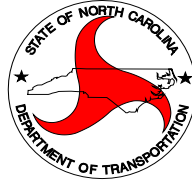


STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

DATE AND TIME OF BID OPENING: JUNE 26, 2024 AT 2:00 P.M.

MANDATORY PRE-BID: 1:00 PM JUNE 12, 2024

WBS ELEMENT NO.: 14RE.104438

COUNTY: HAYWOOD – DIVISION 14

**LOCATION: I-40, EAST AND WESTBOUND LANES, MILE MARKER 10,
NEAR THE NC/TN STATELINE**

**TYPE OF WORK: PROFESSIONAL LAWN AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE OF
REST AREAS**

DATE OF AVAILABILITY: SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

COMPLETION DATE: AUGUST 31, 2025

SMALL BUSINESS CERTIFICATION MANDATORY

PRE-BID CONFERENCE MANDATORY

PROPOSAL
FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF
BID NO. 54-MKB-14-PR7674 IN HAYWOOD COUNTY – DIVISION 14, NORTH CAROLINA
JUNE 5, 2024
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

The Bidder has carefully examined the location of the proposed work to be known as **BID NO 54-MKB-14-PR7674**; 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 State Highway **BID NO. 54-MKB-14-PR7674**, 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.

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PROJECT SPECIAL PROVISIONS

PROJECT

Haywood County Rest Areas (pair)/Welcome Center on I-40, East and Westbound Lanes, Mile Marker 10 East of the NC/TN Stateline.

SCOPE OF CONTRACT

The N.C. Department of Transportation (hereinafter referred to as “Department”) is seeking the services of a landscape/grounds maintenance company to provide professional rest area lawn and grounds maintenance consisting of but not limited to labor, supervision, equipment and supplies as specified herein. The intent of these specifications and requirements is to state and define the terms and conditions under which the Contractor shall provide the management, supervision, and manpower capable of performing work at the highest standards of horticultural excellence necessary to provide these services in a professional and workmanlike manner. This document is intended as a benchmark of the Department’s minimum standards for rest area lawn and grounds maintenance.

The Department places significant value on the safety and treatment of travelers who visit rest areas. All travelers are to be treated as customers and the Contractor shall emphasize safety and customer service at all times. The provisions of the services required as part of this solicitation ultimately reflect upon the Department and the State of North Carolina as a whole. This proposal, as written, is to be binding by the State and the Contractor.

MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE AND PROPOSAL REVIEW

There will be a Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference held on June 12, 2024 at 1:00 PM at the Division 14 Division Office Conference Room in Sylva. Vendors wishing to submit a bid must attend this conference. Proposals will only be accepted from Vendors that attend the Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference.

NOTE: The Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will begin promptly at 1:00 PM. An official clock for the pre-bid conference will be designated. Contractors who are late will not be permitted to sign in or to participate in the conference and will therefore not be allowed to bid on this project.

Early arrival is strongly recommended, as latecomers will be disqualified from award for the contract covered by this pre-bid conference.

In order for all prospective bidders to have an extensive knowledge of the project, **all prospective bidders shall attend a Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference as shown below:**

Date: June 12, 2024

Time: 1:00 PM

Place: Division 14 Division Office Conference Room (downstairs)

Location: 253 Webster Road Sylva, NC 28779

County: Jackson

Contact for Directions: 828-631-0272

NOTE: BRING A COPY OF THE CONTRACT PROPOSAL TO THE CONFERENCE. PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE PROVIDED. BIDDERS ARE EXPECTED TO READ THE PROPOSAL PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE.

This conference will be conducted by Department personnel to ensure all prospective bidders are given an opportunity to obtain information relevant to the project and given an opportunity to ask any questions they may have. No questions concerning the project will be answered by any Department personnel at any time except at the mandatory pre-bid conference.

The Engineer will explain areas of responsibility, standards of performance and expected results. This is also intended to be a time for the Contractor to raise questions as to the present condition of the sites. The Contractor is encouraged to make his/her own observations of the sites to determine the condition of the items identified in this contract as the Contractor's responsibility. For items that can be shown to the Department to be deficient, the Department may elect to: 1) repair or replace such item to bring it up to standard before the Contractor assumes responsibility, 2) not repair or replace such item, but remove this item from the Contractor's responsibility.

Any changes made to the contract during the pre-bid conference will be documented and included in an addendum to be posted on Connect NCDOT: <https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/Pages/Roadside-Environmental.aspx> and on the electronic Vendor Portal (eVP), <https://evp.nc.gov>.

The Contractor must sign the addendum signature page(s) where indicated and the entire addendum should be returned with the bid package. Please return the entire addendum, but failure to return the executed signature page(s) of the addendum may result in disqualification of bid.

MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE: ELIGIBILITY TO BID

All prospective bidders at the Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference shall meet all of the requirements as shown below:

Only contractors currently certified as a SBE Contractor by the NCDOT Office of Civil Rights SBE Program Manager and listed in the Directory of Transportation Firms at bid opening will be eligible to bid on this project.

Only Bidders who have a current and valid North Carolina Ground Applicator Pesticide License, subclassification in Ornamental and Turf Pest Control, issued by NCDA in Bidder's (an actual employee of the company) name and company name, at bid opening will be considered eligible to bid on this project. A bid received from a Bidder who does not have a current and valid license issued by NCDA (an actual employee of the company) will be rejected as an irregular bid and will not be considered for award. If the licensee is not the Bidder then proof must be given that the licensee is an actual employee of the company.

Only bidders who have attended the entire conference and registered at the Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be considered eligible to bid on this project. A bid received from a Bidder who has not attended and registered at the conference will be rejected as an irregular bid and will not be considered for award.

Attendance at the Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will not meet the requirements of registration unless the individual attending has registered at the conference in accordance with the following:

1. The individual attending the Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is a **full time employee of the company bidding on the project** and would have **administrative/supervisory** authority over the work to be performed under **this contract**.
2. The individual signs his/her name and company title on the official roster.
3. The individual writes in the name of the company he or she represents.
4. Only one company is shown as being represented by the individual attending.
5. The individual shall sign out when the pre-bid conference is completed.

Attendance at any prior pre-bid conference will not meet the requirements of this provision.

ELIGIBILITY TO BID

Only contractors currently certified as a SBE Contractor by the NCDOT Office of Civil Rights SBE Program Manager and listed in the Directory of Transportation Firms at bid opening will be eligible to bid on this project.

Only Bidders who have a current and valid North Carolina Ground Applicator Pesticide License, subclassification in Ornamental and Turf Pest Control, issued by NCDA in Bidder's (an actual employee of the company) name and company name, at bid opening will be considered eligible to bid on this project. A bid received from a Bidder who does not have a current and valid license issued by NCDA (an actual employee of the company) will be rejected as an irregular bid and will not be considered for award. If the licensee is not the Bidder then proof must be given that the licensee is an actual employee of the company.

SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (SBE) CONTRACT

The Department of Transportation does not exclude any person from participation in, deny any person the benefits of, or otherwise discriminate against anyone in connection with the award and performance of any contract covered by this program on the basis of race, color, sex, political affiliation/influence, or national origin.

This is a SBE contract and to qualify for the NCDOT SBE Program a firm must have an annual gross income of \$1,500,000 or less, exclusive of materials. **Only contractors currently certified as a SBE Contractor by the the NCDOT Office of Civil Rights SBE Program Manager and listed in the Directory of Transportation Firms at bid opening will be eligible to bid on this project.**

Prospective bidders who qualify for the SBE Program and are not currently certified should submit a completed application packet to the SBE Program Manager prior to bid submittal to allow for review time. Additional information on the program, including the application to become certified, may be obtained online at:

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/business/SmallBusiness/Pages/default.aspx>

Bidders must renew their SBE status and recertify each year. It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure that their existing SBE status does not lapse prior to bid opening. **Advance notification of pending renewal dates is not guaranteed.**

Per G.S. 136-28.10, a NC General Contractor's license may be waived for SBE contracts. For this project, the NC General Contractor's license will be waived. Per G.S. 136-28.10, contract payment and performance bonds may be waived. For this project, the contract payment and performance bonds will be waived. However, a performance guarantee will be required.

