

**Franklin County, North Carolina**

**REQUEST for LETTERS of INTEREST (RFLOI)**

**Franklin County Rails to Trails Project**

TITLE: Franklinton to Novozymes Rails Trail  
ISSUE DATE: **February 13, 2023**  
SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: **March 3, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. EST**  
ISSUING AGENCY: **Franklin County, North Carolina**

**SYNOPSIS**

**SUBCONSULTANTS ARE PERMITTED UNDER THIS CONTRACT.**

This contract shall be partially reimbursed with Federal-aid funding through the North Carolina Department of Transportation (hereinafter referred to as the Department). The solicitation, selection, and negotiation of a contract shall be conducted in accordance with all Department requirements and guidelines.

The primary and/or subconsultant firm(s) (*if Subconsultants are allowed under this RFLOI*) shall be pre-qualified by the Department to perform any combination of the Discipline Codes listed below for Franklin County, North Carolina. Discipline Codes required are:

- 360- Topographic Surveying
- 361- Boundary Surveying
- 32- Categorical Exclusions
- 63- Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact
- 524- Inspection of Asphalt Pavement
- 194- Right of way negotiator
- 316- Multi-Use Trail Design, Survey and Layout
- 194- Roadway Fndn Inv.
- 433 & 434- Hydro Design
- 295- Str. Fndn
- 97- Signing
- 155- Pavement Marking
- 247- Traffic Control

- **70- Erosion Control**

**WORK CODES for each primary and/or subconsultant firm(s) (*if Subconsultants are allowed under this RFLOI*) SHALL be listed on the respective RS-2 FORMS (see section 'SUBMISSION ORGANIZATION AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS').**

This RFLOI is to solicit responses (LETTERS of INTEREST, or LOIs) from qualified firms to provide professional consulting services to:

Franklin County has received \$3,000,000 in funding from Federal Highway Administration via the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for the design and construction of an approximately three (3) mile paved trail located within a former railway. Services shall include NEPA documentation, permitting, preparation of construction documents and bid services.

Electronic LOIs should be submitted in .pdf format using software such as Adobe, CutePDF PDF Writer, Docudesk deskPDF, etc.

**LOIs SHALL be received electronically no later than 5:00 p.m. EST, on February 24, 2023.**

**The address for electronic deliveries is: [shammerbacher@franklincountync.gov](mailto:shammerbacher@franklincountync.gov)**

**LOIs received after this deadline will not be considered.**

Except as provided below any firm wishing to be considered must be properly registered with the Office of the Secretary of State and with the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors. Any firm proposing to use corporate subsidiaries or subcontractors must include a statement that these companies are properly registered with the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors and/or the NC Board for Licensing of Geologists. The Engineers performing the work and in responsible charge of the work must be registered Professional Engineers in the State of North Carolina and must have a good ethical and professional standing. It will be the responsibility of the selected private firm to verify the registration of any corporate subsidiary or subcontractor prior to submitting a Letter of Interest. Firms which are not providing engineering services need not be registered with the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors. Some of the services being solicited may not require a license. It is the responsibility of each firm to adhere to all laws of the State of North Carolina.

The firm must have the financial ability to undertake the work and assume the liability. The selected firm(s) will be required to furnish proof of Professional Liability insurance coverage in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000.00. The firm(s) must have an adequate accounting system to identify costs chargeable to the project.

## **SCOPE OF WORK**

Franklin County, is soliciting proposals for the services of a firm/team for the following contract scope of work:

- **Planning/Environmental Documentation:** Preparation of environmental and/or planning document, including any environmental permits, needed to construct the Project, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and all other appropriate environmental laws and regulation. All work shall be performed in accordance with state and federal procedures and guidelines.
- **Construction Document Services:** Based on the concept design developed, the consultant shall prepare 30%, 60% 90% and 100% construction drawings and specifications laying forth the requirements of construction. Franklin County Staff and project team shall review the drawings and specifications at 60%, 90% and 100% completion. At a minimum, the construction drawings shall include Existing conditions plan, Site Layout and Staking plan, Grading and erosion control, Utility plan (for water and electric connections), Stormwater (Tar-Pamlico Nutrient), Landscape plan, Site details, Specifications and Contract Documents. The Consultant shall be responsible for preparing documents necessary to achieve all required permits for construction.
- **Bid Phase and Construction Phase Services:** The consultant shall facilitate the public bidding process and provide construction administration services for the duration of project construction. Bid documents shall adhere to all requirements as required by applicable funding entities.
- **All other services customarily furnished by a consultant:** The consultant should be prepared to provide any other services customarily furnished through the design and construction of greenway projects. These may include, but are not limited to, meetings with County staff and the project team, public engagement, cost estimating, survey, geotechnical engineering, materials testing, etc.

