distributor count the entire amount of fees or commissions charged that the Department deems to be reasonable, including transportation charges for the delivery of materials or supplies. Do not count any portion of the cost of the materials and supplies themselves.

A Contractor will submit a completed *DBE Regular Dealer/Distributor Affirmation Form* with the Letter of Intent to the Engineer. The Engineer will forward to the State Contractor Utilization Engineer or DBE@ncdot.gov. The State Contractor Utilization Engineer will make a preliminary assessment as to whether a MBE/WBE supplier has the demonstrated capacity to perform a commercially useful function (CUF) on a contract-by-contract basis *prior* to its participation.

### Commercially Useful Function

(A) MBE/WBE Utilization

The Contractor may count toward its contract goal requirement only expenditures to MBEs and WBEs that perform a commercially useful function in the work of a contract. A MBE/WBE performs a commercially useful function when it is responsible for

execution of the work of the contract and is carrying out its responsibilities by performing, managing, and supervising the work involved. To perform a commercially useful function, the MBE/WBE shall also be responsible with respect to materials and supplies used on the contract, for negotiating price, determining quality and quantity, ordering the material and installing (where applicable) and paying for the material itself. To determine whether a MBE/WBE is performing a commercially useful function, the Department will evaluate the amount of work subcontracted, industry practices, whether the amount the firm is to be paid under the contract is commensurate with the work it is performing and the MBE/WBE credit claimed for its performance of the work, and any other relevant factors. If it is determined that a MBE or WBE is not performing a Commercially Useful Function, the contractor may present evidence to rebut this presumption to the Department.

(B) MBE/WBE Utilization in Trucking

The following factors will be used to determine if a MBE or WBE trucking firm is performing a commercially useful function:

- (1) The MBE/WBE shall be responsible for the management and supervision of the entire trucking operation for which it is responsible on a particular contract, and there shall not be a contrived arrangement for the purpose of meeting the Combined MBE/WBE goal.
- (2) The MBE/WBE shall itself own and operate at least one fully licensed, insured, and operational truck used on the contract.
- (3) The MBE/WBE receives credit for the total value of the transportation services it provides on the contract using trucks it owns, insures, and operates using drivers it employs.
- (4) The MBE may subcontract the work to another MBE firm, including an owner-operator who is certified as a MBE. The same holds true that a WBE may subcontract the work to another WBE firm, including an owner-operator who is certified as a WBE. When this occurs, the MBE or WBE who subcontracts work receives credit for the total value of the transportation services the subcontracted MBE or WBE provides on the contract. It should be noted that every effort shall be made by MBE and WBE contractors to subcontract to the same certification (i.e., MBEs to MBEs and WBEs to WBEs), in order to fulfill the participation breakdown. This, however, may not always be possible due to the limitation of firms in the area. If the MBE or WBE firm shows a good faith effort has been made to reach out to similarly certified transportation service providers and there is no interest or availability, and they can get assistance from other certified providers, the Engineer will not hold the prime responsible for meeting the individual MBE or WBE participation breakdown.
- (5) The MBE/WBE may also subcontract the work to a non-MBE/WBE firm, including from an owner-operator. The MBE/WBE who subcontracts the work to a non-MBE/WBE is entitled to credit for the total value of transportation services provided by the non-MBE/WBE subcontractor not to exceed the value

of transportation services provided by MBE/WBE-owned trucks on the contract. Additional participation by non-MBE/WBE subcontractors receives credit only for the fee or commission it receives as a result of the subcontract arrangement. The value of services performed under subcontract agreements between the MBE/WBE and the Contractor will not count towards the MBE/WBE contract requirement.

- (6) A MBE/WBE may lease truck(s) from an established equipment leasing business open to the general public. The lease must indicate that the MBE/WBE has exclusive use of and control over the truck. This requirement does not preclude the leased truck from working for others during the term of the lease with the consent of the MBE/WBE, so long as the lease gives the MBE/WBE absolute priority for use of the leased truck. This type of lease may count toward the MBE/WBE's credit as long as the driver is under the MBE/WBE's payroll.
- (7) Subcontracted/leased trucks shall display clearly on the dashboard the name of the MBE/WBE that they are subcontracted/leased to and their own company name if it is not identified on the truck itself. Magnetic door signs are not permitted.

### **MBE/WBE Replacement**

When a Contractor has relied on a commitment to a MBE or WBE subcontractor (or an approved substitute MBE or WBE subcontractor) to meet all or part of a contract goal requirement, the contractor shall not terminate the MBE/WBE subcontractor or any portion of its work for convenience. This includes, but is not limited to, instances in which the Contractor seeks to perform the work of the terminated subcontractor with another MBE/WBE subcontractor, a non-MBE/WBE subcontractor, or with the Contractor's own forces or those of an affiliate.

The Contractor must give notice in writing both by certified mail and email to the MBE/WBE subcontractor, with a copy to the Engineer of its intent to request to terminate a MBE/WBE subcontractor or any portion of its work, and the reason for the request. The Contractor must give the MBE/WBE subcontractor five (5) business days to respond to the Contractor's Notice of Intent to Request Termination and/or Substitution. If the MBE/WBE subcontractor objects to the intended termination/substitution, the MBE/WBE, within five (5) business days must advise the Contractor and the Department of the reasons why the action should not be approved. The five-day notice period shall begin on the next business day after written notice is provided to the MBE/WBE subcontractor.

A committed MBE/WBE subcontractor may only be terminated or any portion of its work after receiving the Department's written approval based upon a finding of good cause for the proposed termination and/or substitution. Good cause does not exist if the Contractor seeks to terminate a MBE/WBE or any portion of its work that it relied upon to obtain the contract so that the Contractor can self-perform the work for which the MBE/WBE was engaged, or so that the Contractor can substitute another MBE/WBE or non-MBE/WBE contractor after contract award. For purposes of this section, good cause shall include the following circumstances:

- (a) The listed MBE/WBE subcontractor fails or refuses to execute a written contract;
- (b) The listed MBE/WBE subcontractor fails or refuses to perform the work of its subcontract in a way consistent with normal industry standards. Provided, however, that good cause

does not exist if the failure or refusal of the MBE/WBE subcontractor to perform its work on the subcontract results from the bad faith or discriminatory action of the prime contractor;

- (c) The listed MBE/WBE subcontractor fails or refuses to meet the prime contractor's reasonable, nondiscriminatory bond requirements;
- (d) The listed MBE/WBE subcontractor becomes bankrupt, insolvent, or exhibits credit unworthiness;
- (e) The listed MBE/WBE subcontractor is ineligible to work on public works projects because of suspension and debarment proceedings pursuant to 2 CFR parts 180, 215 and 1200 or applicable State law;
- (f) The listed MBE/WBE subcontractor is not a responsible contractor;
- (g) The listed MBE/WBE voluntarily withdraws from the project and provides written notice of withdrawal;
- (h) The listed MBE/WBE is ineligible to receive MBE/WBE credit for the type of work required;
- (i) A MBE/WBE owner dies or becomes disabled with the result that the listed MBE/WBE contractor is unable to complete its work on the contract; and
- (j) Other documented good cause that compels the termination of the MBE/WBE subcontractor.

The Contractor shall comply with the following for replacement of a committed MBE/WBE:

(A) Performance Related Replacement

When a committed MBE/WBE is terminated for good cause as stated above, an additional MBE/WBE that was submitted at the time of bid may be used to fulfill the MBE/WBE commitment to meet the Combined MBE/WBE Goal. A good faith effort will only be required for removing a committed MBE/WBE if there were no additional MBE/WBEs submitted at the time of bid to cover the same amount of work as the MBE/WBE that was terminated.

If a replacement MBE/WBE is not found that can perform at least the same amount of work as the terminated MBE/WBE, the Contractor shall submit a good faith effort documenting the steps taken. Such documentation shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Copies of written notification to MBE/WBEs that their interest is solicited in contracting the work defaulted by the previous MBE/WBE or in subcontracting other items of work in the contract.
- (2) Efforts to negotiate with MBE/WBEs for specific subbids including, at a minimum:
  - (a) The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of MBE/WBEs who were contacted.
  - (b) A description of the information provided to MBE/WBEs regarding the plans and specifications for portions of the work to be performed.
- (3) A list of reasons why MBE/WBE quotes were not accepted.

- (4) Efforts made to assist the MBE/WBEs contacted, if needed, in obtaining bonding or insurance required by the Contractor.
- (B) Decertification Replacement
- (1) When a committed MBE/WBE is decertified by the Department after the SAF (*Subcontract Approval Form*) has been received by the Department, the Department will not require the Contractor to solicit replacement MBE/WBE participation equal to the remaining work to be performed by the decertified firm. The participation equal to the remaining work performed by the decertified firm will count toward the contract goal requirement but not the overall goal.
    - (i) If the MBE/WBE's ineligibility is caused solely by its having exceeded the size standard during the performance of the contract. The Department may continue to count participation equal to the remaining work performed by the decertified firm which will count toward the contract goal requirement and overall goal.
    - (ii) If the MBE/WBE's ineligibility is caused solely by its acquisition by or merger with a non- MBE/WBE during the performance of the contract. The Department may not continue to count the portion of the decertified firm's performance on the contract remaining toward either the contract goal or the overall goal, even if the Contractor has executed a subcontract with the firm or the Department has executed a prime contract with the MBE/WBE that was later decertified.
  - (2) When a committed MBE/WBE is decertified prior to the Department receiving the SAF (*Subcontract Approval Form*) for the named MBE/WBE firm, the Contractor shall take all necessary and reasonable steps to replace the MBE/WBE subcontractor with another MBE/WBE subcontractor to perform at least the same amount of work to meet the Combined MBE/WBE goal requirement. If a MBE/WBE firm is not found to do the same amount of work, a good faith effort must be submitted to NCDOT (see A herein for required documentation).

All requests for replacement of a committed MBE/WBE firm shall be submitted to the Engineer for approval on Form RF-1 (*DBE Replacement Request*). If the Contractor fails to follow this procedure, the Contractor may be disqualified from further bidding for a period of up to 6 months.

### **Changes in the Work**

When the Engineer makes changes that result in the reduction or elimination of work to be performed by a committed MBE/WBE, the Contractor will not be required to seek additional participation. When the Engineer makes changes that result in additional work to be performed by a MBE/WBE based upon the Contractor's commitment, the MBE/WBE shall participate in additional work to the same extent as the MBE/WBE participated in the original contract work.

When the Engineer makes changes that result in extra work, which has more than a minimal impact on the contract amount, the Contractor shall seek additional participation by MBEs/WBEs unless otherwise approved by the Engineer.

When the Engineer makes changes that result in an alteration of plans or details of construction, and a portion or all of the work had been expected to be performed by a committed MBE/WBE, the Contractor shall seek participation by MBEs/WBEs unless otherwise approved by the Engineer.

When the Contractor requests changes in the work that result in the reduction or elimination of work that the Contractor committed to be performed by a MBE/WBE, the Contractor shall seek additional participation by MBEs/WBEs equal to the reduced MBE/WBE participation caused by the changes.

### **Reports and Documentation**

A SAF (*Subcontract Approval Form*) shall be submitted for all work which is to be performed by a MBE/WBE subcontractor. The Department reserves the right to require copies of actual subcontract agreements involving MBE/WBE subcontractors.

When using transportation services to meet the contract commitment, the Contractor shall submit a proposed trucking plan in addition to the SAF. The plan shall be submitted prior to beginning construction on the project. The plan shall include the names of all trucking firms proposed for use, their certification type(s), the number of trucks owned by the firm, as well as the individual truck identification numbers, and the line item(s) being performed.

Within 30 calendar days of entering into an agreement with a MBE/WBE for materials, supplies or services, not otherwise documented by the SAF as specified above, the Contractor shall furnish the Engineer a copy of the agreement. The documentation shall also indicate the percentage (60% or 100%) of expenditures claimed for MBE/WBE credit.

### **Reporting Minority and Women Business Enterprise Participation**

The Contractor shall provide the Engineer with an accounting of payments made to all MBE and WBE firms, including material suppliers and contractors at all levels (prime, subcontractor, or second tier subcontractor). This accounting shall be furnished to the Engineer for any given month by the end of the following month. Failure to submit this information accordingly may result in the following action:

- (A) Withholding of money due in the next partial pay estimate; or
- (B) Removal of an approved contractor from the prequalified bidders' list or the removal of other entities from the approved subcontractors list.

While each contractor (prime, subcontractor, 2nd tier subcontractor) is responsible for accurate accounting of payments to MBEs/WBEs, it shall be the prime contractor's responsibility to report all monthly and final payment information in the correct reporting manner.

Failure on the part of the Contractor to submit the required information in the time frame specified may result in the disqualification of that contractor and any affiliate companies from further bidding until the required information is submitted.

Failure on the part of any subcontractor to submit the required information in the time frame specified may result in the disqualification of that contractor and any affiliate companies from being approved for further work on future projects until the required information is submitted.

Contractors reporting transportation services provided by non-MBE/WBE lessees shall evaluate the value of services provided during the month of the reporting period only.

At any time, the Engineer can request written verification of subcontractor payments. The Contractor shall report the accounting of payments through the Department's DBE Payment Tracking System.

### **Failure to Meet Contract Requirements**

Failure to meet contract requirements in accordance with Subarticle 102-15(J) of the *Standard Specifications* may be cause to disqualify the Contractor.

### **MULTI-YEAR MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS (ID/IQ):**

(4-20-21) (Rev. 4-19-22)

SP1 G75

This contract is a multi-year maintenance contract let pursuant to the provisions of N.C. General Statute §136-28.1(b). No minimum quantity of services is guaranteed to be awarded bidders under this contract. In accordance with N.C. General Statute §136-28.1(b), an award in a maintenance contract may be for an amount less but shall not exceed \$5,000,000 per year. No payments in excess of this amount will be disbursed, in accordance with the Statute.

### **RESTRICTIONS ON ITS EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES:**

(11-17-20)

SP01 G090

All telecommunications, video or other ITS equipment or services installed or utilized on this project must be in conformance with UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES, AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS 2 CFR, § 200.216 **Prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment.**

### **USE OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM (UAS):**

(8-20-19)(Rev. 8-19-25)

SP1 G092

The Contractor shall adhere to all Federal, State and Local regulations and guidelines for the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). This includes but is not limited to US 14 CFR Part 107, NC GS 15A-300, all FAA rules, regulations and policies and all NCDOT UAS Policies. The required operator certifications include possessing a current Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Remote Pilot Certificate, as well as operating a UAS registered with the FAA.

All UAS operations shall be approved by the Engineer prior to beginning the operations.

All contractors or subcontractors operating UAS shall have UAS specific general liability insurance to cover all operations under this contract.

The use of UAS is at the Contractor's discretion. No measurement or payment will be made for the use of UAS. In the event that the Department directs the Contractor to utilize UAS, payment will be in accordance with Article 104-7 Extra Work.

**EQUIPMENT IDLING GUIDELINES:**

(1-19-21)

107

SP1 G096

Exercise reduced fuel consumption and reduced equipment emissions during the construction of all work associated with this contract. Employees engaged in the construction of this project should turn off vehicles when stopped for more than thirty (30) minutes and off-highway equipment should idle no longer than fifteen (15) consecutive minutes.

These guidelines for turning off vehicles and equipment when idling do not apply to:

1. Idling when queuing.
2. Idling to verify the vehicle is in safe operating condition.
3. Idling for testing, servicing, repairing or diagnostic purposes.
4. Idling necessary to accomplish work for which the vehicle was designed (such as operating a crane, mixing concrete, etc.).
5. Idling required to bring the machine system to operating temperature.
6. Emergency vehicles, utility company, construction, and maintenance vehicles where the engines must run to perform needed work.
7. Idling to ensure safe operation of the vehicle.
8. Idling when the propulsion engine is providing auxiliary power for other than heating or air conditioning. (such as hydraulic systems for pavers)
9. When specific traffic, safety, or emergency situations arise.
10. If the ambient temperature is less than 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Limited idling to provide for the safety of vehicle occupants (e.g. to run the heater).
11. If the ambient temperature is greater than 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Limited idling to provide for the safety of vehicle occupants of off-highway equipment (e.g. to run the air conditioning) no more than 30 minutes.
12. Diesel powered vehicles may idle for up to 30 minutes to minimize restart problems.

Any vehicle, truck, or equipment in which the primary source of fuel is natural gas or electricity is exempt from the idling limitations set forth in this special provision.

**COOPERATION BETWEEN CONTRACTORS:**

(7-1-95)(Rev. 1-16-24)

105-7

SP1 G133

The Contractor's attention is directed to Article 105-7 of the Standard Specifications.

AS INDICATED BY THE ENGINEER

The Contractor on this project shall cooperate with the Contractor working within or adjacent to the limits of this project to the extent that the work can be carried out to the best advantage of all concerned.

**OUTSOURCING OUTSIDE THE USA:**

(9-21-04) (Rev. 5-16-06)

SP1 G150

All work on consultant contracts, services contracts, and construction contracts shall be performed in the United States of America. No work shall be outsourced outside of the United States of America.

*Outsourcing* for the purpose of this provision is defined as the practice of subcontracting labor, work, services, staffing, or personnel to entities located outside of the United States.

The North Carolina Secretary of Transportation shall approve exceptions to this provision in writing.

**PROJECT SPECIAL PROVISIONS****ROADWAY****CONES:**

(3-19-24)

1135

SP11 R35

Revise the *Standard Specifications* as follows:

**Page 11-11, Article 1135-3 CONSTRUCTION METHODS, lines 19-20**, delete the third sentence of the first paragraph, "Do not use cones in the upstream taper of lane or shoulder closures for multi-lane roadways."

**FLAGGERS:**

(12-17-24)(Rev. 12-23-25)

1150

SP11 R50

Revise Section 1150 of the *Standard Specification* as follows:

**Page 11-13, Article 1150-1, DESCRIPTION**, add the following after line 31:

Alternatively, at the discretion of the Contractor, the Contractor may furnish, install, place in operation, repair, maintain, relocate, and remove remotely controlled Automated Flagging Assistance Devices (AFAD) or Temporary Portable Traffic Signal units (PTS units) to assist, supplement, or replace human flaggers for one-lane, two-way traffic maintenance during construction in accordance with this provision and the *Standard Specifications*.

For the purpose of this provision, an "approach" refers to a single lane of traffic moving in one direction toward a point of control or work zone. Flaggers, AFAD and PTS units are only used to control one lane of approaching traffic in a specific direction.

**Page 11-13, Article 1150-2, MATERIALS**, add the following after line 34:

Provide documentation to the Engineer that the AFAD or PTS units meets or exceeds the requirements of this special provision and is on the NCDOT APL or ITS and Signals QPL.

**(A) Automated Flagging Assistance Devices (AFAD)****(1) AFAD General**

Cover the automated gate arm with Department approved Type VII, VIII or IX retroreflective sheeting of vertical alternating red and white stripes at 16 inch intervals measured horizontally. When the gate arm is in the down position the minimum vertical aspect of the arm and sheeting shall be 4 inches. The retroreflectorized sheeting shall be on both sides of the gate arm. With the AFAD parked or positioned 2 feet outside or in a location deemed acceptable for the lane being controlled, the gate arm shall reach at least to the center of the lane but shall not exceed the width of the lane being controlled.

Design the system to be fail-safe. Provide a conflict monitor, malfunction monitoring unit, or similar device that monitors for malfunctions and prevents the display of conflicting indications. This system shall be electronic and operated by remote control.