PREQUALIFICATION

The Department encourages and promotes the growth, development, and continuation of competent Contractors that can perform the work necessary under this contract. The Department's procurement process is built on the principle of competition. The Department believes that the specifications and requirements under this contract are reasonable to satisfy the need for services requested, but are not unduly restrictive, in order to encourage competition in the open market. In furtherance of these principles, bidders are not required to be prequalified for this contract. All references to "prequalification" of bidders are hereby waived for this contract.

CONTRACT TIME AND COMPLETION DATE

The date of availability for this contract will be September 1, 2024. The completion date for this contract is one (1) year from date of availability.

This project is to be awarded, if the award is to be made in the discretion of the Department, within thirty (30) days after the opening of bids.

Extension of Contract: At the sole option and discretion of the contracting agency, North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), and upon written notification, this contract may be extended for four (4) additional periods, one (1) year each, unless a shorter time is mutually agreed upon by the parties, (maximum of five (5) years total), to include leap year when applicable. Upon receipt of notification, the Contractor will be given fifteen (15) days to reply as to acceptance or rejection of an extension. If a reply is not received from the Contractor within fifteen (15) days, NCDOT reserves the right not to extend. **Each line item bid price for "Provide Professional Lawn and Grounds Maintenance" will be increased for each one (1) year extension by one (1) percent of the current price.**

Each line item bid price for Furnish and Apply landscape materials will not be subject to the one (1) percent price increase. No changes in the terms, conditions, etc. of this contract will be made when an extension to the contract is implemented. The Contractor will be notified ninety (90) days before expiration of the contract if NCDOT chooses not to offer an extension.

In accordance with G.S. 136-28.10 (Highway Fund and Highway Trust Fund Small Project Bidding) the maximum contract limit for Small Business Enterprise (SBE) projects is \$1,000,000 per year.

NOTE: In order to extend the contract, proof of insurance coverage must be received by the Department's Purchasing Office thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of the current contract.

PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE

Per G.S. 136-28.10, contract payment and performance bonds may be waived. For this project, the contract payment bond will be waived. In lieu of a contract performance bond, a performance guarantee will be required.

For the first year of this contract, the Contractor agrees to a Performance Guarantee consisting of five (5) per cent less than the amount of the line item bid price for "Provide Professional Lawn and Grounds Maintenance". This is the amount of monthly compensation before any non-compliance or performance deductions. The Performance Guarantee will not be deducted for extensions and will be refunded without interest, pending the project site review, by the Contracting Agency at the end of the initial contract unless an extension has been effected in which case the Performance Guarantee will be refunded at the completion of the final contract extension. In cases of default, the Performance Guarantee will not be refunded to the Contractor.

QUANTITIES ESTIMATED

The quantities for Furnish and Apply landscape materials shown on the itemized bid form are considered to be approximate only and are given as the basis for comparison of bids. For accounting purposes only a purchase order may contain quantity amounts and they SHALL NOT be construed as minimum quantities. Quantities shall be determined solely by the Department on an "as needed" basis.

AUTHORITY OF THE ENGINEER

The Engineer for this project shall be the Division Engineer, Division Fourteen, Division of Highways, North Carolina Department of Transportation, acting directly or through his duly authorized representatives. The Engineer will decide all questions which may arise as to the quality and acceptability of work performed and as to the rate of progress of the work; all questions which may arise as to the interpretation of the contract; and all questions as to the acceptable fulfillment of the contract on the part of the Contractor. His decision shall be final and he shall have executive authority to enforce and make effective such decisions and orders as the Contractor fails to carry out promptly.

The published volume entitled **North Carolina Department of Transportation, Raleigh, Standard Specifications for Roads and Structures**, with all amendments and supplements thereto, is by reference incorporated into and made a part of this contract. Unless otherwise modified, all the 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.

AWARD OF CONTRACT

"The North Carolina Department of Transportation, in accordance with the provisions of *Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964* (78 Stat. 252) and the Regulations of the Department of Transportation (*49 C.F.R., Part 21*), issued pursuant to such act, hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that the contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder without discrimination on the ground of race, color, or national origin".

All eligible proposals will be evaluated and acceptance made of the bid judged in the discretion of the contracting agency to determine the lowest responsible bidder for the purpose intended. The Contracting Agency using its discretion, will determine whether a bidder is a "responsible" bidder. In determining whether a bidder is "responsible, the Contracting Agency will evaluate, the bid price, completeness and content of the bid, Bidder's experience, ability of the Bidder and staff to perform the services required, Bidder's past performance, references, operations plan including completed personnel and materials outlines, and Bidder's financial stability. After opening bids and prior to award, the Contracting Agency may also seek additional information from any or all bidders regarding the bidder's proposal, qualifications, experience, and ability to perform the required work prior to determining whether a bidder is a "responsible" bidder. No changes in bid price or price negotiations will be allowed after bids are opened and prior to an award. After the Contracting Agencies evaluation, the award of the contract, if awarded, will be made to the lowest responsible bidder. The lowest responsible bidder will be notified that his bid has been accepted and that he has been awarded the contract. If a Bidder is awarded a contract, he/she will be expected to perform the work. Failure to perform may result in the Bidder being held in default of contract. In the event of default, the Department may, in its discretion, contact the next lowest responsible bidder to determine whether that next lowest responsible bidder is willing and able to complete the contract at its bid price.

Unless otherwise allowed by the Engineer, any formal protest to any proposed bid shall be made in writing (email is acceptable) to the Engineer for the project within five (5) days of bid opening and shall clearly indicate that it is a "bid protest." The protest must list each item that the protester believes is grounds for rendering a bid defective. The Engineer will evaluate the protest and determine, in his/her discretion, whether any further action should be taken. Further action may consist of, but not limited to, seeking additional information and/or clarification from any and all bidders regarding the alleged complaint/protest, rejecting any or all bids, finding any or all bids irregular, finding any or all bidders "not responsible", holding a possible informal meeting to discuss the protest, or other actions in the discretion of the Engineer. After further evaluation the Engineer will notify the protesting party what further action, if any, will be taken with regard to the protest. All awards are final and are not subject to further review.

INSURANCE

The Contractor shall be liable for any losses resulting from a breach of the terms of this contract. The Contractor shall be liable for any losses due to the negligence or willful misconduct of its agents, assigns and employees including any sub-contractors which causes damage to others for which the Department is found liable under the Torts Claims Act, or in the General Courts of Justice, provided the Department provides prompt notice to the Contractor and that the Contractor has an opportunity to defend against such claims. The Contractor shall not be responsible for punitive damages.

The Contractor shall at its sole cost and expense obtain and furnish to the Department an original standard *Association for Cooperative Operations Research and Development (ACORD)* certificate of liability insurance evidencing commercial general liability with a limit for bodily injury and property damage in the amount of \$5,000,000 per occurrence and \$5,000,000 general aggregate, covering the Contractor from claims or damages for bodily injury, personal injury, or for property damages that may arise from operating under the contract by the employees and agents of the Contractor. The required limit of insurance may be obtained by a single general liability policy or the combination of a general liability and excess liability or umbrella policy. The State of North Carolina shall be named as an additional insured on this commercial general liability policy. The policy may contain the following language as relates to the State as an additional insured: "This insurance with respect to the additional insured applies only to the extent that the additional insured is held liable for your or your agent's acts or omissions arising out of and in the course of operations performed for the additional insured."

The Contractor shall maintain all legally required insurance coverage, including without limitation, worker's compensation and vehicle liability, in the amounts required by law. Providing and maintaining adequate insurance coverage is a material obligation of the contractor and is of the essence of this contract. All such insurance shall meet all laws of the State of North Carolina. Such insurance coverage shall be obtained from companies that are authorized to provide such coverage and that are authorized by the Commissioner of Insurance to do business in North Carolina. The Contractor shall at all times comply with the terms of such insurance policies.

Upon execution of the contract, provide evidence of the above insurance requirements to the Engineer. Insurance coverage shall be maintained during the life of this contract and shall extend to operations performed by the contractor or his subcontractors, and by anyone employed directly or indirectly by either of them.

The Contractor shall take out and maintain during the life of this contract Worker's Compensation Insurance for all of his employees employed at the site(s) of the project, in the amounts required by law. In case any work is sublet, the Contractor shall require the Subcontractor similarly to provide Worker's Compensation Insurance for all the latter's employees employed at the site(s) of the project, unless such employees are covered by the protection afforded by the Contractor.

