

**TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL**

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

**DESIGN AND ENGINEERING FOR ESTES DRIVE EXTENSION  
BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AND THE BOLIN  
CREEK GREENWAY EXTENSION**

TITLE: EB-5886B: DESIGN AND ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR ESTES DRIVE  
EXTENSION BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

THE BOLIN CREEK GREENWAY EXTENSION

ISSUE DATE: **August 16, 2023**  
SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: **September 15, 2023**  
ISSUING AGENCY: **TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL**  
BID: **A/E 24-002**

**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.

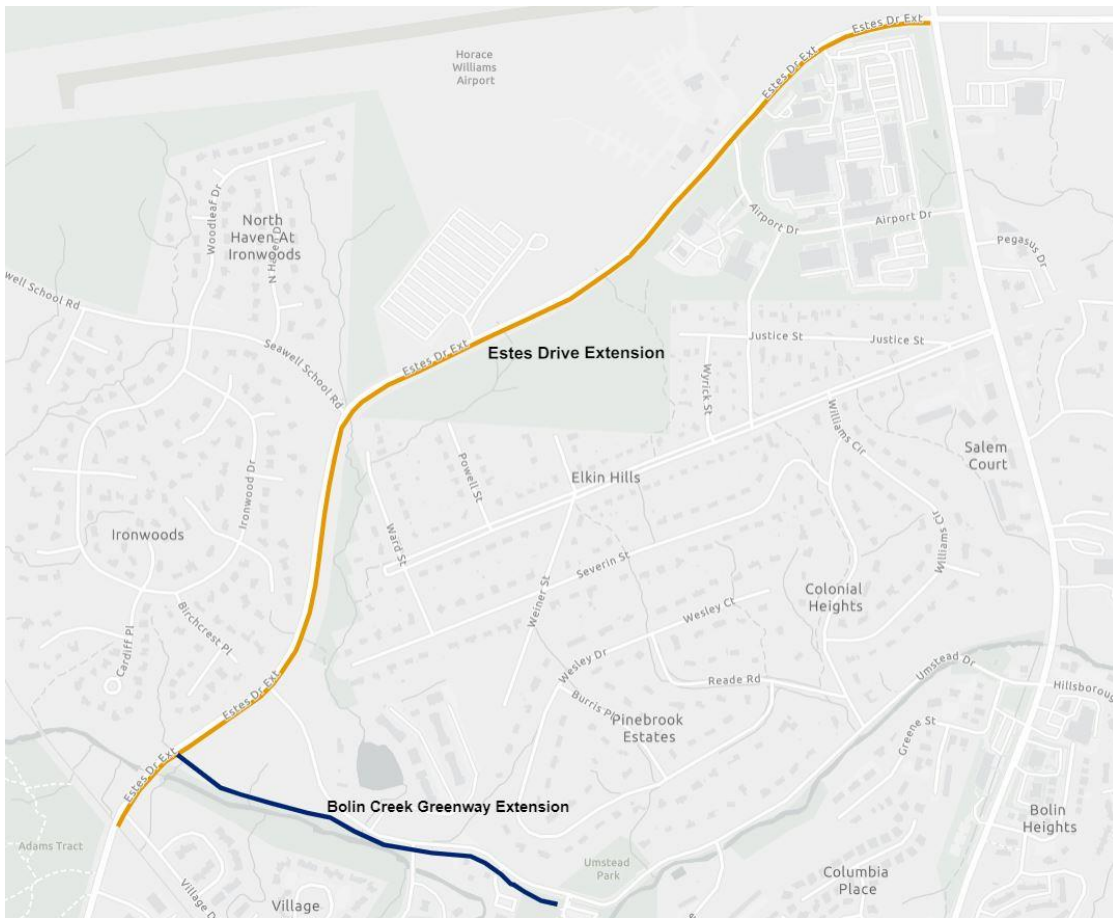
The primary and/or subconsultant firm(s) shall be pre-qualified by the Department to perform **ANY COMBINATION** of the Discipline Codes listed below for the **TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL**. Discipline Codes required are:

- 199 Route Location Survey
- 434 Tier Two Hydrology Design
- 171 Public Involvement
- 280 Wetland and Stream Delineation
- 287 Wetland, Stream, and Buffer Permitting
- 243 Threatened and Endangered Species Survey & Studies
- 70 Erosion/Sediment Control

- 235 SUE
- 270 Utility Coordination
- 316 Multi-use Trail Design, Survey and Layout
- 32 Categorical Exclusions
- 132 Landscape and Streetscape Design
- 155 Pavement Marking Plans
- 192 ROW Appraisals
- 194 ROW Negotiators
- 362 Easement Surveying
- 207 Signal Design
- 269 Urban Roadway Design
- 152 Pavement Design
- 314 Roadway Lighting
- 294 Roadway Foundation Investigation and Design
- 296 Retaining Wall Investigation and Design
- 24 Bridges – Spans under 200'
- 541 Traffic Management Plan – Level 1 and 2

**WORK CODES for each primary and/or subconsultant firm(s) 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 consulting services to design bicycle and pedestrian improvements along Estes Drive Extension (TIP# EB-5886B) and the extension of the Bolin Creek Greenway for the Town of Chapel Hill. The 1.3 miles of bicycle and pedestrian improvements along Estes Drive Extension are planned from Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. west to the Chapel Hill jurisdictional border at the railroad tracks. The Bolin Creek Greenway Extension is planned between Umstead Park and Estes Drive Extension.