### **(2) AFAD Type I System: RED/YELLOW**

Provide a Red/Yellow AFAD with at least one set of CIRCULAR RED and CIRCULAR YELLOW lenses in a vertical configuration that are 12 inches in diameter. The bottom of the housing (including brackets) shall be at least 7 feet (2.1 meters) above the pavement.

This system is required to have yellow 12 inch aluminum or polycarbonate vehicle signal heads with 10 inch tunnel visors, backplates, and Light Emitting Diode (LED) modules. Provide signal heads, backplates, and LED modules listed on the ITS and Signals QPL available on the Department's website.

Provide an automated gate arm on the AFAD that descends to a down position across the approaching lane of traffic when the steady CIRCULAR RED lens is illuminated and then ascends to an upright position when the flashing CIRCULAR YELLOW lens is illuminated. The automated gate arm is to be designed such that if a motorist pulls underneath the gate arm while lowering, no damage to the vehicle occurs.

A STOP HERE ON RED (R10-6 or R10-6a) sign shall be installed on the right-hand side of the approach at the point at which drivers are expected to stop when the steady CIRCULAR RED lens is illuminated.

**To stop traffic, the AFAD shall transition from the flashing CIRCULAR YELLOW lens by initiating a minimum 5 second steadily illuminated CIRCULAR YELLOW lens followed by the CIRCULAR RED lens.**

**Once the CIRCULAR RED lens is displayed, the system is to have a minimum 2 second delay between the time the steady CIRCULAR RED is displayed and the time the gate arm begins to lower. The maximum delay between CIRCULAR RED and the time the gate arm lowers is 4 seconds. To permit stopped road users to proceed, the AFAD shall display the flashing CIRCULAR YELLOW lens and the gate arm shall be placed in the upright position.**

Ensure the system monitors for a lack of yellow or red signal voltage, total loss of indication in any direction, presence of multiple indications on any approach and low power conditions.

Additional sets of CIRCULAR RED and CIRCULAR YELLOW lenses located over the roadway or on the left side of the approach and operated in unison with the primary set, may be used to improve visibility of the AFAD. If the set of lenses is located over any portion of the roadway that can be used by motor vehicles, the bottom of the housing (including brackets) shall be at least 15 feet (4.6 meters) above the pavement.

### **(3) AFAD Type II System: STOP/SLOW**

Provide STOP/SLOW signs that are octagonal in shape, made of rigid material, and at least 36 inch x 36 inch in size. Letters shall be a minimum of 8 inches high. The STOP face shall have a red background with white letters and border.

The SLOW face shall be diamond shaped, orange, or yellow background with black letters and border. Cover both faces in a Department approved Type VII, VIII or IX retroreflective sheeting. The minimum mounting height for the sign faces shall be 7 feet above the pavement to the bottom of the sign.

The AFAD's STOP/SLOW signs shall be supplemented with active conspicuity devices by incorporating a stop beacon (red lens) and a warning beacon (yellow lens). The stop beacon shall be no more than 24 inches above the STOP face. Mount the warning beacon no more than 24 inches above or beside of the SLOW face. Except for the mounting locations, the beacons shall conform to the provisions of Chapter 4L of the MUTCD and have 12 inch signal lenses.

Strobe/flashing lights are an acceptable alternative to flashing beacons. If utilized, they shall be either white or red flashing lights located within the STOP face and white or yellow flashing lights within the SLOW face and conform to the provisions of Chapter 6D of the MUTCD. If used, the lens diameter shall be a minimum of 5 inches with a minimum height of 6 inches. Equip strobes/flashing lights for both dual and quad flash patterns.

Type B warning lights shall not be used in lieu of the beacons or the strobe lights.

The faces of the AFADs STOP/SLOW sign may include louvers. If louvers are used, design the louvers such that the aspect of the sign face to approaching traffic is a full sign face at a distance of 50 feet or greater.

A WAIT ON STOP (R1-7) sign and a GO ON SLOW (R1-8) sign shall be displayed to traffic approaching the AFAD. Position signs on the same support structure as the AFAD. Both signs shall have black legends and borders on white Type III sheeting backgrounds. Each of these signs shall be rectangular in shape and be at least 24 inch x 30 inch size with letters at least 6 inches high.

Provide an automated gate arm on the AFAD that descends to a down position across the approaching lane of traffic when the STOP face is displayed and then ascends to an upright position when the SLOW face is displayed.

The automated gate arm is to be designed such that if a motorist pulls underneath the gate arm while lowering, no damage to the vehicle occurs.

A STOP HERE ON RED (R10-6 or R10-6a) sign shall be installed on the right-hand side of the approach at the point at which drivers are expected to stop when the STOP face is displayed.

When approaching motorists are to proceed, display the SLOW face and the warning beacon or strobes are to flash on the AFAD. When approaching motorists are will be stopped, display the STOP face and the stop beacon or strobes are to flash on the AFAD.

**To stop traffic, the AFAD will transition from the SLOW face to the STOP face by initiating a minimum 5 second change cycle. First, the warning beacon is to be steadily illuminated for the change cycle. If strobes are used in lieu of a warning beacon, they are to be placed in the quad flash pattern. At the end of the change cycle, the STOP face is to be displayed with the stop beacon flashing and the warning beacon or strobes are to stop flashing. Once the STOP face is displayed, the system is to have a minimum 2 second delay between the time the STOP face is displayed and the time the gate arm begins to lower. The maximum delay between the time the STOP face is displayed and the time the gate arm lowers is 4 seconds.**

**To permit stopped road users to proceed, the gate arm shall be placed in the upright position and the AFAD shall display the SLOW face and the warning beacon or strobes are to flash in the dual flash pattern.**

Do not flash the stop beacon when the SLOW face is displayed, and do not flash the warning beacon when the STOP face is displayed.

#### **(B) Portable Traffic Signals (PTS) Units**

Provide PTS units with at least one set of CIRCULAR RED, CIRCULAR YELLOW, and CIRCULAR GREEN lenses in a vertical configuration that are 12 inch diameter aluminum or polycarbonate vehicle signal heads with 10 inch tunnel visors, backplates, and Light Emitting Diode (LED) modules. All signal heads, tunnel visors, and backplates shall be yellow in color.

The bottom of the housing (including brackets) shall be at least 7 feet above the pavement for single set units. Additional signal heads on units with more than one signal head shall be capable of extending over the travel lane.

#### **Communication Requirements**

All PTS units within the signal set up systems shall maintain communication at all times by either hardwire cable or wireless radio link communication. If the hardwire cable communication is utilized the communication cable shall be deployed in a manner that will not intrude in the direct work area of the project or obstruct vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Utilize radio communication with 900MHz frequency band and frequency hopping capability. The radio link communication system shall have a minimum range of 1 mile.

#### **Fault Mode Requirements**

Revert PTS units to a flashing red mode upon system default unless otherwise specified by the Engineer. Equip the PTS units with a remote monitoring system. Where cell communication availability exists, the remote monitoring system shall adhere to the remote monitoring system section of this provision.

#### **Remote Monitoring System**

The remote monitoring system (RMS) shall be capable of reporting signal location, battery voltage / battery history and system default. Provide a password protected website viewable from any computer with internet capability for the RMS. In the event of a system default, the RMS shall provide specific information concerning the cause of the system default (i.e. red lamp on signal number 1). Equip the RMS with a mechanism capable of immediately contacting a minimum of three previously designated individuals via text messaging and/or email upon a default.

The running program operating the PTS units shall be always available and viewable through the RMS website. Maintain a history of the RMS operating system in each signal including operating hours and events and the location of the PTS units.

### **Trailer / Cart**

The AFAD and PTS units may be mounted on either a trailer or a moveable cart system.

Finish all exterior metal surfaces with Federal orange enamel per AMS-STD-595, color chip ID# 13538 or 12473 respectively with a minimum paint thickness of 2.5 mils (64 microns).

Design and test the AFAD or PTS units trailer / cart to withstand an 80 MPH wind load while in the operational position. Provide independent certification that the assembly meets the design wind load.

Equip the AFAD or PTS units with leveling jacks capable of stabilizing the unit in a horizontal position when located on slopes 6:1 or flatter.

Equip trailers in compliance with North Carolina Law governing motor vehicles and include a 12-volt trailer lighting system complying *with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations 393*, safety chains and a minimum 2 inch ball hitch.

Provide a minimum 4 inch wide strip of fluorescent conspicuity sheeting retroreflective sheeting to the frame of the trailer. Apply the sheeting to all sides of the trailer. The sheeting shall meet the ASTM requirements of Type VII, VIII or IX.

### **Power System**

Design the systems to operate both with and without an external power source. Furnish transmitters, generators, batteries, controls and all other components necessary to operate the device.

Provide equipment that is solar powered and supplemented with a battery backup system that includes a minimum 110/120 VAC powered on-board charging system capable of powering the unit for 7 continuous days with no solar power. Each unit shall also be capable of being powered by standard 110/120 VAC power sources, if applicable.

Locate batteries and electronic controls in a locked, weather and vandal resistant housings.

**Page 11-14, Article 1150-3, CONSTRUCTION METHODS**, add the following after line 11:

Flaggers shall have a path to escape an errant approaching vehicle at all times, unimpeded by barrier, guardrail, guiderail, parked vehicles, construction materials, slopes steeper than 2:1, or any other obstruction at all times. If an unimpeded path cannot be maintained, the Contractor shall use AFAD or PTS units in lieu of a flagger.

Provide documentation to the Engineer prior to deploying the device that the AFAD or PTS units operator(s) are qualified flagger(s) that have been properly trained through an NCDOT approved training agency or other NCDOT approved training provider and that the qualified flagger(s) have received manufacturer training to operate that specific device. This training shall include proper installation, remote control operation, central control systems and maintenance of the AFAD or PTS units. The training shall take place off the project site where training conditions are removed from live traffic. The documentation shall include the names of the authorized trainer, the trainees, the device on which they have been trained and the date of the training. Provide updated documentation to the Engineer prior to deploying any additional operators.

Install advance warning signs and operate AFADs in accordance with the attached detail drawings in this provision.

Install advance warning signs and operate PTS units in accordance with *NCDOT Roadway Standard Drawings* No. 1101.02, Sheet 17.

AFAD and PTS units shall only be used in situations where there is only one lane of approaching traffic in the direction to be controlled. **At no time shall an AFAD unit controlling traffic through the work area be placed in an autonomous mode and/or left unattended.**

Signal timing and operation of PTS units shall be field verified and accepted by the Engineer before use.

Do not use AFAD or PTS units in locations where queueing from the AFAD or PTS units will extend to within 150 feet of a signalized intersection or railroad crossing. Do not use AFAD and PTS units as a substitute for or a replacement for a continuously operating temporary traffic control signal as described in Section 6F.84 of the MUTCD.

If used at night, illuminate each AFAD or PTS units as described in Section 6D of the MUTCD.

Provide a complete AFAD or PTS units that is capable of being relocated as traffic conditions demand.

If AFADs or PTS units become inoperative, be prepared at all times to replace the unit with the same type and model of AFAD or PTS units, revert to human flagging operations or terminate all construction activities requiring the use of the AFAD or PTS units until the AFAD or PTS units become operative or qualified human flaggers are available.

When the work requiring the AFAD or PTS units is not pursued for 30 minutes or longer, power off each AFAD or PTS units. Removed the AFAD or PTS units from the travel lane and relocated to a minimum of 5 feet from the edge line. AFAD gate arms shall be in the upright position.

Remove all traffic control devices from the road, place two cones by each AFAD or PTS units and all signs associated with the lane closure operation shall be removed or laid down. At the end of each workday, remove all AFADs or PTS units from the roadway and shoulder areas.

Ensure the system's wireless communication links continuously monitor and verify proper transmission and reception of data used to monitor and control each AFAD or PTS units. Ensure ambient mobile or other radio transmissions or adverse weather conditions do not affect the system.

In the event of a loss of communications, immediately display the flashing RED or STOP indication on all AFAD or PTS units.

### **AFAD Specific Construction Methods**

The flagger/operator controlling the AFAD units shall be on the project site at all times. If multiple AFAD units are used, one AFAD unit shall be the Main AFAD unit and all other units shall be remote AFAD units. Ensure that each device meets the physical display and operational characteristics as specified in the MUTCD.

Multiple AFAD units may be controlled with **one** flagger/operator when the AFAD units meet each of the following requirements:

- (1) AFAD units are spaced no greater than the manufacturer's recommendations.
- (2) Both AFAD units can be seen at the same time from the flagger/operator's position, or the AFAD is operating on its own secure network with malfunction detection and notification to the flagger/operator.
- (3) The flagger/operator has an unobstructed view of approaching traffic in both directions from the flagger/operator position or the AFAD is operating on its own secure network, with cameras that provide the flagger/operator an unobstructed view of approaching traffic from both directions. The flagger/operator may control the AFAD units from a pilot vehicle.

If any of the above requirements are not met, flagger/operator control each AFAD unit.

AFAD operators may either control traffic at side streets or driveways between the AFAD units or operate the pilot car while operating the AFAD system if approved by the Engineer. AFAD units must continue to be within clear sight of the operator during these work activities.

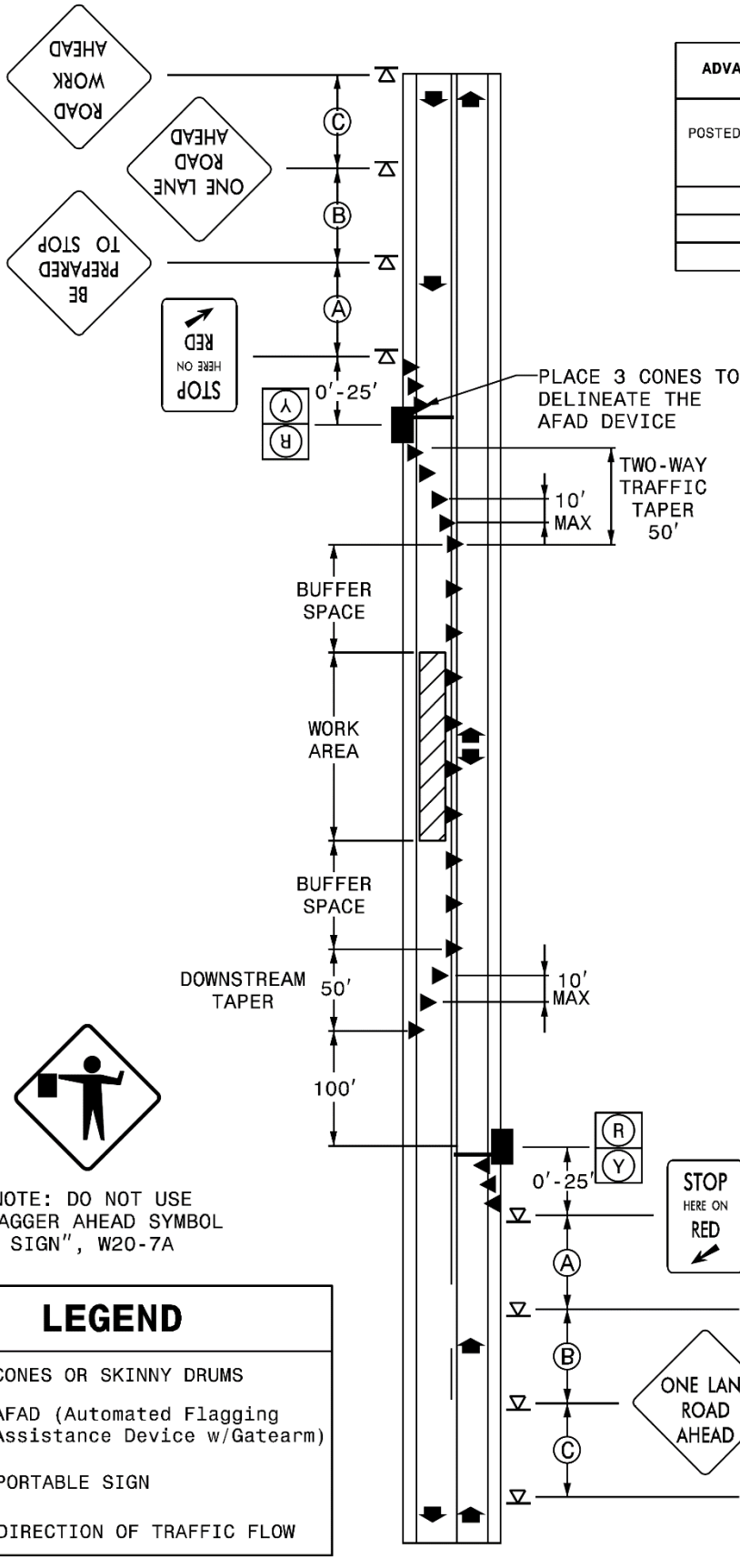
**Page 11-14, Article 1150-4, MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT**, add the following after line 24:

Each AFAD or PTS unit will be measured and paid for as *Flaggers* paid by day in accordance with Article 1150-4 of the *Standard Specifications*. Where the pay item for *Flaggers* is not included in the original contract then no separate payment will be made for this item and payment will be included in the lump sum price bid for *Temporary Traffic Control* found elsewhere in this contract. Each approach controlled by AFAD or PTS units will be measured and paid as one flagger,

irrespective of the number of devices used. If multiple PTS units are required to control a single approach, these units will collectively be considered as replacing one flagger.

No separate measurement or payment will be made for AFAD or PTS unit operators, as the cost of such including their training and operational costs shall be included in the unit or lump sum price for *Flaggers* or *Temporary Traffic Control*. Such price and payment also includes the relocation, maintenance, and removal during repair periods of AFAD or PTS units as well as the signal controller, communication, vehicle detection system, traffic signal software of PTS units and any other incidentals necessary to complete the work.