**PROPOSED CONTRACT TIME:** The proposed contract time is approximately two years with six to nine months for preparation of construction documents, permitting and bid documents and one year for construction.

**PROPOSED CONTRACT PAYMENT TYPE:** Proposed contract type is Lump Sum.

## **SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS**

LOIs proposals must be limited to a maximum of five pages but may include additional attachments such as project team resumes, relevant project experience and a cover letter.

**Firms submitting LOIs are encouraged to carefully check them for conformance to the requirements stated above. If LOIs do not meet ALL of these requirements they will be disqualified. No exception will be granted.**

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

Following is a general description of the selection process:

- The LGA's Selection Committee will review all qualifying LOI submittals.
- For Limited Services Contracts (On-Call type contracts), the LGA's Selection Committee MAY, at the LGA's discretion, choose any number of firms to provide the services being solicited.
- For Project-Specific Contracts (non On-Call type contracts), the LGA's Selection Committee MAY, at the LGA's discretion, shortlist a minimum of three (3) firms to be interviewed. IF APPLICABLE, dates of shortlisting and dates for interviews are shown in the section SUBMISSION SCHEDULE AND KEY DATES at the end of this RFLOI.
- In order to be considered for selection, consultants must submit a complete response to this RFLOI prior to the specified deadlines. Failure to submit all information in a timely manner will result in disqualification.

## **TITLE VI NONDISCRIMINATION NOTIFICATION**

The LGA 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 RESPONDENTS 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 LETTERS of INTEREST (LOIs) in response to this ADVERTISEMENT and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

## **SMALL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE FIRM (SPSF) PARTICIPATION**

The Department encourages the use of Small Professional Services Firms (SPSF). Small businesses determined to be eligible for participation in the SPSF program are those meeting size standards defined by Small Business Administration (SBA) regulations, 13 CFR Part 121 in Sector 54 under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). The SPSF program is a race, ethnicity, and gender neutral program designed to increase the availability of contracting opportunities for small businesses on federal, state or locally funded contracts. SPSF participation is not contingent upon the funding source.

The Firm, at the time the Letter of Interest is submitted, shall submit a listing of all known SPSF firms that will participate in the performance of the identified work. The participation shall be submitted on the Department's Subconsultant Form RS-2. RS-2 forms may be accessed on the Department's website at [NCDOT Connect Guidelines & Forms](#).

The SPSF must be qualified with the Department to perform the work for which they are listed.

## **PREQUALIFICATION**

The Department maintains on file the qualifications and key personnel for each approved discipline, as well as any required samples of work. Each year on the anniversary date of the company, the firm shall renew their prequalified disciplines. If your firm has not renewed its

application as required by your anniversary date or if your firm is not currently prequalified, please submit an application to the Department **prior to submittal of your LOI**. An application may be accessed on the Department's website at [Prequalifying Private Consulting Firms](#) -- Learn how to become Prequalified as a Private Consulting Firm with NCDOT. Having this data on file with the Department eliminates the need to resubmit this data with each letter of interest.

Professional Services Contracts are race and gender neutral and do not contain goals. However, the Respondent is encouraged to give every opportunity to allow Disadvantaged, Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (DBE/MBE/WBE) subconsultant utilization on all LOIs, contracts and supplemental agreements. The Firm, subconsultant and subfirm shall not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, age, disability or sex in the performance of this contract.

## **DIRECTORY OF FIRMS AND DEPARTMENT ENDORSEMENT**

Real-time information about firms doing business with the Department, and information regarding their pre-qualifications and certifications, is available in the Directory of Transportation Firms. The Directory can be accessed on the Department's website at [Directory of Firms](#) -- Complete listing of certified and prequalified firms.

The listing of an individual firm in the Department's directory shall not be construed as an endorsement of the firm.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

**All prequalified firms who submit responsive letters of interest will be considered.**

In selecting a firm/team, the selection committee will take into consideration qualification information including such factors as:

1. **CRITERIA NUMBER 1 25% = Experience with similar projects.**
2. **CRITERIA NUMBER 2 25% = Proposed project timeline.**
3. **CRITERIA NUMBER 3 25% = Project approach and understanding.**
4. **CRITERIA NUMBER 4 25% = Grant and NCDOT experience.**

After reviewing qualifications, if firms are equal on the evaluation review, then those qualified firms with proposed SPSF participation will be given priority consideration.