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 97-19, all contractors of the Department of Transportation are required, prior to beginning services, to show proof of coverage issued by a workers' compensation insurance carrier, or a certificate of compliance issued by the Department of Insurance for self-insured subcontractors stating that it has complied with N.C.G.S. § 97-93.

The contractor shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the North Carolina Department of Transportation, its officers and employees from any claim, demand, suit, liability, judgment and expense (including attorney's fees and other costs of litigation) arising out of or relating to injury, disease, or death of persons or damage to or loss of property resulting from or in connection with the negligent performance of this contract by the contractor, its agents, employees, and subcontractors or any one for whom the contractor may be responsible. The obligations, indemnities and liabilities assumed by the contractor under this paragraph shall not extend to any liability caused by the negligence of the Department of Transportation or its employees. The contractor's liability shall not be limited by any provisions or limits of insurance set forth in this contract.

The Contractor shall take out and maintain during the life of this contract such Public Liability and Property Damage Insurance as shall protect him and Subcontractors performing work covered by this contract from claims for damage or property damages which may arise from operations under this contract. This insurance shall protect the Contractor whether such operations are done by himself or by any Subcontractor, or by anyone directly or indirectly employed by either of them.

The Contractor shall at all times comply with the terms of such insurance policies, and all requirements of the insurer under any such insurance policies, except as they may conflict with existing North Carolina laws or this contract. The limits of coverage under each insurance policy maintained by the Contractor shall not be interpreted as limiting the Contractor's liability and obligations under the contract.

Proof of insurance from the Insurance Company as described above, for the period of the contract, shall be furnished to the Engineer prior to beginning of service. In addition to proof of insurance, the Contractor's policy shall include provisions whereby the Insurance Company will notify NCDOT thirty (30) days prior to the policy being cancelled.

SUBLETTING OF CONTRACT

All work as outlined under this contract shall be performed by employees of the Contractor or by an approved Subcontractor. Any requests for subcontracting must be submitted in writing to the Engineer a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the proposed implementation of the subcontract. Subcontracting of required personnel staffing (including supervisor) will not be permitted in this contract. The approval of any subcontract will not release the Contractor of liability under the contract, nor will the subcontractor or the second tier subcontractor have any claim against NCDOT by reason of the approval of the subcontract.

Failure of the Contractor to comply with any of the provisions of this article may be justification for disqualifying the Contractor from further bidding. Subletting of this contract or any portion of the contract shall conform to the requirements of Article of 108-6 of the Standard Specifications.

PERFORMANCE OF WORK

The Contractor's attention is directed to the need for the timely performance of services provided for under this contract. The aesthetic appearance of the site and its reflection on the North Carolina Department of Transportation as well as the safety and convenience of the public is the essence of the service.

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF THE WORK

The Engineer or his representative will observe operations and may suspend work for unsafe activities or conditions. Work will not resume until the unsafe condition has been eliminated or corrected. Failure to comply with any of the requirements for safety and traffic control of this contract shall result in suspension of work as provided in Article 108-7 of the Standard Specifications.

SITE INVESTIGATION AND REPRESENTATION:

By signing the proposal documents, the Contractor acknowledges that:

- (A) He understands the nature of the work and general and local conditions, particularly those bearing on transportation;
- (B) He is familiar with the availability and cost of labor and materials;
- (C) He will to adhere to State regulations for safety and security of property, roads, and facilities;
- (D) He is able to prosecute the work in accordance with all applicable local, state and federal rules and regulations, and;
- (E) He has thoroughly investigated the project site(s).

Any failure on the part of the Contractor to acquaint himself with all available information shall not relieve him from the responsibility of any aspect of the contracting process. No adjustment in contract time or contract prices will be made due to the Contractor's negligence to familiarize himself with the contract or project site(s).

CONTRACT CANCELLATION POLICIES

The Department of Transportation shall have the right to declare a default of contract for breach by the Contractor of any material term or condition of the contract. Default of contract shall be in accordance with the terms, conditions, and procedures of Article 108-9 of the Standard Specifications.

CANCELLATION BY DEPARTMENT (DEFAULT)

The general reputation and performance of the Contractor is a reflection on the Department of Transportation. This contract may be cancelled at any time by reason of unsatisfactory performance, failure to maintain a valid pesticide license, or other default of the Contractor upon five- (5) day's prior written notice by the Department. In addition, this contract may be cancelled immediately by written notification upon receipt of substantiated notification and verification that the Contractor has failed to properly pay in a timely or reasonable manner employees, suppliers, or businesses used in the completion of the contractual requirements contained in this proposal, or if the Contractor is found to be issuing checks not covered by sufficient funds. In such instances, the Department may request that the successful bidder be debarred from doing business with the Department, the state, and /or any of its subdivisions. Formal complaints may be filed with the NC Department of Labor, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General's Office.

CONTRACTOR DEFAULT

When a Contractor defaults on an existing Custodial Operations and Maintenance and/or Professional Lawn and Grounds Maintenance Rest Area Contract, the Contractor will not be considered for award of future contracts or extensions of current contracts, until the defaulted Contractor can demonstrate as indicated below that he/she is capable of meeting the requirements outlined in the new Custodial Operations and Maintenance and/or Professional

Lawn and Grounds Maintenance Rest Area Proposal.

After a period of one (1) year from the date of default notification, a defaulted Contractor is eligible to present to the Department documentation that he/she is indeed capable of meeting the requirements outlined in the new Custodial Operations and Maintenance and/or Professional Lawn and Grounds Maintenance Rest Area Proposal. Documentation shall consist of:

- 1) Affidavits from a minimum of three (3) contracting firms that the Contractor has provided satisfactory performance of comparable custodial and/or grounds services within the past year;
- 2) Affidavits from a minimum of three (3) suppliers that the Contractor has paid said suppliers in a timely manner as set forth by the suppliers within the past year; and
- 3) Audited financial statements from the past year verifying that the Contractor is in good financial standing.

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*.

CANCELLATION DUE TO DISCONTINUATION OF SERVICE

In the event that the Department feels that it is in the State's best interest to temporarily discontinue use of the rest area facilities to serve the public, due to damages done to the facility or roadway by acts of God, vandalism, or major renovation work deemed necessary by the Department, the Department will give the Contractor thirty (30) days written notice of cancellation of the contract.

LEGAL RELATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITY TO PUBLIC

LAWS TO BE OBSERVED

In accordance with 107-1 of the Standard Specifications. The Contractor shall keep himself fully informed of all Federal and State laws, all local laws, ordinances, and regulations, and all orders and decrees of bodies or tribunals having any jurisdiction or authority which may in any manner affect those engaged or employed in the work, or which in any way affect the conduct of the work. He shall at all times observe and comply with all such laws, ordinances, regulations, orders, and decrees; and shall indemnify and hold harmless the Board of Transportation and the Department of Transportation and their agents and employees from any claim or liability arising from or based on the violation of any such law, ordinance, regulation, order, or decree, by the Contractor or by his agents and employees.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGE CLAIMS

In accordance with 107-14 of the Standard Specifications. The Contractor shall indemnify and save harmless the Board of Transportation and its members and the Department of Transportation and its officers, agents, and employees from all suits, actions, or claims of any character brought for any injury or damages received or sustained by any person, persons, or property by reason of any act of the Contractor, Subcontractor, its agents or employees, in the performance of the contract.

SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PROTECTION

In accordance with 107-21 of the Standard Specifications. The Contractor shall comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, ordinances, and regulations governing safety, health, and sanitation, and shall provide all safeguards, safety devices, and protective equipment, and shall take any other needed actions, on his own responsibility that are reasonably necessary to protect the life and health of employees on the job and the safety of the public, and to protect property in connection with the performance of the work covered by the contract.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

In accordance with 107-22 of the Standard Specifications. The Contractor's attention is directed to the provisions and requirements of any and all public statutes which regulate hours or conditions of employment on public work. Such provisions and requirements that are appropriate, in accordance with the intent of the particular law, act, or statute, will be applicable to all work performed by the Contractor with his own organization and with the assistance of workmen under his immediate superintendence, and to all work performed by subcontract. It will be the responsibility of the Contractor to ascertain the appropriate application of such provisions and requirements to the work.