**Red/Yellow Lens AFAD (TYPE I)**



ADVANCE WARNING SIGN SPACING CHART			
POSTED SPEED LIMIT (MPH)	RECOMMENDED DISTANCE BETWEEN SIGNS FEET (+/-) SEE NOTE #1		
	(A)	(B)	(C)
≤ 35	200	200	200
40-50	350	350	350
55	500	500	500

DESIGN SPEED (MPH)	BUFFER SPACE (FEET)
30	85
35	120
40	155
45	195
50	240
55	290
60	345
65	405
70	470
75	540
80	615

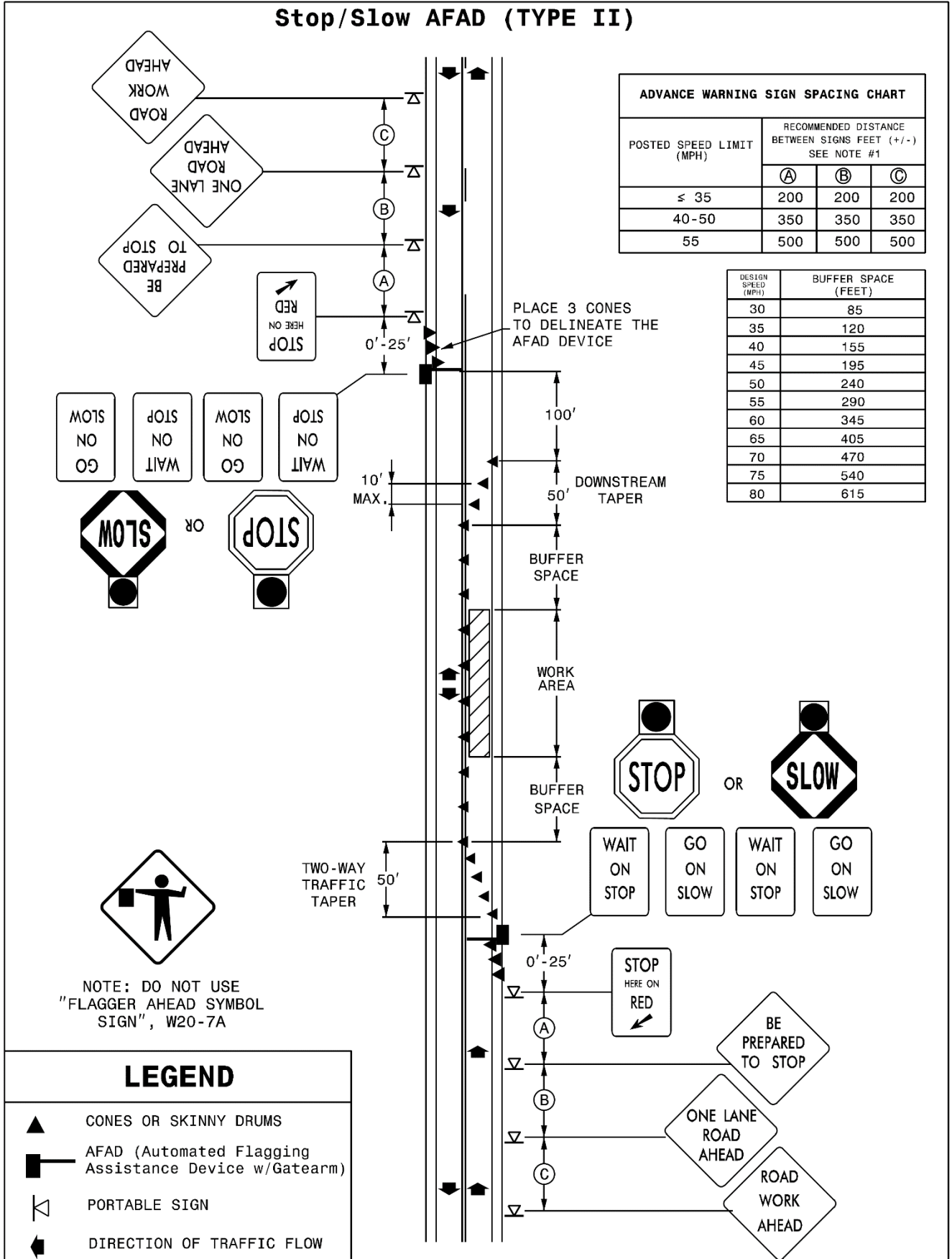
NOTE: DO NOT USE "FLAGGER AHEAD SYMBOL SIGN", W20-7A

LEGEND	
	CONES OR SKINNY DRUMS
	AFAD (Automated Flagging Assistance Device w/Gatearm)
	PORTABLE SIGN
	DIRECTION OF TRAFFIC FLOW

**Stop/Slow AFAD (TYPE II)**





ADVANCE WARNING SIGN SPACING CHART			
POSTED SPEED LIMIT (MPH)	RECOMMENDED DISTANCE BETWEEN SIGNS FEET (+/-) SEE NOTE #1		
	(A)	(B)	(C)
≤ 35	200	200	200
40-50	350	350	350
55	500	500	500

DESIGN SPEED (MPH)	BUFFER SPACE (FEET)
30	85
35	120
40	155
45	195
50	240
55	290
60	345
65	405
70	470
75	540
80	615



NOTE: DO NOT USE "FLAGGER AHEAD SYMBOL SIGN", W20-7A

**LEGEND**

-  CONES OR SKINNY DRUMS
-  AFAD (Automated Flagging Assistance Device w/Gatearm)
-  PORTABLE SIGN
-  DIRECTION OF TRAFFIC FLOW

**ADDITIONAL FLAGGER:****Scope of Work**

The Contractor shall provide Flagger in accordance with these specifications and as directed by the Engineer. The Engineer will identify the locations where the Contractor will provide Flagger services. The Contractor shall furnish all safety equipment, tools, and materials to complete the work in accordance with the NCDOT *Standard Specifications* and Special Provisions herein.

**Personnel**

The Engineer will notify the Contractor when Additional Flagger(s) is required. Additional Flagger must be certified and trained in flagger duties. When notified, the Contractor, will report with the required personnel and equipment, to the appropriate location within the specified time frame. The Contractor shall arrive for work on the designated day, and have traffic control established in the roadway, by the time agreed upon when notified. Additional Flagger shall be defined as the flagger and all necessary equipment and tools to perform flagging operations.

The Engineer, or his duly authorized representative, will monitor the Contractor's operations on a periodic basis to ensure compliance with proper traffic control procedures.

The Contractor shall maintain the traffic control operation in a continuous and uninterrupted manner until instructed by the Department representative to remove the traffic control devices. If traffic control is required at another location on the project, or at another job site, the Contractor shall transport the traffic control devices and re-establish traffic control at the new location as directed by the Department.

**Measurement and Payment**

*Additional Flagger* will be measured and paid for as the actual number of hours that the member(s) performs work that is accepted by the Engineer during the life of the work order. The hourly rate will apply while moving between work sites during the workday. All charges shall be determined to the nearest one-quarter (1/4) hour based upon the time the crew was in actual productive operation.

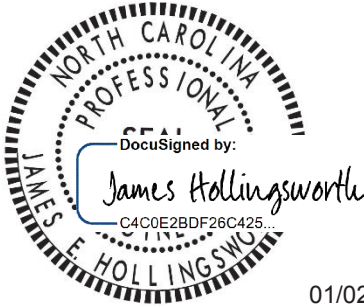
Payment will be made under:

**Pay Item**

ADDITIONAL FLAGGER

**Pay Unit**

Hour



01/02/2026

**EQUIPMENT:****Description**

This is an equipment list for the **Equipment and Hauling IDIQ** contract in Division 14. The Contractor shall furnish all labor and equipment to complete the work in accordance with the NCDOT *Standard Specifications* and Special Provisions herein.

**Equipment**

The contractor shall provide the following types of equipment with competent operator:

EXCAVATOR, TRACKED, OPERATING WEIGHT UNDER 20,000 LBS  
EXCAVATOR, TRACKED, OPERATING WEIGHT BETWEEN 20,000 AND 37,999 LBS  
EXCAVATOR, TRACKED, OPERATING WEIGHT OVER 38,000 LBS  
GRADER, MINIMUM 40,000 LBS  
DOZER, 180-250 HP  
BACKHOE, MINIMUM 20,000 LBS  
FORCED FEED LOADER, MINIMUM 120 HP  
FRONT END LOADER, MINIMUM 70 HP  
SKID STEER, MINIMUM 10,000 LBS  
SELF PROPELLED ROAD SWEEPER  
HYDRO PIPE RODDER  
DUMP TRUCK, SINGLE AXLE, MINIMUM 5 CY  
DUMP TRUCK, TANDEM AXLE, MINIMUM 12 CY  
DUMP TRUCK, TRI AXLE, MINIMUM 12CY  
DUMP TRUCK, QUAD AXLE, MINIMUM 19 CY  
VIBRATORY ROLLER, MINIMUM 50 HP, 50" DRUM  
NON-VIBRATORY ROLLER, MINIMUM 50 HP, 50" DRUM  
TRENCH ROLLER  
PILOT TRUCK  
IMPACT ATTENUATOR, TRUCK OR TRAILER MOUNTED TL-3

All vehicles provided by the Contractor shall be equipped with warning lights in accordance with 1101-5 of the *Standard Specifications*. A communication device shall be available in each piece of equipment allowing operators to communicate with the Contractor's designated supervisor. All equipment shall comply with OSHA requirements for reverse gear warning devices.

The equipment listed below shall be equipped in the following manner:

- All excavators shall have applicable hydraulic thumb.
- Backhoe shall be equipped with a clam bucket.
- All dump trucks shall be capable of hauling oversized and shot rock.
- Trench Roller shall be capable of both manual and remote control.
- The Impact Attenuator shall be rated at 55 MPH or above.

The Contractor shall furnish all equipment in good operating condition at the determination of the Engineer. Equipment includes the operator and all incidental items needed for the operation of the equipment. Equipment shall be operated by properly trained and qualified personnel. The Contractor shall be responsible for all costs or charges by personnel or incurred in the operation and maintenance of the equipment during performance of this contract. Upon request, the Contractor shall provide all state and federal certificates for equipment safety.

The Contractor shall be responsible for the equipment provided in this contract, at all times and at all locations during the term of the contract. The Contractor shall have no claim against the Department of Transportation for any expense involving damage or loss to the Contractor's equipment (including vandalism, theft, fire, and acts of God) arising out of or relating to work performed under this agreement.

### Measurement and Payment

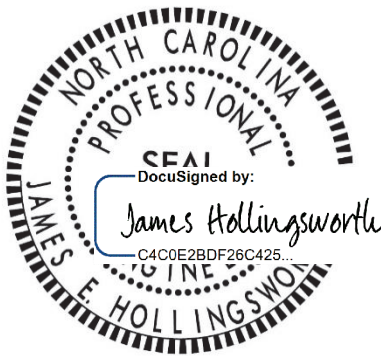
*Equipment* will be measured and paid for as the actual number of hours that equipment performs work that is accepted by the Engineer during the life of the work order. There will be **no payment for mobilization** of labor or equipment, as it will be **considered incidental** to the bid items of this contract. When directed by the Engineer, the Contractor may be required to move to different work sites during the same workday. The hourly rate will apply while moving between work sites during the workday.

The Engineer or his duly authorized representative will maintain a timesheet. The Department's representative and the Contractor's supervisor shall review and agree on the recorded time on a daily basis. The Contractor will be compensated at the Contractor's hourly rate bid; all charges shall be determined to the nearest one-quarter (1/4) hour based upon the time the crew was in actual productive operation.

Payment will be made under:

Pay Item	Pay Unit
EXCAVATOR, TRACKED, OPERATING WEIGHT UNDER 20,000 LBS	HR
EXCAVATOR, TRACKED, OPERATING WEIGHT BETWEEN 20,000 AND 37,999 LBS	HR
EXCAVATOR, TRACKED, OPERATING WEIGHT OVER 38,000 LBS	HR
GRADER, MINIMUM 40,000 LBS	HR
DOZER, 180 - 250 HP	HR
BACKHOE, MINIMUM 20,000 LBS	HR
FORCED FEED LOADER, MINIMUM 120 HP	HR
FRONT END LOADER, MINIMUM 70 HP	HR
SKID STEER, MINIMUM 10,000 LBS	HR

SELF PROPELLED ROAD SWEEPER	HR
HYDRO PIPE RODDER	HR
DUMP TRUCK, SINGLE AXLE, MINIMUM 5 CY	HR
DUMP TRUCK, TANDEM AXLE, MINIMUM 12 CY	HR
DUMP TRUCK, TRI AXLE, MINIMUM 12 CY	HR
DUMP TRUCK, QUAD AXLE, MINIMUM 19 CY	HR
VIBRATORY ROLLER, MINIMUM 50 HP, 50" DRUM	HR
NON-VIBRATORY ROLLER, MINIMUM 50 HP, 50" DRUM	HR
TRENCH ROLLER	HR
PILOT TRUCK	HR
IMPACT ATTENUATOR, TRUCK OR TRAILER MOUNTED TL-3	EA



01/02/2026

**LABORER:**

**Scope of Work**

The Contractor shall provide Laborer in accordance with these specifications and as directed by the Engineer. The Engineer will identify the locations where the Contractor will provide Laborer services. The Contractor shall furnish all safety equipment, hand tools, power tools, and materials to complete the work in accordance with NCDOT *Standard Specifications* and Special Provisions herein.

**Personnel**

The Contractor shall provide a Laborer to perform assigned work. Laborer shall be defined as the laborer and all necessary equipment, hand and power tools to complete the laborer portion of the work order.

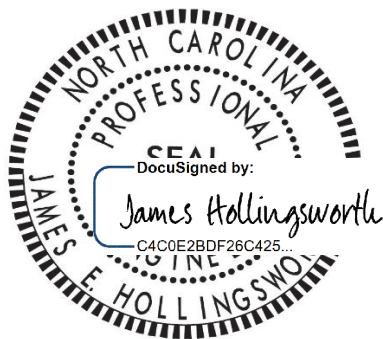
**Measurement and Payment**

*Laborer* will be measured and paid for as the actual number of hours that the member(s) performs work that is accepted by the Engineer during the life of the work order.

The hourly rate will apply while moving between work sites during the workday. All charges shall be determined to the nearest one-quarter (1/4) hour based upon the time the crew was in actual productive operation.

Payment will be made under:

<b>Pay Item:</b>	<b>Pay Unit</b>
Laborer	Hour



01/02/2026

**STANDARD SPECIAL PROVISION****AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS – TERMINATION OF CONTRACTS**

(5-20-08)(Rev. 1-16-24)

Z-2

*General Statute 143C-6-11. (h) Highway Appropriation* is hereby incorporated verbatim in this contract as follows:

(h) Amounts Encumbered. – Transportation project appropriations may be encumbered in the amount of allotments made to the Department of Transportation by the Director for the estimated payments for transportation project contract work to be performed in the appropriation fiscal year. The allotments shall be multiyear allotments and shall be based on estimated revenues and shall be subject to the maximum contract authority contained in *General Statute 143C-6-11(c)*. Payment for transportation project work performed pursuant to contract in any fiscal year other than the current fiscal year is subject to appropriations by the General Assembly. Transportation project contracts shall contain a schedule of estimated completion progress, and any acceleration of this progress shall be subject to the approval of the Department of Transportation provided funds are available. The State reserves the right to terminate or suspend any transportation project contract, and any transportation project contract shall be so terminated or suspended if funds will not be available for payment of the work to be performed during that fiscal year pursuant to the contract. In the event of termination of any contract, the contractor shall be given a written notice of termination at least 60 days before completion of scheduled work for which funds are available. In the event of termination, the contractor shall be paid for the work already performed in accordance with the contract specifications.

Payment will be made on any contract terminated pursuant to the special provision in accordance with Subarticle 108-13(D) of the *Standard Specifications*.

**STANDARD SPECIAL PROVISION**  
**ERRATA**

(1-16-24)(Rev. 1-20-26)

Z-4

Revise the *2024 Standard Specifications* as follows:

**Division 1**

**Page 1-36, Subarticle 104-12(B) Evaluation of Proposals, line 21,** replace "Design-Build Unit" with "Alternative Delivery Unit".

**Page 1-36, Subarticle 104-12(D) Preliminary Review, line 37,** replace "Design-Build Unit" with "Alternative Delivery Unit".

**Page 1-37, Subarticle 104-12(E) Final Proposal, line 3,** replace "Design-Build Unit" with "Alternative Delivery Unit".

**Page 1-37, Subarticle 104-12(F) Design-Build VEPs, line 36,** replace "Design-Build Unit" with "Alternative Delivery Unit".

**Page 1-38, Subarticle 104-12(G) Modifications, line 1,** replace "Design-Build Unit" with "Alternative Delivery Unit".

**Division 3**

**Page 3-5, Article 305-2 MATERIALS, after line 16,** replace " 1032-3(A)(7)" with "1032-3" and add the item "Galvanized Corrugated Steel Pipe" with Section "1032-3".

**Page 3-6, Article 310-2 MATERIALS, after line 9,** add the item "Galvanized Corrugated Steel Pipe" with Section "1032-3".

**Division 6**

**Page 6-15, Article 610-1 DESCRIPTION, line 20,** replace "The work includes" with "The work includes, but is not limited to,".

**Page 6-15, Article 610-1 DESCRIPTION, line 22,** replace "applying the tack coat as specified." with "applying the tack coat in accordance with Section 605.".

**Page 6-30, Article 610-14 DENSITY ACCEPTANCE, line 39,** replace "QC process." with "QC process in accordance with Section 609.".

**Page 6-31, Article 610-16 MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT, line 13,** replace "*Hot Mix Asphalt Pavement*" with "*Asphalt Concrete \_\_\_\_\_ Course, Type \_\_\_\_\_*".

**Page 6-50, Subarticle 661-4(A) Equipment, lines 4-7,** replace the first two sentences of the seventh paragraph with the following:

When an erected fixed stringline is utilized for longitudinal profile and cross slope control furnish and erect the necessary guide line for the equipment.

#### Division 7

**Page 7-18, Subarticle 710-10(A) General, lines 7-8**, delete “for *Surface Testing Concrete Pavement*” from the last paragraph.

#### Division 8

**Page 8-27, Article 846-1 DESCRIPTION, line 8**, delete “4 inch” from the first paragraph.

#### Division 9

**Page 9-17, Article 904-4 MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT, prior to line 1**, replace " Sign Erection, Relocate Type (Ground Mounted)" with “Sign Erection, Relocate Type \_\_\_ (Ground Mounted)”.

#### Division 10

**Page 10-51, Article 1024-4 WATER, prior to line 1**, delete the “unpopulated blank row” in Table 1024-2 between “Time of set, deviation from control” and “Chloride Ion Content, Max.”.

**Page 10-170, Subarticle 1081-1(C) Requirements, line 4**, replace "maximum" with “minimum”.

#### Division 11

**Page 11-15, Article 1160-4 MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT, line 24**, replace “Where barrier units are moved more than one” with “Where barrier units are moved more than once”.

#### Division 15

**Page 15-10, Article 1515-4 MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT, lines 11**, replace " All piping" with “All labor, the manhole, other materials, excavation, backfilling, piping”.

#### Division 16

**Page 16-14, Article 1633-5 MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT, line 20-24 and prior to line 25**, delete and replace with the following " *Flocculant* will be measured and paid in accordance with Article 1642-5 applied to the temporary rock silt checks.”

**Page 16-3, Article 1609-2 MATERIALS, after line 26**, replace "Type 4" with “Type 4a”.

**Page 16-25, Article 1644-2 MATERIALS, after line 22**, replace "Type 4" with “Type 4a”.

**Division 17**

**Page 17-15, Article 1715-4 MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT, line 23,** delete and replace “1.25” with “1-1/4”.

**Page 17-15, Article 1715-4 MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT, line 24,** delete and replace “(1.25” with “, 1-1/4”.

**STANDARD SPECIAL PROVISION****PLANT AND PEST QUARANTINES**

**(Imported Fire Ant, Guava Root Knot Nematode, Spongy Moth (formerly known as gypsy moth), Witchweed, Cogon Grass, And Any Other Regulated Noxious Weed or Plant Pest)**

(3-18-03)(Rev. 3-18-25)

Z-04a

**Within Quarantined Area**

This project may be within a county regulated for plant and/or pests. If the project or any part of the Contractor's operations is located within a quarantined area, thoroughly clean all equipment prior to moving out of the quarantined area. Comply with federal/state regulations by obtaining a certificate or limited permit for any regulated article moving from the quarantined area.

**Originating in a Quarantined County**

Obtain a certificate or limited permit issued by the N.C. Department of Agriculture/United States Department of Agriculture. Have the certificate or limited permit accompany the article when it arrives at the project site.

**Contact**

Contact the N.C. Department of Agriculture/United States Department of Agriculture at 1-800-206-9333, 919-707-3730, or <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/plant-industry/plant-protection/plant-industry-plant-pest-quarantines> to determine those specific project sites located in the quarantined area or for any regulated article used on this project originating in a quarantined county.