## **SUBMISSION ORGANIZATION AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS**

The LOI should be addressed to Scott Hammerbacher, AICP, Planning & Inspections Director [shammerbacher@franklincountync.gov](mailto:shammerbacher@franklincountync.gov) and must include the name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the prime consultant's contact person for this RFLOI.

The LOI must also include the information outlined below:

Chapter 1 - Introduction

The Introduction should demonstrate the consultant's overall qualifications to fulfill the requirements of the scope of work and should contain the following elements of information:

- Expression of firm's interest in the work;
- Statement of whether firm is on register;
- Date of most recent private engineering firm qualification;
- Statement regarding firm's(') possible conflict of interest for the work; and
- Summation of information contained in the letter of interest.

Chapter 2 - Team Qualifications

This chapter should elaborate on the general information presented in the introduction, to establish the credentials and experience of the consultant to undertake this type of effort. The following must be included:

1. Identify recent, similar projects the firm, acting as the prime contractor, has conducted which demonstrates its ability to conduct and manage the project. Provide a synopsis of each project and include the date completed, and contact person.
2. If subconsultants are involved, provide corresponding information describing their qualifications as requested in bullet number 1 above.

Chapter 3 - Team Experience

This chapter must provide the names, classifications, and location of the firm's North Carolina employees and resources to be assigned to the advertised work; and the professional credentials and experience of the persons assigned to the project, along with any unique qualifications of key personnel. Although standard personnel resumes may be included, identify pertinent team experience to be applied to this project. Specifically, the Department is interested in the experience, expertise, and total quality of the consultant's proposed team. If principals of the firm will not be actively involved in the study/contract/project, do not list them. The submittal shall clearly indicate the Consultant's Project Manager, other key Team Members and his/her qualifications for the proposed work. Also, include the team's organization chart for the Project / Plan. A Capacity Chart / Graph (available work force) should also be included. Any other pertinent information should also be listed in this section.

**Note:** If a project team or subconsultant encounters personnel changes, or any other changes of significance dealing with the company, NCDOT should be notified immediately.

Chapter 4 - Technical Approach

The consultant shall provide information on its understanding of, and approach to accomplish, this project, including their envisioned scope for the work and any innovative ideas/approaches, and a schedule to achieve the dates outlined in this RFLOI (if any project-specific dates are outlined below).

APPENDICES-

## CONSULTANT CERTIFICATION Form RS-2

Completed Form RS-2 forms SHALL be submitted with the firm's letter of interest. This section is limited to the number of pages required to provide the requested information.

Submit Form RS-2 forms for the following:

- **Prime Consultant firm**
  - Prime Consultant Form RS-2 Rev 1/14/08; and
  
- **ANY/ALL Subconsultant firms** (*If Subconsultants are allowed under this RFLOI*) to be, or anticipated to be, utilized by your firm.
  - Subconsultant Form RS-2 Rev 1/15/08.
  - In the event the firm has no subconsultant, it is required that this be indicated on the Subconsultant Form RS-2 by entering the word "None" or the number "ZERO" and signing the form.

**Complete and sign each Form RS-2 (instructions are listed on the form).**

The required forms are available on the Department's website at:  
<https://connect.ncdot.gov/business/consultants/Pages/Guidelines-Forms.aspx>

[Prime Consultant Form RS-2](#)

[Subconsultant Form RS-2](#)

All submissions, correspondence, and questions concerning this RFLOI should be directed to Scott Hammerbacher, AICP, Planning and Inspections Director at [shammerbacher@franklincountync.gov](mailto:shammerbacher@franklincountync.gov).

## **SUBMISSION SCHEDULE AND KEY DATES**

RFLOI Release – February 13, 2023

Deadline for LOI Submission – March 3, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. EST

Shortlist Announced \* - March 13, 2023

Interviews - the week of March 20, 2023

Firm Selection and Notification \*\* -March 31, 2023

Anticipated Notice to Proceed – April 21, 2023

\* Notification will **ONLY** be sent to shortlisted firms.

\*\* Notification will **ONLY** be sent to selected firms.