LAWN AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE OF REST AREAS

DESCRIPTION

The Contractor is to perform lawn and grounds maintenance operations as specified herein to insure the facilities below are maintained in a safe, attractive, and clean, manner at all times. This contract includes all planted and undeveloped areas within the rest area boundaries.

NAME AND LOCATION OF FACILITIES

N.C. Department of Transportation Rest Areas (pair)/Welcome Center on I-40, Haywood County, East and Westbound Lanes, located at Mile Marker 10 East of the NC/TN Stateline.

Note: All provisions and requirements included in this proposal apply to each site, eastbound lane and westbound lane.

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

1. Safe: A condition free of hazards and not having a potential for personal injury or harm.
2. Clean: Free of impurities or foreign matter not normally a part of the original component.
3. Operable: Capable of being used as originally intended.
4. Engineer: The Division Engineer of the Highway Division in which the project is located, acting directly or through his duly authorized representative.

PROJECT PRE-WORK CONFERENCE

Following the award of a contract and prior to beginning work, the Engineer will schedule a project Pre-Work Conference with the Contractor, consisting of a document review and a site review.

Pre-Work Document Review: The Engineer will review for approval the Contractor's proposed supervisor, work plan, national criminal background checks, staffing, equipment, materials list, etc. to insure compliance with contract.

The Contractor National Criminal Background Check Certification form and national criminal background record information shall be submitted for all potential employees, including all Contractor officers, owners, partners and/or managers and all personnel who will represent the contracting company.

If a criminal background identifies a possible criminal offense, the criminal background shall include the name of the offense, date of offense, and disposition of the offense. If requested by NCDOT, and at the Contractor's expense, the Contractor shall also provide any additional information regarding the criminal background of any potential employee.

Note: In some situations, a National Criminal Background Check may not include all the necessary information for offenses that occurred in the State of North Carolina. For a list of companies that can provide criminal background checks for offenses in the State of North Carolina please visit the N.C. Administrative Office of Courts website:

<https://www.nccourts.gov/help-topics/court-records/criminal-background-check>

The Contractor shall furnish a resume of the proposed supervisor including the supervisor's name, work experience, a copy of the N.C. Pesticide License issued by NCDA, address, and phone number to insure compliance with the contract.

Pre-Work Site Review: The Contractor and NCDOT Personnel shall conduct a thorough review/inspection of the project site and a general statement as to overall appearance of rest area grounds and landscaping.

Post-Work Site Review: On or just prior to the completion date of this contract, or in the event of default of contract or termination of contract, the Contractor and NCDOT Personnel shall conduct a thorough follow-up inspection of the rest area in order to make a comparison of the site as to conditions when the Contractor began work. A general statement is to be made by DOT as to overall appearance of rest area grounds and landscaping. The overall rest area general appearance and maintenance is to be same or better at completion of contract as when contract began. The Contractor will be required to mow, remove leaves/weeds, replace plants, prune, fertilize, seed, etc., as determined by the inspections above. Any of the requested work not performed by the Contractor will be made by NCDOT and cost withheld/deducted from final payment.

PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

- A. **General:** During performance of the contract, the Contractor shall provide qualified and trained personnel capable to satisfy all the requirements of this contract. The Contractor is to make a review of the contract requirements for work included herein and in conjunction with actual job site conditions. The required staffing shall not be less than specified; however, the Contractor is responsible for all work included herein. While on duty, Contractor's personnel shall work consistently on the duties as described herein.

The Contractor is required to have a valid North Carolina Ground Applicator Pesticide License with Ornamental and Turf pest control sub-classification, issued by the NCDA, in Contractor's (an actual employee of the company) name and the company name, throughout the term of this contract. Failure of the Contractor to maintain a valid license shall be considered default of this contract.

The Contractor shall keep himself fully informed of all federal, state and local laws and regulations governing the safe and proper handling, application, transportation, storage, and disposal of pesticides and fully comply with all such laws and regulations.

The Contractor's personnel are to be polite and assist the traveling public with information and aid in such a manner as to reflect favorably on the State and Contractor providing the service. The Contractor shall be responsible for the behavior of its employees in relation to the public and shall take all necessary and

appropriate steps to ensure its employees behave in accordance with the provisions of the contract. The Department reserves the right to require the Contractor to replace any employee who displays unacceptable personal conduct, displays unsatisfactory job performance or is a potential threat to the safety of the traveling public. Unacceptable personal conduct includes, but is not limited to, conduct which constitutes a violation of state or federal law or conduct which is inconsistent with the job requirements of this contract.

All rest area staff shall be a minimum of eighteen (18) years of age.

The Department places significant value on the safety of the traveling public. The Contractor is required to perform nationwide criminal background checks on all potential employees, including all Contracting officers, owners, partners, and/or managers and all personnel who will be representing the contracting company using a service that provides national background checks. All costs associated with the background checks shall be at the Contractor's expense. Employees with a disqualifying criminal background are prohibited from working at rest areas maintained by NCDOT.

An individual is prohibited from working at rest areas maintained by NCDOT due to a disqualifying criminal background if:

- (a) **The individual has previously been found guilty of having the status of an habitual felon, N.C.G.S. 14-7.1,**
- (b) **The individual has a history of convictions for felony or misdemeanor assaultive behavior or felony or misdemeanor convictions for weapons charges,**
- (c) **The individual has outstanding arrest warrants that he/she has become aware of, or pending criminal court cases and has not notified the Contractor within 24 hours of awareness,**
- (d) **The individual has a pending habitual impaired driving offense, N.C.G.S. 20-138.5,**
- (e) **The individual has a prior sex offender conviction,**
- (f) **The individual has conviction(s) that once submitted to the Department by the Contractor for review after the award of the contract, but before the start of the contract, or prior to the renewal of the contract, or during the term of the contract, where the Department objects based on the nature of the individual's conviction(s) and the need to protect the safety of the traveling public.**

Contractor shall submit national criminal background checks referenced above and Contractor National Criminal Background Check Certification for each new employee. Should the Contractor retain employees from a previous contract, Contractor shall submit new background checks for each retained employee and Contractor National Criminal Background Check Certification.

After obtaining the national criminal background check referenced above on all potential employees, the Contractor shall submit the Contractor National Criminal Background Check Certification form and national criminal background record information at the Project Pre-Work Conference. **No employee is to begin work at the rest area under the new contract without undergoing the national criminal background check referenced above.** Upon yearly renewal of an existing contract, the Contractor shall provide updated national criminal background checks of its employees, including all Contracting officers, owners, partners, and/or managers and all personnel who will be representing the contracting company, along with the Contractor National Criminal Background Check Certification, thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of the current contract year.

Contractor must have each employee notify Contractor within 24 hours when he/she has been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor, and Contractor must notify NCDOT within 24 hours of that employee's notification. The Department reserves the right to request a new national criminal background check for any employee at any time.

Noncompliance with the requirements of the Contractor National Criminal Background Check

Certification referenced above shall be grounds for contract cancellation.

- B. Staffing:** The Contractor shall provide sufficient man hours and personnel to satisfy the contract objectives at all times, but not less than the following man hours per week on site (both sites combined):

Twenty-four (24) man hours per week during the months of March through November,

Eight (8) man hours per week during the months of December through February.

NOTE: Failure to complete the required minimum number of man hours per week on site as specified will result in immediate documentation of reduction in compensation as specified in Standard Compensation Reduction Schedule for Lawn and Grounds Maintenance at Each Rest Area Site.

Employees shall be trained in proper grounds maintenance procedures (e.g., proper mowing, correct pesticide application, correct pruning methods, etc.). At least one (1) fluent English speaking employee shall be on site at all times.

NOTE: Employees from the janitorial staff will not be permitted to perform services under the grounds maintenance contract and employees from the grounds maintenance staff will not be permitted to perform services under the janitorial contract during the same time period. For example, a grounds maintenance employee will not be permitted to fill in for a janitorial employee during any part of a shift. Such action would be considered non-compliance of the janitorial contract and the janitorial Contractor would be assessed the standard deduction for "Attendant Not On Duty".

- C. Supervisor:** The Contractor shall provide a supervisor for direct on site supervision of rest area workers. A high level of importance is placed on proper supervision. The supervisor shall be on site at all times. The supervisor shall speak and write fluent English.