**Regulated Articles Include**

1. Soil, sand, gravel, compost, peat, humus, muck, and decomposed manure, separately or with other articles. This includes movement of articles listed above that may be associated with cut/waste, ditch pulling, and shoulder cutting.
2. Plants with roots including grass sod.
3. Plant crowns and roots.
4. Bulbs, corms, rhizomes, and tubers of ornamental plants.
5. Hay, straw, fodder, and plant litter of any kind.
6. Clearing and grubbing debris.
7. Used agricultural cultivating and harvesting equipment.
8. Used earth-moving equipment.
9. Any other products, articles, or means of conveyance of any character, if determined by an inspector present a hazard of spreading imported fire ant, guava root knot nematode, spongy moth (formerly known as gypsy moth), witchweed, cogon grass, or other regulated noxious weed or plant pest.

**STANDARD SPECIAL PROVISION****MINIMUM WAGES**

(7-21-09)

Z-5

**FEDERAL:** The Fair Labor Standards Act provides that with certain exceptions every employer shall pay wages at the rate of not less than SEVEN DOLLARS AND TWENTY FIVE CENTS (\$7.25) per hour.

**STATE:** The North Carolina Minimum Wage Act provides that every employer shall pay to each of his employees, wages at a rate of not less than SEVEN DOLLARS AND TWENTY FIVE CENTS (\$7.25) per hour.

The minimum wage paid to all skilled labor employed on this contract shall be SEVEN DOLLARS AND TWENTY FIVE CENTS (\$7.25) per hour.

The minimum wage paid to all intermediate labor employed on this contract shall be SEVEN DOLLARS AND TWENTY FIVE CENTS (\$7.25) per hour.

The minimum wage paid to all unskilled labor on this contract shall be SEVEN DOLLARS AND TWENTY FIVE CENTS (\$7.25) per hour.

This determination of the intent of the application of this act to the contract on this project is the responsibility of the Contractor.

The Contractor shall have no claim against the Department of Transportation for any changes in the minimum wage laws, Federal or State. It is the responsibility of the Contractor to keep fully informed of all Federal and State Laws affecting his contract.

**STANDARD SPECIAL PROVISION****TITLE VI AND NONDISCRIMINATION:**

(6-28-77)(Rev 1/16/2024)

Z-6

The North Carolina Department of Transportation is committed to carrying out the U.S. Department of Transportation's policy of ensuring nondiscrimination in the award and administration of contracts.

The provisions of this section related to United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) Order 1050.2A, Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 21, 23 United States Code (U.S.C.) 140 and 23 CFR part 200 (or 49 CFR 303, 49 U.S.C. 5332 or 49 U.S.C. 47123) are applicable to all North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) contracts and to all related subcontracts, material supply, engineering, architectural and other service contracts, regardless of dollar amount. Any Federal provision that is specifically required not specifically set forth is hereby incorporated by reference.

**(1) Title VI Assurances (USDOT Order 1050.2A, Appendix A)**

During the performance of this contract, the contractor, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest (hereinafter referred to as the "contractor") agrees as follows:

**(a) Compliance with Regulations**

The contractor (hereinafter includes consultants) shall comply with the Acts and the Regulations relative to Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as they may be amended from time to time, which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract.

**(b) Nondiscrimination**

The contractor, with regard to the work performed by it during the contract, shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment. The contractor shall not participate directly or indirectly in the discrimination prohibited by the Acts and the Regulations, including employment practices when the contract covers any activity, project, or program set forth in Appendix B of 49 CFR Part 21.

**(c) Solicitations for Subcontractors, Including Procurements of Materials and Equipment**

In all solicitations, either by competitive bidding, or negotiation made by the contractor for work to be performed under a subcontract, including procurements of materials, or leases of equipment, each potential subcontractor or supplier shall be notified by the contractor of the contractor's obligations under this contract and the Acts and the Regulations relative to Nondiscrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin.

**(d) Information and Reports**

The contractor shall provide all information and reports required by the Acts, the Regulations, and directives issued pursuant thereto and shall permit access to its books, records, accounts, other sources of information, and its facilities as may be determined

by the Recipient or the FHWA to be pertinent to ascertain compliance with such Acts, Regulations, and instructions. Where any information required of a contractor is in the exclusive possession of another who fails or refuses to furnish the information, the contractor shall so certify to the Recipient or the FHWA, as appropriate, and shall set forth what efforts it has made to obtain the information.

(e) Sanctions for Noncompliance:

In the event of a contractor's noncompliance with the Non-discrimination provisions of this contract, the Recipient will impose such contract sanctions as it and/or the FHWA may determine to be appropriate, including, but not limited to:

- (i) Withholding payments to the contractor under the contract until the contractor complies; and/or
- (ii) Cancelling, terminating, or suspending a contract, in whole or in part.

(f) Incorporation of Provisions

The contractor shall include the provisions of paragraphs (a) through (f) in every subcontract, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment, unless exempt by the Acts, the Regulations and directives issued pursuant thereto. The contractor shall take action with respect to any subcontract or procurement as the Recipient or the FHWA may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance. Provided, that if the contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with litigation by a subcontractor, or supplier because of such direction, the contractor may request the Recipient to enter into any litigation to protect the interests of the Recipient. In addition, the contractor may request the United States to enter into the litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

**(2) Title VI Nondiscrimination Program (23 CFR 200.5(p))**

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has assured the USDOT that, as a condition to receiving federal financial assistance, NCDOT will comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and all requirements imposed by Title 49 CFR part 21 and related nondiscrimination authorities to ensure that no person shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, limited English proficiency, sex, age, or disability (including religion/creed or income-level, where applicable), be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any programs, activities, or services conducted or funded by NCDOT. Contractors and other organizations under contract or agreement with NCDOT must also comply with Title VI and related authorities, therefore:

- (a) During the performance of this contract or agreement, contractors (e.g., subcontractors, consultants, vendors, prime contractors) are responsible for complying with NCDOT's Title VI Program. Contractors are not required to prepare or submit Title VI Programs. To comply with this section, the prime contractor shall:
  - 1. Post NCDOT's Notice of Nondiscrimination and the Contractor's own Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Policy in conspicuous locations accessible to all employees, applicants and subcontractors on the jobsite.

2. Physically incorporate the required Title VI clauses into all subcontracts on federally-assisted and state-funded NCDOT projects, and ensure inclusion by subcontractors into all lower-tier subcontracts.
  3. Required Solicitation Language. The Contractor shall include the following notification in all solicitations for bids and requests for work or material, regardless of funding source:

“The North Carolina 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 that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair 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. In accordance with other related nondiscrimination authorities, bidders and contractors will also not be discriminated against on the grounds of sex, age, disability, low-income level, creed/religion, or limited English proficiency in consideration for an award.”
  4. Physically incorporate the FHWA-1273, in its entirety, into all subcontracts and subsequent lower tier subcontracts on Federal-aid highway construction contracts only.
  5. Provide language assistance services (i.e., written translation and oral interpretation), free of charge, to LEP employees and applicants. Contact NCDOT OCR for further assistance, if needed.
  6. For assistance with these Title VI requirements, contact the NCDOT Title VI Nondiscrimination Program at 1-800-522-0453.
- (b) Subrecipients (e.g. cities, counties, LGAs, planning organizations) may be required to prepare and submit a Title VI Plan to NCDOT, including Title VI Assurances and/or agreements. Subrecipients must also ensure compliance by their contractors and subrecipients with Title VI. (23 CFR 200.9(b)(7))
- (c) If reviewed or investigated by NCDOT, the contractor or subrecipient agrees to take affirmative action to correct any deficiencies found within a reasonable time period, not to exceed 90 calendar days, unless additional time is granted by NCDOT. (23 CFR 200.9(b)(15))
- (d) The Contractor is responsible for notifying subcontractors of NCDOT’s External Discrimination Complaints Process.
1. Applicability

Title VI and related laws protect participants and beneficiaries (e.g., members of the public and contractors) from discrimination by NCDOT employees, subrecipients and contractors, regardless of funding source.

## 2. Eligibility

Any person—or class of persons—who believes he/she has been subjected to discrimination based on race, color, national origin, Limited English Proficiency (LEP), sex, age, or disability (and religion in the context of employment, aviation, or transit) may file a written complaint. The law also prohibits intimidation or retaliation of any sort.

## 3. Time Limits and Filing Options

Complaints may be filed by the affected individual(s) or a representative and must be filed no later than 180 calendar days after the following:

- (i) The date of the alleged act of discrimination; or
- (ii) The date when the person(s) became aware of the alleged discrimination; or
- (iii) Where there has been a continuing course of conduct, the date on which that conduct was discontinued or the latest instance of the conduct.

Title VI and related discrimination complaints may be submitted to the following entities:

- North Carolina Department of Transportation, Office of Civil Rights, Title VI Program, 1511 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1511; toll free 1-800-522-0453
- Federal Highway Administration, North Carolina Division Office, 310 New Bern Avenue, Suite 410, Raleigh, NC 27601, 919-747-7010
- US Department of Transportation, Departmental Office of Civil Rights, External Civil Rights Programs Division, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590; 202-366-4070

## 4. Format for Complaints

Complaints must be in writing and signed by the complainant(s) or a representative, and include the complainant's name, address, and telephone number. Complaints received by fax or e-mail will be acknowledged and processed. Allegations received by telephone will be reduced to writing and provided to the complainant for confirmation or revision before processing. Complaints will be accepted in other languages, including Braille.

## 5. Discrimination Complaint Form

Contact NCDOT Civil Rights to receive a full copy of the Discrimination Complaint Form and procedures.

## 6. Complaint Basis

Allegations must be based on issues involving race, color, national origin (LEP), sex, age, disability, or religion (in the context of employment, aviation or transit). "Basis" refers to the complainant's membership in a protected group category.

**TABLE 103-1  
COMPLAINT BASIS**

<b>Protected Categories</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Examples</b>	<b>Applicable Nondiscrimination Authorities</b>
Race and Ethnicity	An individual belonging to one of the accepted racial groups; or the perception, based usually on physical characteristics that a person is a member of a racial group	Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, White	Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 49 CFR Part 21; 23 CFR 200; 49 U.S.C. 5332(b); 49 U.S.C. 47123. <i>(Executive Order 13166)</i>
Color	Color of skin, including shade of skin within a racial group	Black, White, brown, yellow, etc.	
National Origin ( <i>Limited English Proficiency</i> )	Place of birth. Citizenship is not a factor. ( <i>Discrimination based on language or a person's accent is also covered</i> )	Mexican, Cuban, Japanese, Vietnamese, Chinese	
Sex	Gender. The sex of an individual. <i>Note: Sex under this program does not include sexual orientation.</i>	Women and Men	1973 Federal-Aid Highway Act; 49 U.S.C. 5332(b); 49 U.S.C. 47123.
Age	Persons of any age	21-year-old person	Age Discrimination Act of 1975 49 U.S.C. 5332(b); 49 U.S.C. 47123.
Disability	Physical or mental impairment, permanent or temporary, or perceived.	Blind, alcoholic, para-amputee, epileptic, diabetic, arthritic	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
Religion (in the context of employment) ( <i>Religion/ Creed in all aspects of any aviation or transit-related construction</i> )	An individual belonging to a religious group; or the perception, based on distinguishable characteristics that a person is a member of a religious group. In practice, actions taken as a result of the moral and ethical beliefs as to what is right and wrong, which are sincerely held with the strength of traditional religious views. <i>Note: Does not have to be associated with a recognized religious group or church; if an individual sincerely holds to the belief, it is a protected religious practice.</i>	Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Hindu, etc.	Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; 23 CFR 230; FHWA-1273 Required Contract Provisions. <i>(49 U.S.C. 5332(b); 49 U.S.C. 47123)</i>

### (3) Pertinent Nondiscrimination Authorities

During the performance of this contract, the contractor, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest agrees to comply with the following non-discrimination statutes and authorities, including, but not limited to:

- (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., 78 stat. 252), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin); and 49 CFR Part 21.

- (b) The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, (42 U.S.C. § 4601), (prohibits unfair treatment of persons displaced or whose property has been acquired because of Federal or Federal-aid programs and projects);
- (c) Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973, (23 U.S.C. § 324 et seq.), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex);
- (d) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, (29 U.S.C. § 794 et seq.), as amended, (prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability) and 49 CFR Part 27;
- (e) The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, (42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq.), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of age);
- (f) Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982, (49 USC § 471, Section 47123), as amended, (prohibits discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, or sex);
- (g) The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, (PL 100-209), (Broadened the scope, coverage and applicability of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, by expanding the definition of the terms "programs or activities" to include all of the programs or activities of the Federal-aid recipients, sub-recipients and contractors, whether such programs or activities are Federally funded or not);
- (h) Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in the operation of public entities, public and private transportation systems, places of public accommodation, and certain testing entities (42 U.S.C. §§ 12131-12189) as implemented by Department of Transportation regulations at 49 C.F.R. parts 37 and 38;
- (i) The Federal Aviation Administration's Nondiscrimination statute (49 U.S.C. § 47123) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, and sex);
- (j) Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, which ensures Nondiscrimination against minority populations by discouraging programs, policies, and activities with disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations;
- (k) Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency, and resulting agency guidance, national origin discrimination includes discrimination because of Limited English proficiency (LEP). To ensure compliance with Title VI, you must take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to your programs (70 Fed. Reg. at 74087 to 74100);
- (l) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, which prohibits you from discriminating because of sex in education programs or activities (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq).
- (m) Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000e et seq., Pub. L. 88-352), (prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin).

**(4) Additional Title VI Assurances**

*\*\*The following Title VI Assurances (Appendices B, C and D) shall apply, as applicable*

- (a) Clauses for Deeds Transferring United States Property (1050.2A, Appendix B)

The following clauses will be included in deeds effecting or recording the transfer of real property, structures, or improvements thereon, or granting interest therein from the United States pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 4.

NOW, THEREFORE, the U.S. Department of Transportation as authorized by law and upon the condition that the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will accept title to the lands and maintain the project constructed thereon in accordance with the North Carolina General Assembly, the Regulations for the Administration of the Federal-Aid Highway Program, and the policies and procedures prescribed by the Federal Highway Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation in accordance and in compliance with all requirements imposed by Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, U.S. Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation pertaining to and effectuating the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252; 42 U.S.C. § 2000d to 2000d-4), does hereby remise, release, quitclaim and convey unto the NCDOT all the right, title and interest of the U.S. Department of Transportation in and to said lands described in Exhibit A attached hereto and made a part hereof.

(HABENDUM CLAUSE)

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said lands and interests therein unto the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and its successors forever, subject, however, to the covenants, conditions, restrictions and reservations herein contained as follows, which will remain in effect for the period during which the real property or structures are used for a purpose for which Federal financial assistance is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits and will be binding on the NCDOT, its successors and assigns.

The NCDOT, in consideration of the conveyance of said lands and interests in lands, does hereby covenant and agree as a covenant running with the land for itself, its successors and assigns, that (1) no person will on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination with regard to any facility located wholly or in part on, over, or under such lands hereby conveyed [,] [and]\* (2) that the NCDOT will use the lands and interests in lands and interests in lands so conveyed, in compliance with all requirements imposed by or pursuant to Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, U.S. Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and as said Regulations and Acts may be amended [, and (3) that in the event of breach of any of the above-mentioned nondiscrimination conditions, the Department will have a right to enter or re-enter said lands and facilities on said land, and that above described land and facilities will thereon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the U.S. Department of Transportation and its assigns as such interest existed prior to this instruction].\*

(\*Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary in order to make clear the purpose of Title VI.)

(b) Clauses for Transfer of Real Property Acquired or Improved Under the Activity, Facility, or Program (1050.2A, Appendix C)

The following clauses will be included in deeds, licenses, leases, permits, or similar instruments entered into by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 7(a):

1. The (grantee, lessee, permittee, etc. as appropriate) for himself/herself, his/her heirs, personal representatives, successors in interest, and assigns, as a part of the consideration hereof, does hereby covenant and agree [in the case of deeds and leases add "as a covenant running with the land"] that:
  - (i.) In the event facilities are constructed, maintained, or otherwise operated on the property described in this (deed, license, lease, permit, etc.) for a purpose for which a U.S. Department of Transportation activity, facility, or program is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits, the (grantee, licensee, lessee, permittee, etc.) will maintain and operate such facilities and services in compliance with all requirements imposed by the Acts and Regulations (as may be amended) such that no person on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the use of said facilities.
2. With respect to licenses, leases, permits, etc., in the event of breach of any of the above Nondiscrimination covenants, the NCDOT will have the right to terminate the (lease, license, permit, etc.) and to enter, re-enter, and repossess said lands and facilities thereon, and hold the same as if the (lease, license, permit, etc.) had never been made or issued. \*
3. With respect to a deed, in the event of breach of any of the above Nondiscrimination covenants, the NCDOT will have the right to enter or re-enter the lands and facilities thereon, and the above described lands and facilities will there upon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the NCDOT and its assigns. \*

(\*Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary to make clear the purpose of Title VI.)

(c) Clauses for Construction/Use/Access to Real Property Acquired Under the Activity, Facility or Program (1050.2A, Appendix D)

The following clauses will be included in deeds, licenses, permits, or similar instruments/ agreements entered into by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 7(b):

1. The (grantee, licensee, permittee, etc., as appropriate) for himself/herself, his/her heirs, personal representatives, successors in interest, and assigns, as a part of the consideration hereof, does hereby covenant and agree (in the case of deeds and leases add, "as a covenant running with the land") that (1) no person on the ground of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the use of said facilities, (2) that in the construction of any improvements on, over, or under such land, and the furnishing of services thereon, no person on the ground of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination, (3) that the (grantee, licensee, lessee, permittee, etc.) will use the premises in compliance with all other requirements imposed by or pursuant to the Acts and Regulations, as amended, set forth in this Assurance.
2. With respect to (licenses, leases, permits, etc.), in the event of breach of any of the above Non-discrimination covenants, the NCDOT will have the right to terminate the (license, permit, etc., as appropriate) and to enter or re-enter and repossess said land and the facilities thereon, and hold the same as if said (license, permit, etc., as appropriate) had never been made or issued. \*
3. With respect to deeds, in the event of breach of any of the above Nondiscrimination covenants, the NCDOT will there upon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the NCDOT and its assigns. \*

(\*Reverter clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary to make clear the purpose of Title VI.)

**STANDARD SPECIAL PROVISION****ON-THE-JOB TRAINING**

(10-16-07) (Rev. 4-21-15)

Z-10

**Description**

The North Carolina Department of Transportation will administer a custom version of the Federal On-the-Job Training (OJT) Program, commonly referred to as the Alternate OJT Program. All contractors (existing and newcomers) will be automatically placed in the Alternate Program. Standard OJT requirements typically associated with individual projects will no longer be applied at the project level. Instead, these requirements will be applicable on an annual basis for each contractor administered by the OJT Program Manager.

On the Job Training shall meet the requirements of 23 CFR 230.107 (b), 23 USC – Section 140, this provision and the On-the-Job Training Program Manual.

The Alternate OJT Program will allow a contractor to train employees on Federal, State and privately funded projects located in North Carolina. However, priority shall be given to training employees on NCDOT Federal-Aid funded projects.

**Minorities and Women**

Developing, training and upgrading of minorities and women toward journeyman level status is a primary objective of this special training provision. Accordingly, the Contractor shall make every effort to enroll minority and women as trainees to the extent that such persons are available within a reasonable area of recruitment. This training commitment is not intended, and shall not be used, to discriminate against any applicant for training, whether a member of a minority group or not.