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 **5:00pm on September 15, 2023.**

The address for electronic deliveries is: [zalam@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:zalam@townofchapelhill.org)

**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**

The **TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL** is soliciting proposals for the services of a firm/team for the following contract scope of work:

- Evaluate multiple alternative designs for bicycle and pedestrian improvements on Estes Drive Extension and alternative alignments for the Bolin Creek Greenway Extension to include preliminary opinions of construction cost for each option. Design alternatives will be discussed with Town staff at project kickoff to determine level/extent of evaluation for each, given local context.
- Provide a technical report summarizing the alternatives and their respective opportunities and constraints including user experiences, constructability environmental conditions, safety, property, and traffic impacts.
- Work with Town staff to conduct robust public engagement to determine preferred alternative for each project.
- Design preferred alternative for each project, designed at least to AASHTO standard (there may be additional specification determined in the early design process). Follow process for NCDOT's locally administered projects and obtain all necessary approvals.
- Evaluate all existing utilities in the right-of-way and those in conflict with project limits. Provide a plan for moving utilities to accommodate the project.
- Coordinate with Town's stormwater division on all design elements related to Bolin Creek, crossings, buffers, etc.
- Determine any needed right-of-way and temporary or permanent easements and provide negotiation and acquisition services, following the NCDOT process.
- Perform all required Federal, State, and Local environmental investigations and secure all needed permits. This shall include natural and cultural resources and a review of records held by the North Carolina Natural Heritage Program, the National Register of Historic Places database, and the Carolina State Historic Preservation Office GIS service database.
- Work closely with Town, NCDOT, and other relevant officials throughout the design process.

**NOTE:** The Estes Drive Extension Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements is federally funded and must follow the NCDOT policies and procedures for locally administered projects. The Bolin Creek Greenway Extension has a different funding source but should be designed to NCDOT standard, as it is the Town's intent to seek federal funding for construction.

While the design and engineering for these projects are being bid together, all records, documents, and invoices must be kept separate.

**PROPOSED CONTRACT TIME:** Two years

**PROPOSED CONTRACT PAYMENT TYPE:** Lump Sum

## **SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS**

All LOIs are limited to **TEN (10)** pages (RS-2 forms are not included in the page count) inclusive of the cover sheet and shall be typed on 8-1/2" x 11" sheets, single-spaced, one-sided.

LOIs containing more than **TEN (10)** pages will not be considered.

**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:

- Chapel Hill's Selection Committee will review all qualifying LOI submittals.
- Chapel Hill's Selection Committee MAY, at Chapel Hill's discretion, shortlist a minimum of two (2) 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 Town of Chapel Hill, 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 prequalifications 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 1 (20%)** = Firm experience designing bicycle and pedestrian facilities and multiuse paths using federal funding.
2. **CRITERIA 2 (50%)** = Technical/innovative approach to the project (design standards, utility coordination, working within stream buffers, traffic management plans, etc.)
3. **CRITERIA 3 (10%)** = Project manager and key staff experience with similar projects, NCDOT.
4. **CRITERIA 4 (20)%** = Approach to public engagement.

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 **Zakia Alam, Purchasing and Contracts Manager** ([zalam@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:zalam@townofchapelhill.org)) 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:

- Identify recent, similar projects the firm, acting as the prime contractor, has conducted that demonstrate its ability to conduct and manage the project. Provide a synopsis of each project and include the date completed and contact person.
- If subconsultants are involved, provide corresponding information describing their qualifications as requested in the bullet 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 Town 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. 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, the Town 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 timeline outlined in this RFLOI.

#### 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** 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 **Bergen Watterson** at [bwatterson@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:bwatterson@townofchapelhill.org) no later than **September 1, 2023**. All questions should be submitted via email only.

Questions may be submitted electronically only to the contact above. Responses will be issued in the form of an addendum available to all interested parties on **September 8, 2023**.

## **SUBMISSION SCHEDULE AND KEY DATES**

RFLOI Release – **August 16, 2023**

Deadline for Questions – **September 1, 2023**

Issue Final Addendum – **September 8, 2023**

Deadline for LOI Submission – **September 15, 2023**

Shortlist Announced \* - **Week of September 25, 2023**

Interviews - **Week of October 9, 2023**

Firm Selection and Notification \*\* - **October 16, 2023**

Anticipated Notice to Proceed – **November 6, 2023**

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

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