NOTE: Failure of the supervisor to be on site, supervising employees as specified will result in immediate documentation of reduction in compensation as specified in Standard Compensation Reduction Schedule for Lawn and Grounds Maintenance at Each Rest Area Site.

The Contractor's Supervisor shall be available by telephone and/or mobile 24 hours a day for immediate contact. The supervisor shall have the authority to take immediate action to correct conditions determined by the Department to be unsafe, or reflecting unfavorably on the State of North Carolina and the Contractor.

NOTE: If the Contractor's Supervisor does not respond within 24 hours of contact, the Division reserves the right to have the work performed with other forces. The cost of the work so performed, including materials, labor, and equipment will be deducted from payment due the Contractor.

Experience: The Contractor's supervisor shall have a minimum of one (1) years' experience as a supervisor in grounds maintenance.

License: The supervisor is required to have a valid and current North Carolina Commercial Ground Applicator Pesticide License with Ornamental and Turf pest control sub-classification, issued by the NCDA, in the supervisor's name, throughout the term of this contract. Any supervisor that fails to maintain a valid license shall be replaced immediately.

The supervisor shall keep himself fully informed of all federal, state and local laws and regulations governing the safe and proper handling, application, transportation, storage, and disposal of pesticides and fully comply with all such laws and regulations.

Supervisor's Time Off: The Contractor can designate a substitute Supervisor, upon approval from the Engineer, who can work in the Supervisor's absence for not more than four (4) weeks annually. The substitute Supervisor shall have a valid and current North Carolina Commercial Ground Applicator

Pesticide License with Ornamental and Turf pest control sub-classification, issued by the NCDA. The Engineer shall be notified a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours prior to a supervisor taking time off.

Replacement of Supervisor: The Engineer shall be contacted immediately in the event the Supervisor position becomes vacant for any reason. The Contractor shall submit a written request to the Engineer for the replacement of the Supervisor. The request shall contain the individual's name, a resume outlining individual's grounds maintenance experience, and a copy of individual's valid and current pesticide license issued by NCDA. A substitute Supervisor shall be designated in the meantime. The substitute Supervisor shall have a valid and current pesticide license issued by NCDA.

Supervisor's Weekly Work Report: The Supervisor shall complete the weekly work report and leave on site at a designated place at each rest area or with the Engineer's Representative after each visit.

NOTE: Failure to complete and leave the Supervisor's Weekly Work Report on each site as specified will result in immediate documentation of reduction in compensation as specified in Standard Compensation Reduction Schedule for Lawn and Grounds Maintenance at Each Rest Area Site.

Contractor's Monthly Work Plan: The Contractor shall submit a monthly work plan, outlining the tasks to be completed for the upcoming month. The plan shall be submitted by the last day of the preceding month.

NOTE: Failure to submit Contractor's Monthly Work Plan will result in immediate documentation of reduction in compensation as specified in Standard Compensation Reduction Schedule for Lawn and Grounds Maintenance at Each Rest Area Site.

Records: In addition, the Engineer has the right to request copies of pesticide application records at any time during the term of this contract.

NOTE: Falsification of information, including, but not limited to Supervisor's Weekly Work Report, Contractor's Monthly Work Plan, pesticide application records, etc., will result in immediate documentation of reduction in compensation as specified in Standard Compensation Reduction Schedule for Lawn and Grounds Maintenance at Each Rest Area Site.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- A. Safety and Accident Protection: Contractor shall be required to supply all safety personal protective equipment (PPE) for employees to use/wear. PPE shall consist of, but not limited to: ear protection, safety glasses, safety vest (meeting ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 Class 2 standards), safety toe shoes, and outside working gloves. Contractor shall follow all OSHA standards, including using/wearing PPE.

Contractor's staff shall not cross the highway either on foot or on equipment. Travel to and from the site and travel from one site to another for facility pairs, shall be by vehicle and must comply with all applicable laws, including crossing at an interchange, and not the median. All staff shall wear safety vests at all times.

The Contractor shall fulfill the requirements of this contract in a manner that ensures that all public access areas are free of potential hazards or risks that may cause injury, health or safety risks, or damage to assets. All accidents, injuries and near misses shall be reported to the Engineer immediately. All staff on duty will be required to submit a written statement to the Department describing the incident.

It is the Contractor's responsibility to ensure that all employees are trained to meet OSHA training requirements, all equipment meets OSHA standards, and all PPE is used/worn as required. In the event of an OSHA inspection which results in fines to the Contractor, NCDOT will reimburse Contractor only for those fines imposed as a result of a violation of OSHA standards in the structure of the facility itself. Any

fines imposed as a result of the activities of the Contractor's employees, the Contractor's equipment, or PPE which are in violation of OSHA standards shall be the responsibility of the Contractor.

- B. Materials and Equipment: The Contractor shall provide all materials, equipment and supplies, adequate in quantity and of a high commercial quality, necessary for professionally performing all work in this contract, regardless of the estimated quantities proposed in their bid. All equipment used shall be commercial grade and of sufficient size to complete tasks effectively and in a timely manner. All equipment shall be in good working order capable of being used as originally intended, including all guards and safety attachments. All mowing equipment shall have deflector shields or bag attachments in place at all times. All blades shall be sharpened. The Contractor's company name shall be conspicuously displayed on each service vehicle.

By submission of a bid package the bidder agrees that, during the performance of the contract, they shall be able to supply a minimum of the following commercial grade for use as needed. For mowing equipment a 60" cut commercial riding mower with deflector shield and leaf collection attachment that can be adjusted to the specified mowing height. A small push or self-propelled mower with bag attachments that can be adjusted to the specified mowing height is required for areas around the buildings. For the aerating equipment a tractor mounted 3-point hitch core type aerator and a commercial walk behind core type aerator for areas around the buildings. For the lawn herbicide applicator is a 50 (fifty) gallon capacity commercial sprayer designed to evenly distribute herbicide lawn products. A minimum of one (1) commercial style backpack leaf blower and one (1) commercial style edger or commercial style trimmer with edger attachment is required.

The label and SDS for each product used shall be brought to the rest areas at all times the Contractor is using the product. All containers, applicators and bottles shall be labeled with the product they contain. Containers shall be securely closed when not in use. Strictly adhere to label/SDS requirements for safe use of products.

- C. Temporary Traffic Control (TTC) Prior to beginning any maintenance operations, the Contractor shall place approved 48" x 48" warning signs with stands and orange cones in the rest area. Signs stating "Mowing Ahead", "Workers" or the symbol thereof, or other MUTCD TTC standard signs approved by the Engineer, shall be placed at each entrance to the facility. Additional signs may be required at the direction of the Engineer. Orange 36" MUTCD TTC standard cones shall be placed around each corner of Contractor's parked trucks and trailers and may be required in other areas where work is being performed at the direction of the Engineer.
- D. Fire extinguisher, first aid kit and hazardous spill kit: These items shall be furnished by the Contractor and readily available at all times when work is being performed at the rest area. Contractor shall ensure personnel are trained in the proper use of these items.

In the event of an emergency, Contractor's personnel are to contact local emergency services. Staff is not to act as emergency medical personnel, unless properly certified to do so. Contractor shall report all emergency events to the Engineer immediately.

Note: Contractor is responsible for any injury or damages received or sustained by any person, persons, or property by reason of any act of the Contractor, Subcontractor, its agents or employees, in the performance of the contract.

- E. Illegal Activity: In the event of illegal activity such as solicitation, robbery, assault, vandalism, etc., Contractor's personnel are to contact local emergency services. All illegal activity shall be reported to the Engineer immediately.

NOTE: Failure to follow any safety precaution as specified will result in immediate documentation of reduction in compensation as specified in Standard Compensation Reduction Schedule for Lawn and Grounds Maintenance at Each Rest Area Site.

UNIFORMS

- A. General: The uniform is a valuable point of employee recognition by the traveling public. Therefore, a high emphasis will be placed on employees wearing neat and clean uniforms at all times while working, and a reduction in daily compensation will be applied when employees are not in specified uniform.

The uniform shall be worn by all personnel including the supervisor. The uniform shall be complete, as outlined below, and shall be in good condition, neat and clean.

- B. Standard Uniform: The Contractor shall provide uniforms consisting of shirt (with identification showing the Company's name/logo), trousers or jeans (waist to ankle), safety vest (meeting ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 Class 2 standards), and safety toe shoes. All uniform components shall be approved by the Engineer prior to the start of contract/work.