**Assigning Training Goals**

The Department, through the OJT Program Manager, will assign training goals for a calendar year based on the contractors' past three years' activity and the contractors' anticipated upcoming year's activity with the Department. At the beginning of each year, all contractors eligible will be contacted by the Department to determine the number of trainees that will be assigned for the upcoming calendar year. At that time the Contractor shall enter into an agreement with the Department to provide a self-imposed on-the-job training program for the calendar year. This agreement will include a specific number of annual training goals agreed to by both parties. The number of training assignments may range from 1 to 15 per contractor per calendar year. The Contractor shall sign an agreement to fulfill their annual goal for the year.\

## Training Classifications

The Contractor shall provide on-the-job training aimed at developing full journeyman level workers in the construction craft/operator positions. Preference shall be given to providing training in the following skilled work classifications:

Equipment Operators	Office Engineers
Truck Drivers	Estimators
Carpenters	Iron / Reinforcing Steel Workers
Concrete Finishers	Mechanics
Pipe Layers	Welders

The Department has established common training classifications and their respective training requirements that may be used by the contractors. However, the classifications established are not all-inclusive. Where the training is oriented toward construction applications, training will be allowed in lower-level management positions such as office engineers and estimators. Contractors shall submit new classifications for specific job functions that their employees are performing. The Department will review and recommend for acceptance to FHWA the new classifications proposed by contractors, if applicable. New classifications shall meet the following requirements:

Proposed training classifications are reasonable and realistic based on the job skill classification needs, and

The number of training hours specified in the training classification is consistent with common practices and provides enough time for the trainee to obtain journeyman level status.

The Contractor may allow trainees to be trained by a subcontractor provided that the Contractor retains primary responsibility for meeting the training and this provision is made applicable to the subcontract. However, only the Contractor will receive credit towards the annual goal for the trainee.

Where feasible, 25 percent of apprentices or trainees in each occupation shall be in their first year of apprenticeship or training. The number of trainees shall be distributed among the work classifications on the basis of the contractor's needs and the availability of journeymen in the various classifications within a reasonable area of recruitment.

No employee shall be employed as a trainee in any classification in which they have successfully completed a training course leading to journeyman level status or in which they have been employed as a journeyman.

## Records and Reports

The Contractor shall maintain enrollment, monthly and completion reports documenting company compliance under these contract documents. These documents and any other information as requested shall be submitted to the OJT Program Manager.

Upon completion and graduation of the program, the Contractor shall provide each trainee with a certification Certificate showing the type and length of training satisfactorily completed.

### **Trainee Interviews**

All trainees enrolled in the program will receive an initial and Trainee/Post graduate interview conducted by the OJT program staff.

### **Trainee Wages**

Contractors shall compensate trainees on a graduating pay scale based upon a percentage of the prevailing minimum journeyman wages (Davis-Bacon Act). Minimum pay shall be as follows:

60 percent	of the journeyman wage for the first half of the training period
75 percent	of the journeyman wage for the third quarter of the training period
90 percent	of the journeyman wage for the last quarter of the training period

In no instance shall a trainee be paid less than the local minimum wage. The Contractor shall adhere to the minimum hourly wage rate that will satisfy both the NC Department of Labor (NCDOL) and the Department.

### **Achieving or Failing to Meet Training Goals**

The Contractor will be credited for each trainee employed by him on the contract work who is currently enrolled or becomes enrolled in an approved program and who receives training for at least 50 percent of the specific program requirement. Trainees will be allowed to be transferred between projects if required by the Contractor's scheduled workload to meet training goals.

If a contractor fails to attain their training assignments for the calendar year, they may be taken off the NCDOT's Bidders List.

### **Measurement and Payment**

No compensation will be made for providing required training in accordance with these contract documents.

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DN12194928

Henderson, Polk, Transylvania

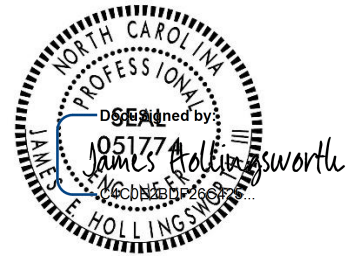
## WORK ZONE TRAFFIC CONTROL

### Project Special Provisions

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01/02/2026



# TC-2

DN12194928

Henderson, Polk, Transylvania

## **TEMPORARY TRAFFIC CONTROL**

(9/1/2021) (10/13/2023) (Rev. 12/17/2024)

### **General Requirements**

Maintain traffic on all roads in accordance with Divisions 10, 11 and 12 of the *NCDOT Standard Specifications* and the following provisions:

Install Work Zone Advance Warning Signs when work is within 40 feet from the edge of the travel lane in accordance with Standard Drawing No. 1101.01 of the *NCDOT Roadway Standard Drawings* prior to beginning any other work. If signs are installed more than 3 calendar days prior to the beginning of work, cover the signs until the work begins. Install each work zone advance warning sign separately and not on the same post or stand with any other sign.

When personnel and/or equipment are working within 15 feet of an open travel lane, close the nearest open shoulder using Standard Drawing No. 1101.04 of the *NCDOT Roadway Standard Drawings* unless the work area is protected by barrier or guardrail or a lane closure is installed.

When personnel and/or equipment are working within 5 feet of an open travel lane of an undivided facility, close the nearest open travel lane using Standard Drawing No. 1101.02 of the *NCDOT Roadway Standard Drawings* unless the work area is protected by barrier or guardrail.

When personnel and/or equipment are working within 10 feet of an open travel lane of a divided facility, close the nearest open travel lane using Standard Drawing No. 1101.02 of the *NCDOT Roadway Standard Drawings*, unless the work area is protected by barrier or guardrail.

When personnel and/or equipment are working within a lane of travel of an undivided or divided facility, close the lane using Standard Drawing No. 1101.02 of the *NCDOT Roadway Standard Drawings* or as directed by the Engineer.

Conduct the work so that all personnel and/or equipment remain within the closed travel lane. Perform work only when weather and visibility conditions allow safe operations as directed by the Engineer.

Do not work simultaneously within 15 feet on both sides of an open travel way, ramp, or loop within the same location, unless protected with guardrail or barrier.

Remove lane closure devices from the lane when work is not being performed behind the lane closure or when a lane closure is no longer needed or as directed by the Engineer.

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At the discretion of the Contractor, automated flagging assistance devices (AFAD) or portable traffic signals (PTS) may be used to assist, supplement, or replace human flaggers in accordance with the *Flaggers* provision found elsewhere in this contract.

## **Temporary Traffic Control (TTC)**

Refer to Standard Drawing No. 1101.02, 1101.03, 1101.04, 1101.11, 1110.01, 1110.02, 1115.01, 1130.01, 1135.01, 1145.01, 1150.01, 1165.01, and 1180.01 of the *NCDOT Roadway Standard Drawings* when closing a lane of travel or shoulder in the work zone.

Notify the Engineer 30 calendar days prior to any traffic pattern alteration.

Ensure all necessary signing is in place prior to altering any traffic pattern.

When lane closures are not in effect, space channelizing devices in work areas no greater in feet than twice the posted speed limit (MPH), except 10 feet on-center in radii, and 3 feet off the edge of an open travelway. Refer to *NCDOT Standard Specifications* Sections 1130 (Drums), 1135 (Cones), and 1180 (Skinny Drums) for additional requirements.

Place additional sets of three channelizing devices (Drums, Cones, or Skinny Drums) perpendicular to the edge of travelway on 100 to 500 feet centers, as directed by the Engineer, when unopened lanes are closed to traffic.

Place Type III Barricades with “ROAD CLOSED” sign R11-2 attached, of sufficient length to close the entire roadway.

Install black on orange “DIP” (W8-2) and/or “BUMP” (W8-1) signs in advance of the uneven area in accordance with Standard Drawing 1101.11, or as directed by the Engineer.

## **Pavement Edge Drop Off Requirements**

Backfill at a 6:1 slope up to the edge and elevation of existing pavement in areas adjacent to an opened travel lane that has an edge of pavement drop-off as follows:

- Backfill drop-offs that exceed 2 inches on roadways with posted speed limits of 45 mph or greater.
- Backfill drop-offs that exceed 3 inches on roadways with posted speed limits less than 45 mph.
- Backfill with suitable compacted material, as approved by the Engineer, at no expense to

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the department.

Do not exceed a difference of 2 inches in elevation between open lanes of traffic for nominal lifts of 1.5 inches. Install advance warning "Uneven Lanes" signs (W8-11) 500 feet in advance and a minimum of every half mile throughout the uneven area.

The following options are available during milling operations on two-way, two-lane facilities when the entire roadway or entire lane is to be milled:

- Mill a single lane and pave back by the end of each work day.
- Mill the entire width of roadway and pave back within 72 hours.

The following options are available during milling operations on multi-lane facilities when all lanes or a single lane in one direction are to be milled:

- Mill a single lane and pave back by the end of each work day.
- Mill the entire width of pavement for all lanes to be milled in any direction daily and pave back within 72 hours.

If milled areas are not paved back within the same work period the Contractor is to furnish and install portable "Grooved Pavement" (W8-15) w/ Motorcycle Plaque mounted below signs. These are to be dual indicated where lateral clearance can be obtained within the median areas. Install the "Grooved Pavement" (W8-15) w/ Motorcycle Plaque 1500' in advance of the milled area. Once mitigated, all portable signs are to be removed.

## Measurement and Payment

*Signs (portable, stationary, and/or barricade mounted), Barricades, Truck Mounted Attenuators (TMA), Portable Changeable Message Signs (PCMS), Flashing Arrow Boards (FAB), Pilot Vehicle, Flaggers (including AFAD and PTS units), Cones, Skinny Drums and Drums* will be measured and paid in accordance with the item's specific Section in the NCDOT Standard Specifications, Section 1105 of the NCDOT Standard Specifications, or the item's Special Provision, as determined by the Engineer.

Payment will be made under:

<b>Pay Item</b>	<b>Pay Unit</b>
TRAFFIC CONTROL (LANE CLOSURE-TWO LANE)	Day

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Henderson, Polk, Transylvania

TRAFFIC CONTROL (LANE CLOSURE-MULTI LANE)

Day

TRAFFIC CONTROL (SHOULDER CLOSURE)

Day

DN12194928

Contract No.

Rev. 10-31-24

County Henderson, Polk, and Transylvania

EXECUTION OF CONTRACT
NON-COLLUSION, DEBARMENT AND GIFT BAN CERTIFICATION

CORPORATION

The Contractor declares (or certifies, verifies, or states) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that neither he, nor any official, agent or employee has entered into any agreement, participated in any collusion, or otherwise taken any action which is in restraint of free competitive bidding in connection with this Contract...

By submitting this Execution of Contract, non-collusion, debarment and gift ban certification, the Contractor is certifying his status under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States in accordance with the Debarment Certification attached...

N.C.G.S. § 133-32 and Executive Order 24 prohibit the offer to, or acceptance by, any State Employee of any gift from anyone with a contract with the State, or from any person seeking to do business with the State.

SIGNATURE OF CONTRACTOR

ACE Clearing & Construction Inc.

Full name of Corporation

PO Box 128 Robbinsville, NC 28771

Address as prequalified

Attest H.M. Collins
Signature of Secretary, Assistant Secretary
Select appropriate title

By [Signature]
Signature of President, Vice President, Assistant Vice President
Select appropriate title

Helen M. Collins
Print or type Signer's name

Bo Collins
Print or type Signer's name



## DEBARMENT CERTIFICATION

### Conditions for certification:

1. The prequalified bidder shall provide immediate written notice to the Department if at any time the bidder learns that his certification was erroneous when he submitted his debarment certification or explanation filed with the Department, or has become erroneous because of changed circumstances.
2. The terms *covered transaction, debarred, suspended, ineligible, lower tier covered transaction, participant, person, primary covered transaction, principal, proposal, and voluntarily excluded*, as used in this provision, have the meanings set out in the Definitions and Coverage sections of the rules implementing Executive Order 12549. A copy of the Federal Rules requiring this certification and detailing the definitions and coverages may be obtained from the Contract Officer of the Department.
3. The prequalified bidder agrees by submitting this form, that he will not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in NCDOT contracts, unless authorized by the Department.
4. For Federal Aid projects, the prequalified bidder further agrees that by submitting this form he will include the Federal-Aid Provision titled *Required Contract Provisions Federal-Aid Construction Contract (Form FHWA PR 1273)* provided by the Department, without subsequent modification, in all lower tier covered transactions.
5. The prequalified bidder may rely upon a certification of a participant in a lower tier covered transaction that he is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless he knows that the certification is erroneous. The bidder may decide the method and frequency by which he will determine the eligibility of his subcontractors.
6. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this provision. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.
7. Except as authorized in paragraph 6 herein, the Department may terminate any contract if the bidder knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available by the Federal Government.

**DEBARMENT CERTIFICATION**

The prequalified bidder certifies to the best of his knowledge and belief, that he and his principals:

- a. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;
- b. Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records; making false statements; or receiving stolen property;
- c. Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph b. of this certification; and
- d. Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default.
- e. Will submit a revised Debarment Certification immediately if his status changes and will show in his bid proposal an explanation for the change in status.

If the prequalified bidder cannot certify that he is not debarred, he shall provide an explanation with this submittal. An explanation will not necessarily result in denial of participation in a contract.


Failure to submit a non-collusion and debarment certification will result in the prequalified bidder's bid being considered non-responsive.

Check here if an explanation is attached to this certification.

ITEMIZED PROPOSAL FOR CONTRACT NO. DN12194928							
Line #	Item Number	Sec #	Description	Qty	Units	Unit Cost	Extended Amount
<b>ROADWAY ITEMS</b>							
0001	0000910000-N	SP	GENERIC MISCELLANEOUS ITEM EXCAVATOR, TRACKED, OPERATING WEIGHT UNDER 20,000 LBS	80	HR	\$ 100	\$ 8,000
0002	0000910000-N	SP	GENERIC MISCELLANEOUS ITEM EXCAVATOR, TRACKED, OPERATING WEIGHT BETWEEN 20,000 AND 37,999 LBS	80	HR	\$ 125	\$ 10,000
0003	0000910000-N	SP	GENERIC MISCELLANEOUS ITEM EXCAVATOR, TRACKED, OPERATING WEIGHT OVER 38,000 LBS	80	HR	\$ 150	\$ 12,000
0004	0000910000-N	SP	GENERIC MISCELLANEOUS ITEM GRADER, MINIMUM 40,000 LBS	80	HR	\$ 150	\$ 12,000
0005	0000910000-N	SP	GENERIC MISCELLANEOUS ITEM DOZER, 180 - 250 HP	80	HR	\$ 175	\$ 14,000
0006	0000910000-N	SP	GENERIC MISCELLANEOUS ITEM BACKHOE MINIMUM 20,000 LBS	80	HR	\$ 125	\$ 10,000
0007	0000910000-N	SP	GENERIC MISCELLANEOUS ITEM FORCED FEED LOADER, MINIMUM 120 HP	80	HR	\$ 75	\$ 6,000
0008	0000910000-N	SP	GENERIC MISCELLANEOUS ITEM FRONT END LOADER, MINIMUM 70 HP	80	HR	\$ 100	\$ 8,000
0009	0000910000-N	SP	GENERIC MISCELLANEOUS ITEM SKID STEER MINIMUM 10,000 LBS	80	HR	\$ 100	\$ 8,000
0010	0000910000-N	SP	GENERIC MISCELLANEOUS ITEM SELF PROPELLED ROAD SWEEPER	80	HR	\$ 60	\$ 4,800
0011	0000910000-N	SP	GENERIC MISCELLANEOUS ITEM HYDRO PIPE RODDER	40	HR	\$ 100	\$ 4,000
0012	0000910000-N	SP	GENERIC MISCELLANEOUS ITEM DUMP TRUCK, SINGLE AXLE, MINIMUM 5 CY	80	HR	\$ 80	\$ 6,400
0013	0000910000-N	SP	GENERIC MISCELLANEOUS ITEM DUMP TRUCK, TANDEM AXLE, MINIMUM 12 CY	80	HR	\$ 90	\$ 7,200
0014	0000910000-N	SP	GENERIC MISCELLANEOUS ITEM DUMP TRUCK, TRI AXLE, MINIMUM 12 CY	80	HR	\$ 120	\$ 9,600
0015	0000910000-N	SP	GENERIC MISCELLANEOUS ITEM DUMP TRUCK, QUAD AXLE, MINIMUM 19 CY	60	HR	\$ 130	\$ 7,800

0016	0000910000-N	SP	GENERIC MISCELLANEOUS ITEM VIBRATORY ROLLER, MINIMUM 50 HP, 50" DRUM	60	HR	\$ 90	\$5,400
0017	0000910000-N	SP	GENERIC MISCELLANEOUS ITEM NON-VIBRATORY ROLLER, MINIMUM 50 HP, 50" DRUM	60	HR	\$ 90	\$5,400
0018	0000910000-N	SP	GENERIC MISCELLANEOUS ITEM TRENCH ROLLER	60	HR	\$ 50	\$3,000
0019	0000910000-N	SP	GENERIC MISCELLANEOUS ITEM PILOT TRUCK	100	HR	\$ 50	\$5,000
0020	0000910000-N	SP	GENERIC MISCELLANEOUS ITEM ADDITIONAL FLAGGER	240	HR	\$ 50	\$12,000
0021	0000910000-N	SP	GENERIC MISCELLANEOUS ITEM LABORER	360	HR	\$ 50	\$18,000
0022	0000915000-N	SP	GENERIC MISCELLANEOUS ITEM IMPACT ATTENUATOR, TRUCK OR TRAILER MOUNTED TL-3	10	EA	\$ 1000	\$10,000
0023	0000915000-N	SP	GENERIC MISCELLANEOUS ITEM EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION	2	EA	\$ 1000	\$2,000
0024	4609000000-N	SP	GENERIC TRAFFIC CONTROL ITEM TRAFFIC CONTROL (LANE CLOSURE-TWO LANE)	20	DAY	\$ 600	\$12,000
0025	4609000000-N	SP	GENERIC TRAFFIC CONTROL ITEM TRAFFIC CONTROL (LANE CLOSURE-MULTI LANE)	20	DAY	\$ 600	\$12,000
0026	4609000000-N	SP	GENERIC TRAFFIC CONTROL ITEM TRAFFIC CONTROL (SHOULDER CLOSURE)	25	DAY	\$ 400	\$10,000
Total Amount Of Bid For Entire Project:							\$ 222,600

## ITEMIZED PROPOSAL FOR CONTRACT NO. DN12194927

Contractor: Ace Clearing & Construction Inc.  
Address: 389 Rodney Orr Bypass Robbinsville NC 28771  
Phone: 828 735 1424 Federal ID: 20-3475958  
Contractor License Number (If Available): 85940  
Authorized Agent: Bo Collins Title: President  
Signature:  Date: 02/09/2026

**Execution of Contract**

**Contract No: DN12194928**

**County: Henderson, Polk, and Transylvania**

ACCEPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT

DocuSigned by:  
*Jeffrey E. Alspangh*  
160F4BFF87884E1...

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**Proposals Engineer**

02/25/2026

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Date

EXECUTION OF CONTRACT AND BONDS  
APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DocuSigned by:  
*Wesley Grindstaff*  
5D4FEEBBB3C7C4DC...