Orange clothing in lieu of safety vest is not acceptable. Shirts shall be worn to fit and shall remain buttoned (when applicable) and tucked into the trousers/jeans at all times. Trousers/jeans shall be worn to fit with no holes or tears. Hats are optional, but if chosen to be worn, must be of a uniform type with company name/logo on the front. A plain, black or orange toboggan type knit hat may be worn during cold weather only. No other forms of head covering will be permitted. Coats shall either have the Company's name/logo or a pin on type identification badge with Company's name/logo. A hat with Company's name/logo may be used for identification purposes in lieu of a uniform company coat.

NOTE: Failure of any employee to be in specified uniform will result in immediate documentation of reduction in compensation as specified in Standard Compensation Reduction Schedule for Lawn and Grounds Maintenance at Each Rest Area Site.

OTHER

- A. Renovation/Landscaping Work: Painting, construction, major repairs, or landscaping may be required to be done by others during the life of this contract. The Contractor shall be required to cooperate with other Contractors or state forces in the execution of all work.
- B. Repairs: All equipment and materials necessary for performance of this contract shall be the responsibility of the Contractor. Contractor shall be responsible for routine maintenance repairs and damage to equipment and materials in connection with performance of this contract.

MAINTENANCE OF GROUNDS

GENERAL

The term "GROUNDS" includes, but is not limited to, plant beds, individual trees and shrubs, lawns, drives, walkways, parking, picnic, graveled, and undeveloped areas within the NCDOT rest area site. The Contractor shall pursue the work diligently with workers in sufficient numbers, abilities, and supervision, and with equipment, materials, and methods of maintenance as may be required to complete the work herein described. Contractor shall provide all necessary equipment and materials for the maintenance of these areas. The required maintenance shall not be less than specified; however, the Contractor is responsible for maintaining conditions as specified herein. All work shall be performed as specified and as directed by the Engineer.

The rest area site shall be considered as the area between the main roadway shoulder (rest area side) to the control access fence; from the beginning of the entrance ramp into the rest area and to the end of the exit ramp from the rest area. This includes all slopes, drainage ditches, and stormwater control measures such as dry/wet detention basins, bioretention areas, bio-filtration conveyance devices, permeable pavement, and hazardous spill basins.

Maintenance of stormwater control measures located on the site shall be coordinated with the Engineer and in accordance with NCDOT's Stormwater Control Inspection and Maintenance Manual.

- A. Mowing Cycle: For the purpose of this contract a mowing cycle shall consist of mowing, trimming, edging, and cleanup as a result of these operations.
- B. Schedule: All work shall be scheduled on a weekly basis on the same day(s) between 7:00 AM Monday and 12:00 NOON Thursday. Every effort shall be made to adhere to the same weekly scheduled day(s). However, on occasions an alternative schedule may be required. In such cases, the Engineer shall be notified and must grant approval before an alternative schedule is begun.
- C. Time Restrictions: All work described herein shall be completed on the same scheduled day(s) each week. No work shall be performed on non-scheduled days, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and/or holidays unless approved in advance by the Engineer. The Contractor shall only perform the work described in this contract proposal during daylight hours.
- D. Timing of Operations: Timing of operations shall be as specified unless weather conditions exist that require the Engineer to schedule a more optimal time for success. Operations shall be as directed by the Engineer and shall be coordinated with the Engineer. The Engineer shall be notified a minimum of 48 hours in advance and given the opportunity to be present for lawn herbicide application, fertilization, aeration, overseeding, repair seeding, mulching, pruning, and any other as directed.

LAWNS

All lawn areas are to be maintained so as to provide a superior stand of turf.

- A. Mowing of Turfgrass:
 - 1. Special precautions shall be used when mowing during maintenance operations.
 - 2. All debris or litter in lawn shall be removed prior to mowing.
 - 3. A minimum of one (1) mowing cycle shall be performed each week as directed by the Engineer throughout the year in order to maintain a clean, neat appearance. Mowing may be required more than once per week or not at all as directed by the Engineer.
 - 4. Mowing shall be completed in a neat, uniformly cut manner. Gapped or rolled down, uncut streaks of turfgrass will not be considered acceptable. **The height of the mowing cut shall be no less than four (4) inches, not to exceed five (5) inches between mowings, and shall be approved by the Engineer.** The Contractor shall not "scalp" any areas of turfgrass. The Contractor shall not mow lawns while the turf is wet.
 - 5. The lawn areas around the buildings have been planted/ sodded in a fescue-bluegrass mix. A small rotary walk behind mower with bag, to be supplied by the Contractor, is to be used for mowing these areas. No riding equipment will be permitted in the areas around the buildings.
 - 6. All ramps shall be mown and/or trimmed to the top/bottom of the slopes and/or wood line to maintain an attractive appearance and prevent encroachment of invasive growth.
 - 7. All mowing equipment shall have deflector shields or bag attachments in place at all times. Excess clippings shall be removed from turf areas, sidewalks, drives, etc. and blown or washed off building sides, glass surfaces, structures or other fixed objects after each mowing. **DO NOT** hit trees, light poles, sign posts, picnic accessories, buildings, etc. with mowers. All mowing and trimming operations shall be conducted so that clippings are not thrown onto any mulched area around trees or plant beds. Contractor shall promptly remove all clippings thrown into any mulched area as a result of mowing/trimming operations.
 - 8. All elements of a mowing cycle shall be COMPLETED WITHIN A 36-HOUR PERIOD. No partial mowing will be allowed unless the weather forces delays. If rain or wet turf conditions

exist, the Contractor shall finish the cycle as soon as favorable conditions exist.

NOTE: Failure to mow as directed by the Engineer throughout the year, grass not mown as specified, or mowing cycle not completed within a 36 hour period will result in immediate documentation of reduction in compensation as specified in Standard Compensation Reduction Schedule for Lawn and Grounds Maintenance at Each Rest Area Site.

- B. Fertilization of Turfgrass: Fertilize with one (1) pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet three times per year- February, September, and November. Use a complete turf-grade fertilizer with a 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 ratio, such as 12-4-8 or 16-4-8, or similar mixture approved by the Engineer. Apply pelletized limestone, fifty (50) pounds per 1,000 square feet, once per year after a mowing cycle. The application of fertilizer and limestone shall be timed with adequate soil moisture in non-irrigated areas and shall be coordinated with the Engineer. The Engineer shall be notified a minimum of 48 hours in advance and given the opportunity to be present.
- C. Aeration/Overseeding: All seeds shall meet NCDOT specifications. These specifications and a list of approved varieties will be given to the successful Contractor upon award of contract.

All mown turf areas shall be aerated in late August/early September with a core type aerator to provide oxygen to the root systems of the turf thus increasing the availability of nutrients to the root system and creating a proper seedbed for fall overseeding. Overseeding shall be done in early September immediately following aeration. Seed shall be of the same mixture and application rate as repair seeding. Aeration and overseeding shall be coordinated with the Engineer. The Engineer shall be notified a minimum of 48 hours in advance and given the opportunity to be present.

- D. Repair Seeding: Repair seeding shall be coordinated with the Engineer. The Engineer shall be notified a minimum of 48 hours in advance and given the opportunity to be present.
1. Repair seeding shall be done as required to re-establish turf or worn or bare areas. The Contractor shall close these areas until a turf can be established. The repair seeding shall be done promptly at the locations and times directed by the Engineer. The work of repair seeding shall include seedbed preparation with a core aerator when directed by the Engineer; the furnishing, placing, and covering of fertilizer and seed; and the furnishing and placing of grain straw mulch is required; all in accordance with these specifications.
 2. Repair seeding shall occur at a rate of 5 pounds turf type hybrid tall fescue, 1/2 pound hard fescue, 1/2 pound Bluegrass. In addition 10 pounds 10-20-20 fertilizer, and 1 bale clean grain straw. All rates are per 1000 square feet. Germination is expected in 10-14 days.
 3. Seedbed preparation will be required unless otherwise permitted by the Engineer. A seedbed preparation as extensive as that performed for the original seeding and mulching will not be required. The degree of preparation shall be sufficient to retain the seed against displacement by wind, rain, or surface runoff, and shall be acceptable to the Engineer. The acceptable degree of seedbed preparation will depend on the location, soil conditions, and drainage conditions at the site. As a general rule, the soil shall be scarified or otherwise loosened to a depth of not less than 4 inches, unless approved otherwise by the Engineer.
 4. No fertilizer shall be distributed and no seed shall be sown when the Engineer determines that conditions are unfavorable for such operations. Fertilizer and seed shall be covered and mulch held in place in a manner acceptable to the Engineer. Covering shall be such that it will prevent displacement by wind, rain, or surface runoff except that covering may be eliminated when directed by the Engineer. Mulch shall be grain straw.
- E. Weed Control: All lawn areas shall be treated once per year with a pre-emergent annual grass control herbicide (February 1st through March 15th) and once per year with a post-emergent broadleaf weed herbicide (April through May). Additional spraying of herbicides for weed control shall be required by the Engineer or elected to be used by the Contractor. Upon notification by the Engineer to apply additional

herbicides, Contractor shall have one (1) week to complete the required application. See Pesticide Usage for specifications.