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**Division Engineer**

02/27/2026

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Date



**THIS ENDORSEMENT CHANGES THE POLICY. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY.**

## **PRIMARY AND NONCONTRIBUTORY – OTHER INSURANCE CONDITION**

This endorsement modifies insurance provided under the following:

COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY COVERAGE PART  
PRODUCTS/COMPLETED OPERATIONS LIABILITY COVERAGE PART

The following is added to the **Other Insurance** Condition and supersedes any provision to the contrary:

### **Primary And Noncontributory Insurance**

This insurance is primary to and will not seek contribution from any other insurance available to an additional insured under your policy provided that:

- (1) The additional insured is a Named Insured under such other insurance; and
- (2) You have agreed in writing in a contract or agreement that this insurance would be primary and would not seek contribution from any other insurance available to the additional insured.

**THIS ENDORSEMENT CHANGES THE POLICY. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY.**

**ADDITIONAL INSURED – OWNERS, LESSEES OR  
CONTRACTORS – AUTOMATIC STATUS FOR OTHER  
PARTIES WHEN REQUIRED IN WRITTEN  
CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT**

This endorsement modifies insurance provided under the following:

COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY COVERAGE PART

**A. Section II – Who Is An Insured** is amended to include as an additional insured:

1. Any person or organization for whom you are performing operations when you and such person or organization have agreed in writing in a contract or agreement that such person or organization be added as an additional insured on your policy; and
2. Any other person or organization you are required to add as an additional insured under the contract or agreement described in Paragraph 1. above.

Such person(s) or organization(s) is an additional insured only with respect to liability for "bodily injury", "property damage" or "personal and advertising injury" caused, in whole or in part, by:

- a. Your acts or omissions; or
- b. The acts or omissions of those acting on your behalf;

in the performance of your ongoing operations for the additional insured.

However, the insurance afforded to such additional insured described above:

- a. Only applies to the extent permitted by law; and
- b. Will not be broader than that which you are required by the contract or agreement to provide for such additional insured.

A person's or organization's status as an additional insured under this endorsement ends when your operations for the person or organization described in Paragraph 1. above are completed.

**B.** With respect to the insurance afforded to these additional insureds, the following additional exclusions apply:

This insurance does not apply to:

1. "Bodily injury", "property damage" or "personal and advertising injury" arising out of the rendering of, or the failure to render, any professional architectural, engineering or surveying services, including:
  - a. The preparing, approving, or failing to prepare or approve, maps, shop drawings, opinions, reports, surveys, field orders, change orders or drawings and specifications; or
  - b. Supervisory, inspection, architectural or engineering activities.

This exclusion applies even if the claims against any insured allege negligence or other wrongdoing in the supervision, hiring, employment, training or monitoring of others by that insured, if the "occurrence" which caused the "bodily injury" or "property damage", or the offense which caused the "personal and advertising injury", involved the rendering of, or the failure to render, any professional architectural, engineering or surveying services.

2. "Bodily injury" or "property damage" occurring after:
  - a. All work, including materials, parts or equipment furnished in connection with such work, on the project (other than service, maintenance or repairs) to be performed by or on behalf of the additional insured(s) at the location of the covered operations has been completed; or

b. That portion of "your work" out of which the injury or damage arises has been put to its intended use by any person or organization other than another contractor or subcontractor engaged in performing operations for a principal as a part of the same project.

C. With respect to the insurance afforded to these additional insureds, the following is added to **Section III – Limits Of Insurance:**

The most we will pay on behalf of the additional insured is the amount of insurance:

1. Required by the contract or agreement described in Paragraph **A.1.**; or

2. Available under the applicable Limits of Insurance shown in the Declarations; whichever is less.

This endorsement shall not increase the applicable Limits of Insurance shown in the Declarations.

# COMMERCIAL LIABILITY UMBRELLA COVERAGE FORM

Various provisions in this policy restrict coverage. Read the entire policy carefully to determine rights, duties and what is and is not covered.

Throughout this policy the words "you" and "your" refer to the Named Insured shown in the Declarations, and any other person or organization qualifying as a Named Insured under this policy. The words "we", "us" and "our" refer to the company providing this insurance.

The word "insured" means any person or organization qualifying as such under Section II – Who Is An Insured.

Other words and phrases that appear in quotation marks have special meaning. Refer to Section V – Definitions.

## SECTION I – COVERAGES

### COVERAGE A – BODILY INJURY AND PROPERTY DAMAGE LIABILITY

#### 1. Insuring Agreement

a. We will pay on behalf of the insured the "ultimate net loss" in excess of the "retained limit" because of "bodily injury" or "property damage" to which this insurance applies. We will have the right and duty to defend the insured against any "suit" seeking damages for such "bodily injury" or "property damage" when the "underlying insurance" does not provide coverage or the limits of "underlying insurance" have been exhausted. When we have no duty to defend, we will have the right to defend, or to participate in the defense of, the insured against any other "suit" seeking damages to which this insurance may apply. However, we will have no duty to defend the insured against any "suit" seeking damages for "bodily injury" or "property damage" to which this insurance does not apply. At our discretion, we may investigate any "occurrence" that may involve this insurance and settle any resultant claim or "suit" for which we have the duty to defend. But:

- (1) The amount we will pay for the "ultimate net loss" is limited as described in Section III – Limits Of Insurance; and
- (2) Our right and duty to defend ends when we have used up the applicable limit of insurance in the payment of judgments or settlements under Coverages A or B.

No other obligation or liability to pay sums or perform acts or services is covered unless explicitly provided for under Supplementary Payments – Coverages A and B.

- b. This insurance applies to "bodily injury" or "property damage" that is subject to an applicable "retained limit". If any other limit, such as a sublimit, is specified in the "underlying insurance", this insurance does not apply to "bodily injury" or "property damage" arising out of that exposure unless that limit is specified in the Declarations under the Schedule of "underlying insurance".
- c. This insurance applies to "bodily injury" and "property damage" only if:
  - (1) The "bodily injury" or "property damage" is caused by an "occurrence" that takes place in the "coverage territory";
  - (2) The "bodily injury" or "property damage" occurs during the policy period; and
  - (3) Prior to the policy period, no insured listed under Paragraph 1.a. of Section II – Who Is An Insured and no "employee" authorized by you to give or receive notice of an "occurrence" or claim, knew that the "bodily injury" or "property damage" had occurred, in whole or in part. If such a listed insured or authorized "employee" knew, prior to the policy period, that the "bodily injury" or "property damage" occurred, then any continuation, change or resumption of such "bodily injury" or "property damage" during or after the policy period will be deemed to have been known prior to the policy period.
- d. "Bodily injury" or "property damage" which occurs during the policy period and was not, prior to the policy period, known to have occurred by any insured listed under Paragraph 1.a. of Section II – Who Is An Insured or any "employee" authorized by you to give or receive notice of an "occurrence" or claim, includes any continuation, change or resumption of that "bodily injury" or "property damage" after the end of the policy period.

e. "Bodily injury" or "property damage" will be deemed to have been known to have occurred at the earliest time when any insured listed under Paragraph 1.a. of Section II – Who Is An Insured or any "employee" authorized by you to give or receive notice of an "occurrence" or claim:

- (1) Reports all, or any part, of the "bodily injury" or "property damage" to us or any other insurer;
- (2) Receives a written or verbal demand or claim for damages because of the "bodily injury" or "property damage"; or
- (3) Becomes aware by any other means that "bodily injury" or "property damage" has occurred or has begun to occur.

f. Damages because of "bodily injury" include damages claimed by any person or organization for care, loss of services or death resulting at any time from the "bodily injury".

## 2. Exclusions

This insurance does not apply to:

### a. Expected Or Intended Injury

"Bodily injury" or "property damage" expected or intended from the standpoint of the insured. This exclusion does not apply to "bodily injury" resulting from the use of reasonable force to protect persons or property.

### b. Contractual Liability

"Bodily injury" or "property damage" for which the insured is obligated to pay damages by reason of the assumption of liability in a contract or agreement. This exclusion does not apply to liability for damages:

- (1) That the insured would have in the absence of the contract or agreement; or
- (2) Assumed in a contract or agreement that is an "insured contract", provided the "bodily injury" or "property damage" occurs subsequent to the execution of the contract or agreement. Solely for the purposes of liability assumed in an "insured contract", reasonable attorneys' fees and necessary litigation expenses incurred by or for a party other than an insured are deemed to be damages because of "bodily injury" or "property damage", provided:
  - (a) Liability to such party for, or for the cost of, that party's defense has also been assumed in the same "insured contract"; and

(b) Such attorneys' fees and litigation expenses are for defense of that party against a civil or alternative dispute resolution proceeding in which damages to which this insurance applies are alleged.

### c. Liquor Liability

"Bodily injury" or "property damage" for which any insured may be held liable by reason of:

- (1) Causing or contributing to the intoxication of any person;
- (2) The furnishing of alcoholic beverages to a person under the legal drinking age or under the influence of alcohol; or
- (3) Any statute, ordinance or regulation relating to the sale, gift, distribution or use of alcoholic beverages.

This exclusion applies even if the claims against any insured allege negligence or other wrongdoing in:

- (a) The supervision, hiring, employment, training or monitoring of others by that insured; or
- (b) Providing or failing to provide transportation with respect to any person that may be under the influence of alcohol;

if the "occurrence" which caused the "bodily injury" or "property damage" involved that which is described in Paragraph (1), (2) or (3) above.

However, this exclusion applies only if you are in the business of manufacturing, distributing, selling, serving or furnishing alcoholic beverages. For the purposes of this exclusion, permitting a person to bring alcoholic beverages on your premises, for consumption on your premises, whether or not a fee is charged or a license is required for such activity, is not by itself considered the business of selling, serving or furnishing alcoholic beverages.

This exclusion does not apply to the extent that valid "underlying insurance" for the liquor liability risks described above exists or would have existed but for the exhaustion of underlying limits for "bodily injury" and "property damage". To the extent this exclusion does not apply, the insurance provided under this Coverage Part for the liquor liability risks described above will follow the same provisions, exclusions and limitations that are contained in the applicable "underlying insurance", unless otherwise directed by this insurance.

**d. Workers' Compensation And Similar Laws**

Any obligation of the insured under a workers' compensation, disability benefits or unemployment compensation law or any similar law.

**e. ERISA**

Any obligation of the insured under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and any amendments thereto or any similar federal, state or local statute.

**f. Auto Coverages**

- (1) "Bodily injury" or "property damage" arising out of the ownership, maintenance or use of any "auto" which is not a "covered auto"; or
- (2) Any loss, cost or expense payable under or resulting from any first-party physical damage coverage; no-fault law; personal injury protection or auto medical payments coverage; or uninsured or underinsured motorist law.

**g. Employer's Liability**

"Bodily injury" to:

- (1) An "employee" of the insured arising out of and in the course of:
  - (a) Employment by the insured; or
  - (b) Performing duties related to the conduct of the insured's business; or
- (2) The spouse, child, parent, brother or sister of that "employee" as a consequence of Paragraph (1) above.

This exclusion applies whether the insured may be liable as an employer or in any other capacity, and to any obligation to share damages with or repay someone else who must pay damages because of the injury.

This exclusion does not apply to liability assumed by the insured under an "insured contract".

With respect to injury arising out of a "covered auto", this exclusion does not apply to "bodily injury" to domestic "employees" not entitled to workers' compensation benefits. For the purposes of this insurance, a domestic "employee" is a person engaged in household or domestic work performed principally in connection with a residence premises.

This exclusion does not apply to the extent that valid "underlying insurance" for the employer's liability risks described above exists or would have existed but for the exhaustion of underlying limits for "bodily injury". To the extent this exclusion does not apply, the insurance provided under this Coverage Part for the employer's liability risks described above will follow the same provisions, exclusions and limitations that are contained in the applicable "underlying insurance", unless otherwise directed by this insurance.

**h. Employment-related Practices**

"Bodily injury" to:

- (1) A person arising out of any:
  - (a) Refusal to employ that person;
  - (b) Termination of that person's employment; or
  - (c) Employment-related practices, policies, acts or omissions, such as coercion, demotion, evaluation, reassignment, discipline, defamation, harassment, humiliation, discrimination or malicious prosecution directed at that person; or
- (2) The spouse, child, parent, brother or sister of that person as a consequence of "bodily injury" to that person at whom any of the employment-related practices described in Paragraph (a), (b), or (c) above is directed.

This exclusion applies whether the injury-causing event described in Paragraph (a), (b) or (c) above occurs before employment, during employment or after employment of that person.

This exclusion applies whether the insured may be liable as an employer or in any other capacity, and to any obligation to share damages with or repay someone else who must pay damages because of the injury.

**i. Pollution**

- (1) "Bodily injury" or "property damage" which would not have occurred in whole or part but for the actual, alleged or threatened discharge, dispersal, seepage, migration, release or escape of "pollutants" at any time; or
- (2) "Pollution cost or expense".

This exclusion does not apply if valid "underlying insurance" for the pollution liability risks described above exists or would have existed but for the exhaustion of underlying limits for "bodily injury" and "property damage". To the extent this exclusion does not apply, the insurance provided under this Coverage Part for the pollution risks described above will follow the same provisions, exclusions and limitations that are contained in the applicable "underlying insurance", unless otherwise directed by this insurance.

**j. Aircraft Or Watercraft**

"Bodily injury" or "property damage" arising out of the ownership, maintenance, use or entrustment to others of any aircraft or watercraft owned or operated by or rented or loaned to any insured. Use includes operation and "loading or unloading".

This exclusion applies even if the claims against any insured allege negligence or other wrongdoing in the supervision, hiring, employment, training or monitoring of others by that insured, if the "occurrence" which caused the "bodily injury" or "property damage" involved the ownership, maintenance, use or entrustment to others of any aircraft or watercraft that is owned or operated by or rented or loaned to any insured.

This exclusion does not apply to:

- (1) A watercraft while ashore on premises you own or rent;
- (2) A watercraft you do not own that is:
  - (a) Less than 50 feet long; and
  - (b) Not being used to carry persons or property for a charge;
- (3) Liability assumed under any "insured contract" for the ownership, maintenance or use of aircraft or watercraft;
- (4) The extent that valid "underlying insurance" for the aircraft or watercraft liability risks described above exists or would have existed but for the exhaustion of underlying limits for "bodily injury" or "property damage". To the extent this exclusion does not apply, the insurance provided under this Coverage Part for the aircraft or watercraft risks described above will follow the same provisions, exclusions and limitations that are contained in the "underlying insurance", unless otherwise directed by this insurance; or

**(5) Aircraft that is:**

- (a) Chartered by, loaned to, or hired by you with a paid crew; and
- (b) Not owned by any insured.

**k. Racing Activities**

"Bodily injury" or "property damage" arising out of the use of "mobile equipment" or "autos" in, or while in practice for, or while being prepared for, any prearranged professional or organized racing, speed, demolition, or stunting activity or contest.

**l. War**

"Bodily injury" or "property damage", however caused, arising, directly or indirectly, out of:

- (1) War, including undeclared or civil war;
- (2) Warlike action by a military force, including action in hindering or defending against an actual or expected attack, by any government, sovereign or other authority using military personnel or other agents; or
- (3) Insurrection, rebellion, revolution, usurped power, or action taken by governmental authority in hindering or defending against any of these.

**m. Damage To Property**

"Property damage" to:

- (1) Property:
  - (a) You own, rent, or occupy, including any costs or expenses incurred by you, or any other person, organization or entity, for repair, replacement, enhancement, restoration or maintenance of such property for any reason, including prevention of injury to a person or damage to another's property; or
  - (b) Owned or transported by the insured and arising out of the ownership, maintenance or use of a "covered auto".
- (2) Premises you sell, give away or abandon, if the "property damage" arises out of any part of those premises;
- (3) Property loaned to you;
- (4) Personal property in the care, custody or control of the insured;
- (5) That particular part of real property on which you or any contractors or subcontractors working directly or indirectly on your behalf are performing operations, if the "property damage" arises out of those operations; or

- (6) That particular part of any property that must be restored, repaired or replaced because "your work" was incorrectly performed on it.

Paragraph (2) of this exclusion does not apply if the premises are "your work" and were never occupied, rented or held for rental by you.

Paragraphs (1)(b), (3), (4), (5) and (6) of this exclusion do not apply to liability assumed under a sidetrack agreement.

Paragraphs (3) and (4) of this exclusion do not apply to liability assumed under a written Trailer Interchange agreement.

Paragraph (6) of this exclusion does not apply to "property damage" included in the "products-completed operations hazard".

**n. Damage To Your Product**

"Property damage" to "your product" arising out of it or any part of it.

**o. Damage To Your Work**

"Property damage" to "your work" arising out of it or any part of it and included in the "products-completed operations hazard".

This exclusion does not apply if the damaged work or the work out of which the damage arises was performed on your behalf by a subcontractor.

**p. Damage To Impaired Property Or Property Not Physically Injured**

"Property damage" to "impaired property" or property that has not been physically injured, arising out of:

- (1) A defect, deficiency, inadequacy or dangerous condition in "your product" or "your work"; or
- (2) A delay or failure by you or anyone acting on your behalf to perform a contract or agreement in accordance with its terms.

This exclusion does not apply to the loss of use of other property arising out of sudden and accidental physical injury to "your product" or "your work" after it has been put to its intended use.

**q. Recall Of Products, Work Or Impaired Property**

Damages claimed for any loss, cost or expense incurred by you or others for the loss of use, withdrawal, recall, inspection, repair, replacement, adjustment, removal or disposal of:

- (1) "Your product";
- (2) "Your work"; or

- (3) "Impaired property";

if such product, work, or property is withdrawn or recalled from the market or from use by any person or organization because of a known or suspected defect, deficiency, inadequacy or dangerous condition in it.

**r. Personal And Advertising Injury**

"Bodily injury" arising out of "personal and advertising injury".

**s. Professional Services**

"Bodily injury" or "property damage" due to rendering of or failure to render any professional service. This includes but is not limited to:

- (1) Legal, accounting or advertising services;
- (2) Preparing, approving, or failing to prepare or approve, maps, shop drawings, opinions, reports, surveys, field orders, change orders or drawings or specifications;
- (3) Inspection, supervision, quality control, architectural or engineering activities done by or for you on a project on which you serve as construction manager;
- (4) Engineering services, including related supervisory or inspection services;
- (5) Medical, surgical, dental, X-ray or nursing services treatment, advice or instruction;
- (6) Any health or therapeutic service treatment, advice or instruction;
- (7) Any service, treatment, advice or instruction for the purpose of appearance or skin enhancement, hair removal or replacement, or personal grooming or therapy;
- (8) Any service, treatment, advice or instruction relating to physical fitness, including service, treatment, advice or instruction in connection with diet, cardiovascular fitness, bodybuilding or physical training programs;
- (9) Optometry or optical or hearing aid services including the prescribing, preparation, fitting, demonstration or distribution of ophthalmic lenses and similar products or hearing aid devices;
- (10) Body piercing services;
- (11) Services in the practice of pharmacy;
- (12) Law enforcement or firefighting services; and
- (13) Handling, embalming, disposal, burial, cremation or disinterment of dead bodies.

This exclusion applies even if the claims against any insured allege negligence or other wrongdoing in the supervision, hiring, employment, training or monitoring of others by that insured, if the "occurrence" which caused the "bodily injury" or "property damage", involved the rendering of or failure to render any professional service.

**t. Electronic Data**

Damages arising out of the loss of, loss of use of, damage to, corruption of, inability to access or inability to manipulate electronic data.

However, this exclusion does not apply to liability for damages because of "bodily injury".

As used in this exclusion, electronic data means information, facts or programs stored as or on, created or used on, or transmitted to or from computer software, including systems and applications software, hard or floppy disks, CD-ROMs, tapes, drives, cells, data processing devices or any other media which are used with electronically controlled equipment.