- F. Insect and Disease Control: All lawn areas shall be monitored for the infestation of insects or appearance of diseases. Notify NCDOT immediately upon discovery. The Contractor is responsible for treatment. Timing and product selection shall be approved by the Engineer. See Pesticide Usage for specifications.

EDGING/TRIMMING/MOWING

- A. Lawns: All curbs, sidewalks, concrete pads, etc., shall be edged with an edger each mowing cycle during the growing season or as directed by the Engineer, in order to maintain a clean, neat appearance. Contractor shall not edge with herbicide.
- B. Shrub Beds: All bed lines shall be kept edged in a clean and neat manner throughout the year as directed by the Engineer. Contractor shall not edge with herbicide.
- C. Trimming: Trimming around trees, shrubs, signs, poles, guardrail, & any other structures shall be performed during each mowing cycle as necessary. Care should be taken to protect the trunks and stems of all plants as well as structures. Contractor shall not trim with herbicide.
- D. Slopes/Drainage Ditches/Stormwater Control Measures: Slopes, drainage ditches, and stormwater control measures, on the site shall be maintained to an acceptable appearance, as determined by the Engineer. Slopes, drainage ditches, and stormwater control measures shall be mown and/or trimmed in conjunction with the routine mowing cycle, and as needed or appropriate, and as directed by the Engineer throughout the year. Do not allow any wood growth in stormwater control devices located on-site. Leaves, seed pods, etc. shall be kept out of ditches, swales, storm drainage inlets, etc. All debris (branches, stalks, clippings, etc.) shall be removed from the stormwater control measures and disposed of only in the undeveloped areas specified by the Engineer.

Herbicide use in drainage ditches, near storm drain inlets, and stormwater control measures shall be only at the direction of the Engineer. The Contractor shall not trim around rip rap with herbicide.

- E. Paved and Storage Areas: These areas include all surfaced and graveled areas along drives and walkways, and around buildings, dumpsters, and picnic accessories, etc. Contractor shall be responsible for edging these areas properly, spraying all joints/cracks/gravel, preventing encroachment of naturalized areas, and keeping these areas free of leaves, grass/shrub clippings, shrub/tree branches/limbs, etc. DO NOT allow pesticide runoff or mulch, leaves, clippings, etc. to go into drop inlets.
- F. Water Feature: The eastbound site has water features in the form of a waterfall and pond. The Contractor will be responsible for keeping the water features free of all debris, including trash, coins, sticks, leaves, etc. Contractor shall not use any materials/products in the waterfall or pond and shall take care not to allow any materials into the waterfall or pond as a result of his activities. Such materials shall be removed immediately. The Contractor shall monitor the water level, and if it is not working properly the Contractor shall notify the Engineer immediately and be prepared to fill the pond or cut off the pump and water service to the feature if requested to. An irrigation box with spigot and hose is adjacent to the water feature.

Care shall be taken to prevent staining of all paved surfaces, pavers, brick, stone and rock features, including the water features.

PLANTINGS

NOTE: Any damage done by the Contractor to the new and replacement of new plants/planting will result in immediate documentation of reduction in compensation as specified in Standard Compensation Reduction Schedule for Lawn and Grounds Maintenance at Each Rest Area Site.

EXISTING PLANTINGS:

- A. Existing Plant Replacement: Dead and or diseased plants (trees, shrubs, flowers, forbs and grasses) are to be removed by the Contractor when directed by NCDOT and replaced. Replacement plants/planting shall be maintained by the Contractor. The replacement planting shall require higher maintenance (watering, weeding, fertilization, etc.) than the established planting, the amount to be determined by the Engineer. The replacement plants will be provided by DOT with exception as specified in Damages. The Contractor shall provide labor for installation and maintenance. Large, mature trees over four (4) inches DBH will be removed by others.

NOTE: Damage of plantings (per plant), replacement planting not performed as specified, and/or higher maintenance not performed as specified, will result in immediate documentation of reduction in compensation as specified in Standard Compensation Reduction Schedule for Lawn and Grounds Maintenance at Each Rest Area Site.

- B. Weed Control: Beds shall be kept free of weeds at all times. Two (2) pre-emergent herbicide applications shall be performed on plant beds (one between August 21 and August 31 and one between January 15 and February 28). See Pesticide Usage for specifications. Hand weeding and post emergent pesticide applications shall be necessary, as weeds will not be permitted to remain in beds.
- C. Insect and Disease Control: All plantings shall be monitored for the infestation of insects or appearance of diseases. Notify NCDOT immediately upon discovery. The Contractor is responsible for treatment. See Pesticide Usage for specifications.
- D. Fertilization: All plant material shall be fertilized according to individual plant requirements once per year with a complete analysis slow release fertilizer specially formulated for ornamental plantings. Fertilizer shall be applied between January 1 and February 28 of each year with rate and analysis as listed on Plant Bed Fertilization Requirements. The Engineer shall be notified a minimum of 48 hours in advance and given the opportunity to be present.
- E. Pruning: Pruning shall be performed using acceptable horticultural practices and must be approved in advance by the Engineer. The Engineer shall be notified a minimum of 48 hours in advance and given the opportunity to be present. Dead stems, branches and limbs of all plant material and all safety hazards are to be pruned immediately. Trees and shrubs shall be pruned with sharpened tools of the appropriate size to make clean cuts. All debris (branches, stalks, clippings, etc.) shall be removed from the site or cut into small pieces and disposed of in the undeveloped areas specified by the Engineer.

Spring and/or summer blooming trees and shrubs shall be pruned within 60 days after flowering. Non-blooming deciduous species shall be pruned/thinned after leaf drop. Evergreens shall be pruned between March 1 and April 15 with touch-up pruning as needed between June 1 and August 30.

Shrubs shall be trimmed and shaped as directed by the Engineer to improve safety, to maintain form and vigor, and so as not to interfere with pedestrian access to nature trails, sidewalks, benches, picnic facilities, etc. Trees shall be pruned as directed by the Engineer to improve safety, so as not to obscure area lighting, signage, and to prevent overhanging onto structures, sidewalks and other similar hard surface areas, benches, etc. and to ensure structural stability. All pruning shall be done in a manner to maintain the natural form and shape of the plant species as closely as possible.

Daylilies around buildings and small beds shall have the scapes removed by hand after they have browned. Large outlying beds of daylilies shall be mown after flowering to a height of not less than five (5) inches and no more than eight (8) inches in order to remove dead flower stalks and rejuvenate foliage. Excess debris shall be removed from bed. Daylily beds shall be mown to the ground after the first killing frost, between October 15 and November 15, and all debris shall be removed.

Allow forbs (herbaceous plant material) to die-back at season's end. In early spring before green-up, cut dead top growth back as close to ground as possible without damaging the crown. Remove stalks from forbs in late winter if directed to do so by the Engineer. Retain the top-growth (browned) foliage of native and ornamental grasses in the landscape as long as possible to benefit from the ornamental qualities of their dormant stage. In early spring before green-up, prune back to twelve (12) inches, dead top-growth of all native and ornamental grasses, except those that are evergreen.

Contractor shall complete any other pruning directed by the Engineer within 30 days of notification.