This exclusion does not apply if valid "underlying insurance" for the electronic data risks described above exists or would have existed but for the exhaustion of underlying limits for "bodily injury" and "property damage". The insurance provided under this Coverage Part will follow the same provisions, exclusions and limitations that are contained in the applicable "underlying insurance", unless otherwise directed by this insurance.

**u. Recording And Distribution Of Material Or Information In Violation Of Law**

"Bodily injury" or "property damage" arising directly or indirectly out of any action or omission that violates or is alleged to violate:

- (1) The Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA), including any amendment of or addition to such law;
- (2) The CAN-SPAM Act of 2003, including any amendment of or addition to such law;
- (3) The Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), and any amendment of or addition to such law, including the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act (FACTA); or
- (4) Any federal, state or local statute, ordinance or regulation, other than the TCPA, CAN-SPAM Act of 2003 or FCRA and their amendments and additions, that addresses, prohibits, or limits the printing, dissemination, disposal, collecting, recording, sending, transmitting, communicating or distribution of material or information.

**COVERAGE B – PERSONAL AND ADVERTISING INJURY LIABILITY**

**1. Insuring Agreement**

- a. We will pay on behalf of the insured the "ultimate net loss" in excess of the "retained limit" because of "personal and advertising injury" to which this insurance applies. We will have the right and duty to defend the insured against any "suit" seeking damages for such "personal and advertising injury" when the "underlying insurance" does not provide coverage or the limits of "underlying insurance" have been exhausted. When we have no duty to defend, we will have the right to defend, or to participate in the defense of, the insured against any other "suit" seeking damages to which this insurance may apply. However, we will have no duty to defend the insured against any "suit" seeking damages for "personal and advertising injury" to which this insurance does not apply. At our discretion, we may investigate any offense that may involve this insurance and settle any resultant claim or "suit" for which we have the duty to defend. But:

- (1) The amount we will pay for the "ultimate net loss" is limited as described in Section III – Limits Of Insurance; and
- (2) Our right and duty to defend end when we have used up the applicable limit of insurance in the payment of judgments or settlements under Coverages A or B.

No other obligation or liability to pay sums or perform acts or services is covered unless explicitly provided for under Supplementary Payments – Coverages A and B.

- b. This insurance applies to "personal and advertising injury" that is subject to an applicable "retained limit". If any other limit, such as a sublimit, is specified in the "underlying insurance", this insurance does not apply to "personal and advertising injury" arising out of that exposure unless that limit is specified in the Declarations under the Schedule of "underlying insurance".
- c. This insurance applies to "personal and advertising injury" caused by an offense arising out of your business but only if the offense was committed in the "coverage territory" during the policy period.

## 2. Exclusions

This insurance does not apply to:

### a. "Personal and advertising injury":

#### (1) Knowing Violation Of Rights Of Another

Caused by or at the direction of the insured with the knowledge that the act would violate the rights of another and would inflict "personal and advertising injury".

#### (2) Material Published With Knowledge Of Falsity

Arising out of oral or written publication, in any manner, of material, if done by or at the direction of the insured with knowledge of its falsity.

#### (3) Material Published Prior To Policy Period

Arising out of oral or written publication, in any manner, of material whose first publication took place before the beginning of the policy period.

#### (4) Criminal Acts

Arising out of a criminal act committed by or at the direction of the insured.

#### (5) Contractual Liability

For which the insured has assumed liability in a contract or agreement. This exclusion does not apply to:

- (a) Liability for damages that the insured would have in the absence of the contract or agreement.
- (b) Liability for false arrest, detention or imprisonment assumed in a contract or agreement.

#### (6) Breach Of Contract

Arising out of a breach of contract, except an implied contract to use another's advertising idea in your "advertisement".

#### (7) Quality Or Performance Of Goods – Failure To Conform To Statements

Arising out of the failure of goods, products or services to conform with any statement of quality or performance made in your "advertisement".

#### (8) Wrong Description Of Prices

Arising out of the wrong description of the price of goods, products or services stated in your "advertisement".

#### (9) Infringement Of Copyright, Patent, Trademark Or Trade Secret

Arising out of the infringement of copyright, patent, trademark, trade secret or other intellectual property rights. Under this exclusion, such other intellectual property rights do not include the use of another's advertising idea in your "advertisement".

However, this exclusion does not apply to infringement, in your "advertisement", of copyright, trade dress or slogan.

#### (10) Insureds In Media And Internet Type Businesses

Committed by an insured whose business is:

- (a) Advertising, broadcasting, publishing or telecasting;
- (b) Designing or determining content of web sites for others; or
- (c) An Internet search, access, content or service provider.

However, this exclusion does not apply to Paragraphs **14.a.**, **b.** and **c.** of "personal and advertising injury" under the Definitions section.

For the purposes of this exclusion, the placing of frames, borders or links, or advertising, for you or others anywhere on the Internet, is not by itself, considered the business of advertising, broadcasting, publishing or telecasting.

#### (11) Electronic Chatrooms Or Bulletin Boards

Arising out of an electronic chatroom or bulletin board the insured hosts, owns, or over which the insured exercises control.

#### (12) Unauthorized Use Of Another's Name Or Product

Arising out of the unauthorized use of another's name or product in your e-mail address, domain name or metatag, or any other similar tactics to mislead another's potential customers.

#### (13) Pollution

Arising out of the actual, alleged or threatened discharge, dispersal, seepage, migration, release or escape of "pollutants" at any time.

**(14) Employment-related Practices**

To:

- (a)** A person arising out of any:
  - (i)** Refusal to employ that person;
  - (ii)** Termination of that person's employment; or
  - (iii)** Employment-related practices, policies, acts or omissions, such as coercion, demotion, evaluation, reassignment, discipline, defamation, harassment, humiliation, discrimination or malicious prosecution directed at that person; or
- (b)** The spouse, child, parent, brother or sister of that person as a consequence of "personal and advertising injury" to that person at whom any of the employment-related practices described in Paragraph **(i)**, **(ii)** or **(iii)** above is directed.

This exclusion applies whether the injury-causing event described in Paragraph **(i)**, **(ii)** or **(iii)** above occurs before employment, during employment or after employment of that person.

This exclusion applies whether the insured may be liable as an employer or in any other capacity, and to any obligation to share damages with or repay someone else who must pay damages because of the injury.

**(15) Professional Services**

Arising out of the rendering of or failure to render any professional service. This includes but is not limited to:

- (a)** Legal, accounting or advertising services;
- (b)** Preparing, approving, or failing to prepare or approve, maps, shop drawings, opinions, reports, surveys, field orders, change orders or drawings or specifications;
- (c)** Inspection, supervision, quality control, architectural or engineering activities done by or for you on a project on which you serve as construction manager;
- (d)** Engineering services, including related supervisory or inspection services;
- (e)** Medical, surgical, dental, X-ray or nursing services treatment, advice or instruction;

- (f)** Any health or therapeutic service treatment, advice or instruction;
- (g)** Any service, treatment, advice or instruction for the purpose of appearance or skin enhancement, hair removal or replacement, or personal grooming or therapy;
- (h)** Any service, treatment, advice or instruction relating to physical fitness, including service, treatment, advice or instruction in connection with diet, cardiovascular fitness, bodybuilding or physical training programs;
- (i)** Optometry or optical or hearing aid services including the prescribing, preparation, fitting, demonstration or distribution of ophthalmic lenses and similar products or hearing aid devices;
- (j)** Body piercing services;
- (k)** Services in the practice of pharmacy;
- (l)** Law enforcement or firefighting services; and
- (m)** Handling, embalming, disposal, burial, cremation or disinterment of dead bodies.

This exclusion applies even if the claims against any insured allege negligence or other wrongdoing in the supervision, hiring, employment, training or monitoring of others by that insured, if the offense which caused the "personal and advertising injury", involved the rendering of or failure to render any professional service.

**(16) War**

However caused, arising, directly or indirectly, out of:

- (a)** War, including undeclared or civil war;
- (b)** Warlike action by a military force, including action in hindering or defending against an actual or expected attack, by any government, sovereign or other authority using military personnel or other agents; or
- (c)** Insurrection, rebellion, revolution, usurped power, or action taken by governmental authority in hindering or defending against any of these.

**(17) Recording And Distribution Of Material Or Information In Violation Of Law**

Arising directly or indirectly out of any action or omission that violates or is alleged to violate:

- (a)** The Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA), including any amendment of or addition to such law;
- (b)** The CAN-SPAM Act of 2003, including any amendment of or addition to such law;
- (c)** The Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), and any amendment of or addition to such law, including the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act (FACTA); or
- (d)** Any federal, state or local statute, ordinance or regulation, other than the TCPA, CAN-SPAM Act of 2003 or FCRA and their amendments and additions, that addresses, prohibits, or limits the printing, dissemination, disposal, collecting, recording, sending, transmitting, communicating or distribution of material or information.

**b.** "Pollution cost or expense".

**SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENTS – COVERAGES A AND B**

- 1.** We will pay, with respect to any claim we investigate or settle, or any "suit" against an insured we defend, when the duty to defend exists:
  - a.** All expenses we incur.
  - b.** Up to \$2,000 for cost of bail bonds (including bonds for related traffic law violations) required because of an "occurrence" we cover. We do not have to furnish these bonds.
  - c.** The cost of bonds to release attachments, but only for bond amounts within the applicable limit of insurance. We do not have to furnish these bonds.
  - d.** All reasonable expenses incurred by the insured at our request to assist us in the investigation or defense of the claim or "suit", including actual loss of earnings up to \$250 a day because of time off from work.
  - e.** All court costs taxed against the insured in the "suit". However, these payments do not include attorneys' fees or attorneys' expenses taxed against the insured.

**f.** Prejudgment interest awarded against the insured on that part of the judgment we pay. If we make an offer to pay the applicable limit of insurance, we will not pay any prejudgment interest based on that period of time after the offer.

**g.** All interest on the full amount of any judgment that accrues after entry of the judgment and before we have paid, offered to pay, or deposited in court the part of the judgment that is within the applicable limit of insurance.

These payments will not reduce the limits of insurance.

- 2.** When we have the right but not the duty to defend the insured and elect to participate in the defense, we will pay our own expenses but will not contribute to the expenses of the insured or the "underlying insurer".
- 3.** If we defend an insured against a "suit" and an indemnitee of the insured is also named as a party to the "suit", we will defend that indemnitee if all of the following conditions are met:
  - a.** The "suit" against the indemnitee seeks damages for which the insured has assumed the liability of the indemnitee in a contract or agreement that is an "insured contract";
  - b.** This insurance applies to such liability assumed by the insured;
  - c.** The obligation to defend, or the cost of the defense of, that indemnitee, has also been assumed by the insured in the same "insured contract";
  - d.** The allegations in the "suit" and the information we know about the "occurrence" are such that no conflict appears to exist between the interests of the insured and the interests of the indemnitee;
  - e.** The indemnitee and the insured ask us to conduct and control the defense of that indemnitee against such "suit" and agree that we can assign the same counsel to defend the insured and the indemnitee; and
  - f.** The indemnitee:
    - (1)** Agrees in writing to:
      - (a)** Cooperate with us in the investigation, settlement or defense of the "suit";
      - (b)** Immediately send us copies of any demands, notices, summonses or legal papers received in connection with the "suit";
      - (c)** Notify any other insurer whose coverage is available to the indemnitee; and

- (d) Cooperate with us with respect to coordinating other applicable insurance available to the indemnitee; and
- (2) Provides us with written authorization to:
  - (a) Obtain records and other information related to the "suit"; and
  - (b) Conduct and control the defense of the indemnitee in such "suit".

So long as the above conditions are met, attorneys' fees incurred by us in the defense of that indemnitee, necessary litigation expenses incurred by us and necessary litigation expenses incurred by the indemnitee at our request will be paid as Supplementary Payments. Notwithstanding the provisions of Paragraph 2.b.(2) of Section I – Coverage A – Bodily Injury And Property Damage Liability, such payments will not be deemed to be damages for "bodily injury" and "property damage" and will not reduce the limits of insurance.

Our obligation to defend an insured's indemnitee and to pay for attorneys' fees and necessary litigation expenses as Supplementary Payments ends when we have used up the applicable limit of insurance in the payment of judgments or settlements or the conditions set forth above, or the terms of the agreement described in Paragraph f. above, are no longer met.

## SECTION II – WHO IS AN INSURED

1. Except for liability arising out of the ownership, maintenance or use of "covered autos":
  - a. If you are designated in the Declarations as:
    - (1) An individual, you and your spouse are insureds, but only with respect to the conduct of a business of which you are the sole owner.
    - (2) A partnership or joint venture, you are an insured. Your members, your partners, and their spouses are also insureds, but only with respect to the conduct of your business.
    - (3) A limited liability company, you are an insured. Your members are also insureds, but only with respect to the conduct of your business. Your managers are insureds, but only with respect to their duties as your managers.
    - (4) An organization other than a partnership, joint venture or limited liability company, you are an insured. Your "executive officers" and directors are insureds, but only with respect to their duties as your officers or directors. Your stockholders are also insureds, but only with respect to their liability as stockholders.

- (5) A trust, you are an insured. Your trustees are also insureds, but only with respect to their duties as trustees.

### b. Each of the following is also an insured:

- (1) Your "volunteer workers" only while performing duties related to the conduct of your business, or your "employees", other than either your "executive officers" (if you are an organization other than a partnership, joint venture or limited liability company) or your managers (if you are a limited liability company), but only for acts within the scope of their employment by you or while performing duties related to the conduct of your business. However, none of these "employees" or "volunteer workers" are insureds for:
  - (a) "Bodily injury" or "personal and advertising injury":
    - (i) To you, to your partners or members (if you are a partnership or joint venture), to your members (if you are a limited liability company), to a co-"employee" in the course of his or her employment or performing duties related to the conduct of your business or to your other "volunteer workers" while performing duties related to the conduct of your business;
    - (ii) To the spouse, child, parent, brother or sister of that co-"employee" or "volunteer worker" as a consequence of Paragraph (a)(i) above; or
    - (iii) For which there is any obligation to share damages with or repay someone else who must pay damages because of the injury described in Paragraph (a)(i) or (ii) above.
  - (b) "Property damage" to property:
    - (i) Owned, occupied or used by;
    - (ii) Rented to, in the care, custody or control of, or over which physical control is being exercised for any purpose by;
 

you, any of your "employees", "volunteer workers", any partner or member (if you are a partnership or joint venture), or any member (if you are a limited liability company).

- (2) Any person (other than your "employee" or "volunteer worker"), or any organization while acting as your real estate manager.

- (3) Any person or organization having proper temporary custody of your property if you die, but only:
    - (a) With respect to liability arising out of the maintenance or use of that property; and
    - (b) Until your legal representative has been appointed.
  - (4) Your legal representative if you die, but only with respect to duties as such. That representative will have all your rights and duties under this Coverage Part.
- c. Any organization you newly acquire or form, other than a partnership, joint venture or limited liability company, and over which you maintain ownership or majority interest, will qualify as a Named Insured if there is no other similar insurance available to that organization. However:
- (1) Coverage under this provision is afforded only until the 90th day after you acquire or form the organization or the end of the policy period, whichever is earlier;
  - (2) Coverage **A** does not apply to "bodily injury" or "property damage" that occurred before you acquired or formed the organization; and
  - (3) Coverage **B** does not apply to "personal and advertising injury" arising out of an offense committed before you acquired or formed the organization.
2. Only with respect to liability arising out of the ownership, maintenance or use of "covered autos":
- a. You are an insured.
  - b. Anyone else while using with your permission a "covered auto" you own, hire or borrow is also an insured except:
    - (1) The owner or anyone else from whom you hire or borrow a "covered auto". This exception does not apply if the "covered auto" is a trailer or semitrailer connected to a "covered auto" you own.
    - (2) Your "employee" if the "covered auto" is owned by that "employee" or a member of his or her household.
    - (3) Someone using a "covered auto" while he or she is working in a business of selling, servicing, repairing, parking or storing "autos" unless that business is yours.
- (4) Anyone other than your "employees", partners (if you are a partnership), members (if you are a limited liability company), or a lessee or borrower or any of their "employees", while moving property to or from a "covered auto".
  - (5) A partner (if you are a partnership), or a member (if you are a limited liability company) for a "covered auto" owned by him or her or a member of his or her household.
  - (6) "Employees" with respect to "bodily injury" to:
    - (a) Any fellow "employee" of the insured arising out of and in the course of the fellow "employee's" employment or while performing duties related to the conduct of your business; or
    - (b) The spouse, child, parent, brother or sister of that fellow "employee" as a consequence of Paragraph (a) above.
- c. Anyone liable for the conduct of an insured described above is also an insured, but only to the extent of that liability.
3. Any additional insured under any policy of "underlying insurance" will automatically be an insured under this insurance.
- Subject to Section III – Limits Of Insurance, if coverage provided to the additional insured is required by a contract or agreement, the most we will pay on behalf of the additional insured is the amount of insurance:
- a. Required by the contract or agreement, less any amounts payable by any "underlying insurance"; or
  - b. Available under the applicable Limits of Insurance shown in the Declarations; whichever is less.
- Additional insured coverage provided by this insurance will not be broader than coverage provided by the "underlying insurance".
- No person or organization is an insured with respect to the conduct of any current or past partnership, joint venture or limited liability company that is not shown as a Named Insured in the Declarations.

### SECTION III – LIMITS OF INSURANCE

1. The Limits of Insurance shown in the Declarations and the rules below fix the most we will pay regardless of the number of:
  - a. Insureds;
  - b. Claims made, "suits" brought, or number of vehicles involved; or
  - c. Persons or organizations making claims or bringing "suits".
2. The Aggregate Limit is the most we will pay for the sum of all "ultimate net loss" under:
  - a. Coverage **A**, except "ultimate net loss" because of "bodily injury" or "property damage" arising out of the ownership, maintenance or use of a "covered auto"; and
  - b. Coverage **B**.
3. Subject to Paragraph 2. above, the Each Occurrence Limit is the most we will pay for the sum of all "ultimate net loss" under Coverage **A** because of all "bodily injury" and "property damage" arising out of any one "occurrence".
4. Subject to Paragraph 2. above, the Personal And Advertising Injury Limit is the most we will pay under Coverage **B** for the sum of all "ultimate net loss" because of all "personal and advertising injury" sustained by any one person or organization.
5. If there is "underlying insurance" with a policy period that is nonconcurrent with the policy period of this Commercial Liability Umbrella Coverage Part, the "retained limit(s)" will only be reduced or exhausted by payments for:
  - a. "Bodily injury" or "property damage" which occurs during the policy period of this Coverage Part; or
  - b. "Personal and advertising injury" for offenses that are committed during the policy period of this Coverage Part.

However, if any "underlying insurance" is written on a claims-made basis, the "retained limit(s)" will only be reduced or exhausted by claims for that insurance that are made during the policy period, or any Extended Reporting Period, of this Coverage Part.

The Aggregate Limit, as described in Paragraph 2. above, applies separately to each consecutive annual period and to any remaining period of less than 12 months, starting with the beginning of the policy period shown in the Declarations, unless the policy period is extended after issuance for an additional period of less than 12 months. In that case, the additional period will be deemed part of the last preceding period for purposes of determining the Limits of Insurance.

### SECTION IV – CONDITIONS

#### 1. Appeals

If the "underlying insurer" or insured elects not to appeal a judgment in excess of the "retained limit", we may do so at our own expense. We will also pay for taxable court costs, pre- and postjudgment interest and disbursements associated with such appeal. In no event will this provision increase our liability beyond the applicable Limits of Insurance described in Section III – Limits Of Insurance.

#### 2. Bankruptcy

##### a. Bankruptcy Of Insured

Bankruptcy or insolvency of the insured or of the insured's estate will not relieve us of our obligations under this Coverage Part.

##### b. Bankruptcy Of Underlying Insurer

Bankruptcy or insolvency of the "underlying insurer" will not relieve us of our obligations under this Coverage Part.

However, this insurance will not replace the "underlying insurance" in the event of bankruptcy or insolvency of the "underlying insurer". This insurance will apply as if the "underlying insurance" were in full effect.

#### 3. Duties In The Event Of Occurrence, Offense, Claim Or Suit

- a. You must see to it that we are notified as soon as practicable of an "occurrence" or an offense, regardless of the amount, which may result in a claim. To the extent possible, notice should include:

- (1) How, when and where the "occurrence" or offense took place;
- (2) The names and addresses of any injured persons and witnesses; and
- (3) The nature and location of any injury or damage arising out of the "occurrence" or offense.

- b. If a claim is made or "suit" is brought against any insured, you must:

- (1) Immediately record the specifics of the claim or "suit" and the date received; and
- (2) Notify us as soon as practicable.

You must see to it that we receive written notice of the claim or "suit" as soon as practicable.

- c. You and any other involved insured must:

- (1) Immediately send us copies of any demands, notices, summonses or legal papers received in connection with the claim or "suit";

- (2) Authorize us to obtain records and other information;
  - (3) Cooperate with us in the investigation or settlement of the claim or defense against the "suit"; and
  - (4) Assist us, upon our request, in the enforcement of any right against any person or organization which may be liable to the insured because of injury or damage to which this insurance may also apply.
- d. No insured will, except at that insured's own cost, voluntarily make a payment, assume any obligation, or incur any expense, other than for first aid, without our consent.

#### 4. Legal Action Against Us

No person or organization has a right under this Coverage Part:

- a. To join us as a party or otherwise bring us into a "suit" asking for damages from an insured; or
- b. To sue us on this Coverage Part unless all of its terms have been fully complied with.

A person or organization may sue us to recover on an agreed settlement or on a final judgment against an insured; but we will not be liable for damages that are not payable under the terms of this Coverage Part or that are in excess of the applicable limit of insurance. An agreed settlement means a settlement and release of liability signed by us, the insured and the claimant or the claimant's legal representative.

#### 5. Other Insurance

- a. This insurance is excess over, and shall not contribute with any of the other insurance, whether primary, excess, contingent or on any other basis. This condition will not apply to insurance specifically written as excess over this Coverage Part.

When this insurance is excess, we will have no duty under Coverages **A** or **B** to defend the insured against any "suit" if any other insurer has a duty to defend the insured against that "suit". If no other insurer defends, we will undertake to do so, but we will be entitled to the insured's rights against all those other insurers.

- b. When this insurance is excess over other insurance, we will pay only our share of the "ultimate net loss" that exceeds the sum of:
  - (1) The total amount that all such other insurance would pay for the loss in the absence of the insurance provided under this Coverage Part; and

- (2) The total of all deductible and self-insured amounts under all that other insurance.

#### 6. Premium Audit

- a. We will compute all premiums for this Coverage Part in accordance with our rules and rates.
- b. Premium shown in this Coverage Part as advance premium is a deposit premium only. At the close of each audit period we will compute the earned premium for that period and send notice to the first Named Insured. The due date for audit and retrospective premiums is the date shown as the due date on the bill. If the sum of the advance and audit premiums paid for the policy period is greater than the earned premium, we will return the excess to the first Named Insured.
- c. The first Named Insured must keep records of the information we need for premium computation, and send us copies at such times as we may request.

#### 7. Representations Or Fraud

By accepting this policy, you agree:

- a. The statements in the Declarations are accurate and complete;
- b. Those statements are based upon representations you made to us;
- c. We have issued this policy in reliance upon your representations; and
- d. This policy is void in any case of fraud by you as it relates to this policy or any claim under this policy.

#### 8. Separation Of Insureds

Except with respect to the Limits of Insurance, and any rights or duties specifically assigned in this Coverage Part to the first Named Insured, this insurance applies:

- a. As if each Named Insured were the only Named Insured; and
- b. Separately to each insured against whom claim is made or "suit" is brought.

#### 9. Transfer Of Rights Of Recovery Against Others To Us

If the insured has rights to recover all or part of any payment we have made under this Coverage Part, those rights are transferred to us. The insured must do nothing after loss to impair them. At our request, the insured will bring "suit" or transfer those rights to us and help us enforce them.

## 10. When We Do Not Renew

If we decide not to renew this Coverage Part, we will mail or deliver to the first Named Insured shown in the Declarations written notice of the nonrenewal not less than 30 days before the expiration date.

If notice is mailed, proof of mailing will be sufficient proof of notice.

## 11. Loss Payable

Liability under this Coverage Part does not apply to a given claim unless and until:

- a. The insured or insured's "underlying insurer" has become obligated to pay the "retained limit"; and
- b. The obligation of the insured to pay the "ultimate net loss" in excess of the "retained limit" has been determined by a final settlement or judgment or written agreement among the insured, claimant and us.

## 12. Transfer Of Defense

When the underlying limits of insurance have been used up in the payment of judgments or settlements, the duty to defend will be transferred to us. We will cooperate in the transfer of control to us of any outstanding claims or "suits" seeking damages to which this insurance applies which would have been covered by the "underlying insurance" had the applicable limit not been used up.

## 13. Maintenance Of/Changes To Underlying Insurance

Any "underlying insurance" must be maintained in full effect without reduction of coverage or limits except for the reduction of the aggregate limit in accordance with the provisions of such "underlying insurance" that results from payment of claims, settlement or judgments to which this insurance applies.

Such exhaustion or reduction is not a failure to maintain "underlying insurance". Failure to maintain "underlying insurance" will not invalidate insurance provided under this Coverage Part, but insurance provided under this Coverage Part will apply as if the "underlying insurance" were in full effect.

If there is an increase in the scope of coverage of any "underlying insurance" during the term of this policy, our liability will be no more than it would have been if there had been no such increase.

You must notify us in writing, as soon as practicable, if any "underlying insurance" is cancelled, not renewed, replaced or otherwise terminated, or if the limits or scope of coverage of any "underlying insurance" is changed.

## 14. Expanded Coverage Territory

- a. If a "suit" is brought in a part of the "coverage territory" that is outside the United States of America (including its territories and possessions), Puerto Rico or Canada, and we are prevented by law, or otherwise, from defending the insured, the insured will initiate a defense of the "suit". We will reimburse the insured, under Supplementary Payments, for any reasonable and necessary expenses incurred for the defense of a "suit" seeking damages to which this insurance applies, that we would have paid had we been able to exercise our right and duty to defend.

If the insured becomes legally obligated to pay sums because of damages to which this insurance applies in a part of the "coverage territory" that is outside the United States of America (including its territories and possessions), Puerto Rico or Canada, and we are prevented by law, or otherwise, from paying such sums on the insured's behalf, we will reimburse the insured for such sums.

- b. All payments or reimbursements we make for damages because of judgments or settlements will be made in U.S. currency at the prevailing exchange rate at the time the insured became legally obligated to pay such sums. All payments or reimbursements we make for expenses under Supplementary Payments will be made in U.S. currency at the prevailing exchange rate at the time the expenses were incurred.
- c. Any disputes between you and us as to whether there is coverage under this policy must be filed in the courts of the United States of America (including its territories and possessions), Canada or Puerto Rico.
- d. The insured must fully maintain any coverage required by law, regulation or other governmental authority during the policy period, except for reduction of the aggregate limits due to payments of claims, judgments or settlements.

Failure to maintain such coverage required by law, regulation or other governmental authority will not invalidate this insurance. However, this insurance will apply as if the required coverage by law, regulation or other governmental authority was in full effect.

## SECTION V – DEFINITIONS

1. "Advertisement" means a notice that is broadcast or published to the general public or specific market segments about your goods, products or services for the purpose of attracting customers or supporters. For the purposes of this definition:
  - a. Notices that are published include material placed on the Internet or on similar electronic means of communication; and
  - b. Regarding web sites, only that part of a web site that is about your goods, products or services for the purposes of attracting customers or supporters is considered an advertisement.
2. "Auto" means:
  - a. A land motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer designed for travel on public roads, including any attached machinery or equipment; or
  - b. Any other land vehicle that is subject to a compulsory or financial responsibility law or other motor vehicle insurance law where it is licensed or principally garaged.However, "auto" does not include "mobile equipment".
3. "Bodily injury" means bodily injury, disability, sickness or disease sustained by a person, including death resulting from any of these at any time. "Bodily injury" includes mental anguish or other mental injury resulting from "bodily injury".
4. "Coverage territory" means anywhere in the world with the exception of any country or jurisdiction which is subject to trade or other economic sanction or embargo by the United States of America.
5. "Covered auto" means only those "autos" to which "underlying insurance" applies.
6. "Employee" includes a "leased worker". "Employee" does not include a "temporary worker".
7. "Executive officer" means a person holding any of the officer positions created by your charter, constitution, bylaws or any other similar governing document.
8. "Impaired property" means tangible property, other than "your product" or "your work", that cannot be used or is less useful because:
  - a. It incorporates "your product" or "your work" that is known or thought to be defective, deficient, inadequate or dangerous; or
  - b. You have failed to fulfill the terms of a contract or agreement;

if such property can be restored to use by the repair, replacement, adjustment or removal of "your product" or "your work", or your fulfilling the terms of the contract or agreement.

9. "Insured contract" means:
  - a. A contract for a lease of premises. However, that portion of the contract for a lease of premises that indemnifies any person or organization for damage by fire to premises while rented to you or temporarily occupied by you with permission of the owner is not an "insured contract";
  - b. A sidetrack agreement;
  - c. Any easement or license agreement, except in connection with construction or demolition operations on or within 50 feet of a railroad;
  - d. An obligation, as required by ordinance, to indemnify a municipality, except in connection with work for a municipality;
  - e. An elevator maintenance agreement;
  - f. That part of any contract or agreement entered into, as part of your business, pertaining to the rental or lease, by you or any of your "employees", of any "auto". However, such contract or agreement shall not be considered an "insured contract" to the extent that it obligates you or any of your "employees" to pay for "property damage" to any "auto" rented or leased by you or any of your "employees".
  - g. That part of any other contract or agreement pertaining to your business (including an indemnification of a municipality in connection with work performed for a municipality) under which you assume the tort liability of another party to pay for "bodily injury" or "property damage" to a third person or organization. Tort liability means a liability that would be imposed by law in the absence of any contract or agreement.

Paragraphs **f.** and **g.** do not include that part of any contract or agreement:

- (1) That indemnifies a railroad for "bodily injury" or "property damage" arising out of construction or demolition operations, within 50 feet of any railroad property and affecting any railroad bridge or trestle, tracks, road-beds, tunnel, underpass or crossing;
- (2) That pertains to the loan, lease or rental of an "auto" to you or any of your "employees", if the "auto" is loaned, leased or rented with a driver; or

- (3) That holds a person or organization engaged in the business of transporting property by "auto" for hire harmless for your use of a "covered auto" over a route or territory that person or organization is authorized to serve by public authority.
10. "Leased worker" means a person leased to you by a labor leasing firm under an agreement between you and the labor leasing firm, to perform duties related to the conduct of your business. "Leased worker" does not include a "temporary worker".
11. "Loading or unloading" means the handling of property:
- After it is moved from the place where it is accepted for movement into or onto an aircraft, watercraft or "auto";
  - While it is in or on an aircraft, watercraft or "auto"; or
  - While it is being moved from an aircraft, watercraft or "auto" to the place where it is finally delivered;
- but "loading or unloading" does not include the movement of property by means of a mechanical device, other than a hand truck, that is not attached to the aircraft, watercraft or "auto".
12. "Mobile equipment" means any of the following types of land vehicles, including any attached machinery or equipment:
- Bulldozers, farm machinery, forklifts and other vehicles designed for use principally off public roads;
  - Vehicles maintained for use solely on or next to premises you own or rent;
  - Vehicles that travel on crawler treads;
  - Vehicles, whether self-propelled or not, maintained primarily to provide mobility to permanently mounted:
    - Power cranes, shovels, loaders, diggers or drills; or
    - Road construction or resurfacing equipment such as graders, scrapers or rollers;
  - Vehicles not described in Paragraph **a.**, **b.**, **c.** or **d.** above that are not self-propelled and are maintained primarily to provide mobility to permanently attached equipment of the following types:
    - Air compressors, pumps and generators, including spraying, welding, building cleaning, geophysical exploration, lighting and well servicing equipment; or
    - Cherry pickers and similar devices used to raise or lower workers;
- f. Vehicles not described in Paragraph **a.**, **b.**, **c.** or **d.** above maintained primarily for purposes other than the transportation of persons or cargo.
- However, self-propelled vehicles with the following types of permanently attached equipment are not "mobile equipment" but will be considered "autos":
- Equipment designed primarily for:
    - Snow removal;
    - Road maintenance, but not construction or resurfacing; or
    - Street cleaning;
  - Cherry pickers and similar devices mounted on automobile or truck chassis and used to raise or lower workers; and
  - Air compressors, pumps and generators, including spraying, welding, building cleaning, geophysical exploration, lighting and well servicing equipment.
- However, "mobile equipment" does not include land vehicles that are subject to a compulsory or financial responsibility law or other motor vehicle insurance law where it is licensed or principally garaged. Land vehicles subject to a compulsory or financial responsibility law or other motor vehicle insurance law are considered "autos".
13. "Occurrence" means an accident, including continuous or repeated exposure to substantially the same general harmful conditions.
14. "Personal and advertising injury" means injury, including consequential "bodily injury", arising out of one or more of the following offenses:
- False arrest, detention or imprisonment;
  - Malicious prosecution;
  - The wrongful eviction from, wrongful entry into, or invasion of the right of private occupancy of a room, dwelling or premises that a person occupies, committed by or on behalf of its owner, landlord or lessor;
  - Oral or written publication, in any manner, of material that slanders or libels a person or organization or disparages a person's or organization's goods, products or services;
  - Oral or written publication, in any manner, of material that violates a person's right of privacy;
  - The use of another's advertising idea in your "advertisement"; or
  - Infringing upon another's copyright, trade dress or slogan in your "advertisement".

15. "Pollutants" mean any solid, liquid, gaseous or thermal irritant or contaminant, including smoke, vapor, soot, fumes, acids, alkalis, chemicals and waste. Waste includes materials to be recycled, reconditioned or reclaimed.

16. "Pollution cost or expense" means any loss, cost or expense arising out of any:

a. Request, demand, order or statutory or regulatory requirement that any insured or others test for, monitor, clean up, remove, contain, treat, detoxify or neutralize, or in any way respond to, or assess the effects of, "pollutants"; or

b. Claim or suit by or on behalf of a governmental authority for damages because of testing for, monitoring, cleaning up, removing, containing, treating, detoxifying or neutralizing, or in any way responding to, or assessing the effects of, "pollutants".

17. "Products-completed operations hazard":

a. Includes all "bodily injury" and "property damage" occurring away from premises you own or rent and arising out of "your product" or "your work" except:

(1) Products that are still in your physical possession; or

(2) Work that has not yet been completed or abandoned. However, "your work" will be deemed completed at the earliest of the following times:

(a) When all of the work called for in your contract has been completed.

(b) When all of the work to be done at the job site has been completed if your contract calls for work at more than one job site.

(c) When that part of the work done at a job site has been put to its intended use by any person or organization other than another contractor or subcontractor working on the same project.

Work that may need service, maintenance, correction, repair or replacement, but which is otherwise complete, will be treated as completed.

b. Does not include "bodily injury" or "property damage" arising out of:

(1) The transportation of property, unless the injury or damage arises out of a condition in or on a vehicle not owned or operated by you, and that condition was created by the "loading or unloading" of that vehicle by any insured; or

(2) The existence of tools, uninstalled equipment or abandoned or unused materials.

18. "Property damage" means:

a. Physical injury to tangible property, including all resulting loss of use of that property. All such loss of use shall be deemed to occur at the time of the physical injury that caused it; or

b. Loss of use of tangible property that is not physically injured. All such loss of use shall be deemed to occur at the time of the "occurrence" that caused it.

With respect to the ownership, maintenance or use of "covered autos", property damage also includes "pollution cost or expense", but only to the extent that coverage exists under the "underlying insurance" or would have existed but for the exhaustion of the underlying limits.

For the purposes of this insurance, with respect to other than the ownership, maintenance or use of "covered autos", electronic data is not tangible property.

As used in this definition, electronic data means information, facts or programs stored as or on, created or used on, or transmitted to or from computer software (including systems and applications software), hard or floppy disks, CD-ROMs, tapes, drives, cells, data processing devices or any other media which are used with electronically controlled equipment.

19. "Retained limit" means the available limits of "underlying insurance" scheduled in the Declarations or the "self-insured retention", whichever applies.

20. "Self-insured retention" means the dollar amount listed in the Declarations that will be paid by the insured before this insurance becomes applicable only with respect to "occurrences" or offenses not covered by the "underlying insurance". The "self-insured retention" does not apply to "occurrences" or offenses which would have been covered by "underlying insurance" but for the exhaustion of applicable limits.

21. "Suit" means a civil proceeding in which damages because of "bodily injury", "property damage" or "personal and advertising injury" to which this insurance applies are alleged. "Suit" includes:

a. An arbitration proceeding in which such damages are claimed and to which the insured must submit or does submit with our consent; or

- b. Any other alternative dispute resolution proceeding in which such damages are claimed and to which the insured submits with our consent or the "underlying insurer's" consent.
22. "Temporary worker" means a person who is furnished to you to substitute for a permanent "employee" on leave or to meet seasonal or short-term workload conditions.
23. "Ultimate net loss" means the total sum, after reduction for recoveries or salvages collectible, that the insured becomes legally obligated to pay as damages by reason of settlement or judgments or any arbitration or other alternate dispute method entered into with our consent or the "underlying insurer's" consent.
24. "Underlying insurance" means any policies of insurance listed in the Declarations under the Schedule of "underlying insurance".
25. "Underlying insurer" means any insurer who provides any policy of insurance listed in the Schedule of "underlying insurance".
26. "Volunteer worker" means a person who is not your "employee", and who donates his or her work and acts at the direction of and within the scope of duties determined by you, and is not paid a fee, salary or other compensation by you or anyone else for their work performed for you.
27. "Your product":
- a. Means:
    - (1) Any goods or products, other than real property, manufactured, sold, handled, distributed or disposed of by:
      - (a) You;
      - (b) Others trading under your name; or
      - (c) A person or organization whose business or assets you have acquired; and
    - (2) Containers (other than vehicles), materials, parts or equipment furnished in connection with such goods or products.
  - b. Includes:
    - (1) Warranties or representations made at any time with respect to the fitness, quality, durability, performance or use of "your product"; and
    - (2) The providing of or failure to provide warnings or instructions.
  - c. Does not include vending machines or other property rented to or located for the use of others but not sold.
28. "Your work":
- a. Means:
    - (1) Work or operations performed by you or on your behalf; and
    - (2) Materials, parts or equipment furnished in connection with such work or operations.
  - b. Includes:
    - (1) Warranties or representations made at any time with respect to the fitness, quality, durability, performance or use of "your work"; and
    - (2) The providing of or failure to provide warnings or instructions.