- F. Mulching: Contractor shall furnish and place mulch prior to start of the yearly mowing activities and replenish according to the following specifications. Prior to start of yearly mowing cycle, before the placement of mulch, all bed areas shall be edged with a mechanical bed edger.
1. The mulch shall be shredded pine bark mulch, clean and void of sticks, cones, leaves or any extraneous materials. Mulch shall come from a single source unless otherwise approved by the Engineer. The Contractor shall present a sample to the Engineer for approval prior to beginning mulch applications. The Engineer shall be given the opportunity to be present for all mulch applications.
 2. Upon notification of the Engineer, the Contractor shall place the mulch around all individual landscape plants and bedded shrub areas within the rest area site as directed by the Engineer. This mulching shall be performed by February 28 of each year.
 3. Additional mulch shall be placed around all individual landscape plants and bedded shrub areas around the service, Welcome Center and vending buildings and along the front entrance in May prior to the Memorial Day Holiday.
 4. Mulch shall be placed and maintained to ensure a uniform four (4) inch depth covering the entire mulched area. The diameter of the mulch ring for individual trees, shrubs, etc. in lawn areas shall be:
 - 12 inch diameter plants and less - 3 foot ring
 - 12-24 inch diameter plants - 4 foot ring
 - 24 inch diameter or larger - 5 foot ring
 5. Mulch shall be tapered and not placed against the tree or shrub trunk so as to cause insect damage to the trunk or to promote adventitious root development. Mulch shall not be placed against buildings so as to allow insect damage to wooden exteriors. Following mulching operations, Contractor shall lift any branches or leaves of desirable plants which have been covered with mulch.
 6. Mulch shall be replenished as required to maintain the specified depth, or as directed by the Engineer.

PESTICIDE USAGE

Spraying of pesticides for weed, insect or fungus control may be required by NCDOT or elected to be used by the Contractor, upon approval by the Engineer. Contractor shall be responsible for removal of all invasive pests. Special precautions shall be used when applying pesticides during maintenance operations. **DO NOT allow drift or runoff of pesticides. Unapproved use or off target damage shall not be permitted.**

NOTE: Any pesticide usage on the site shall be by or under the direct on site supervision of a valid licensed Commercial Ground Applicator (currently licensed by the N. C. Department of Agriculture), with an Ornamental and Turf (L) sub-classification. The person(s) name and a copy of their current license(s) shall be given to the Engineer a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the application of any pesticides. All pesticide products, rates, timing, and area of application shall be used in accordance with the label and shall have been approved by the Engineer a minimum of 48 hours prior to their use. The Engineer shall be given a minimum of 48 hours prior notification and shall be given the opportunity to be present for all applications.

NOTE: Application of pesticide on the site by an applicator not licensed as specified above, or without direct on site supervision of a licensed applicator as specified above, pesticides not applied when specified or directed by the Engineer, use of a product (including, rate, timing, and area of application) without prior approval, use of a product inconsistent with the label, or unapproved use and/or off target damage, will result in immediate documentation of reduction in compensation as specified in Standard Compensation Reduction Schedule for Lawn and Grounds Maintenance at Each Rest Area Site.

The Engineer has the right to request copies of pesticide application records at any time during the term of this contract.

CLEAN UP

The following activities shall be performed, at a minimum, once per week year round. Snow removal is by others.

- A. Roadways: All curbs and gutters shall be blown as needed, but especially after all mowing, edgings, and plant bed maintenance.
- B. Parking Lots: All curbs in parking lot areas shall be blown to remove minor trash and debris during each visit. The Contractor is responsible for removal of all grass clippings, etc., caused by edging or mowing operations.
- C. Grounds:
 - 1. All grounds shall be policed for litter and debris a minimum of once per week, year round.
 - 2. Rest area shall be checked after every storm in order to remove minor debris, leaves, etc. The Contractor is responsible for removal of limbs and damaged/fallen trees less than four (4) inches in diameter, the extent of which will be determined by the Engineer. Extensive storm damage beyond the scope of the contract may be handled by supplemental agreement or by others as determined the Engineer. The Department will be responsible for preparing, removing, and disposing of large limbs or trees greater than four (4) inches in diameter.
 - 3. All debris, leaves, limbs, seed pods such as sweet gum balls and pine cones, etc. shall be removed from site by the Contractor, or if approved by the Engineer, cut into small pieces and disposed of in the undeveloped areas specified by the Engineer.
- D. Leaf/Seed Pod Removal:
 - 1. Leaves and seed pods such as sweet gum balls and pine cones, etc. shall be removed from all grounds weekly or as directed by the Engineer. Leaves shall be removed as much as possible from all plant beds without disturbing the mulch. Leaves shall not be blown into the wood line.

NOTE: Failure to remove leaves and/or seed pods once a week or as directed by the Engineer, will result in immediate documentation of reduction in compensation as specified in Standard Compensation Reduction Schedule for Lawn and Grounds Maintenance at Each Rest Area Site.

- 2. All leaves/seed pods shall be spread out in the naturalized area(s) at the direction of the Engineer. No limbs or large debris will be permitted.
 - 3. No leaves/seed pods, clippings or branches/limbs are to be placed in waterways, drainage ditches, hazardous spill basins, bio-retention areas, or any other stormwater device.
- E. Undeveloped/Natural Areas: These areas shall be kept from encroaching into lawn/developed areas. Woodland edges shall be kept clean from weedy growth. A fifty (50) foot perimeter into the woods shall be kept free of trash, debris, dead/broken limbs, etc. New growth of weeds, briars, trees, vines, etc. shall be removed as directed by the Engineer.

SEASONAL COLOR

Annual beds shall be planted and maintained by the Contractor in order to add seasonal color to the rest area. These beds shall be planted each spring between April 1 and May 15 with summer annuals, and each fall between October 15 and November 30 with winter annuals. These beds shall be planted, watered, and fertilized as required to maintain attractive seasonal color. The Engineer, prior to installation, shall approve fall and spring plantings. DOT will provide the annuals.

LANDSCAPE LIGHTING

The Contractor shall report all problems/repairs to the Engineer immediately. Any damage done to the lighting by the Contractor shall be the responsibility of the Contractor as specified in Damages.

EQUIPMENT IDLING GUIDELINES:

(1-19-21)

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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.

PLANT AND PEST QUARANTINES

(Imported Fire Ant, Gypsy Moth, Witchweed, Emerald Ash Borer, Guava Root Knot Nematode, And Other Noxious Weeds)

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/plantindustry/Plant/quaran/table2.htm> 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 to present a hazard of spreading imported fire ant, gypsy moth, witchweed, emerald ash borer, guava root knot nematode, or other noxious weeds.

COOPERATION BETWEEN CONTRACTORS

The Department reserves the right at any time to contract for and perform other or additional work on or near the work covered by the contract. The Department has a separate custodial maintenance contract for this facility. The grounds Contractor will be required to cooperate with the custodial Contractor during the performance of his duties at the rest area.

When separate or additional contracts are let within the limits of any one project, each Contractor shall conduct his work so as not to interfere with or hinder the progress or completion of the work being performed by other Contractors. Contractors working within the limits of the same project shall cooperate with each other. Each Contractor shall conduct his operations in such a manner as to avoid damaging any work being performed by others or which others have completed.

The Department will under no circumstances be liable for any claim for additional compensation due to acts of one Contractor holding up the work of another. The Department will under no circumstances be liable for any damages experienced by one Contractor as a result of the presence and operations of other Contractors working within the limits of the same project.

DAMAGES

The Contractor shall be held liable for all damage done, as a result of his operation or his Subcontractors, to fixed objects such as, but not limited to, signs, posts, buildings, and all vegetation including turf, trees, shrubs, flower beds and desirable natural growth. Damage shall include among other things; skinning, scraping, breaking of tree limbs or gouging of trees or shrubs, and rutting, scalping or tearing turf.

Costs associated with damages caused by the Contractor to plant material will be assessed based on current cost to

replace with like material of equal size or an equivalent combination. Such cost shall be deducted from the Contractor's monthly invoice. All turf damage repairs shall be made by the Contractor as herein specified. Seed shall meet purity and germination requirements as specified by the Engineer. Only friable topsoil shall be used to fill any depressions, ruts, etc., prior to seeding. All other property damage will be assessed for actual replacement costs including labor, materials, and equipment.

Cost associated with damages caused by the Contractor's operation shall be deducted from monthly invoice payments or the Contractor will be required to repair the damages at his cost as directed by the Engineer. This is in addition to any compensation reduction assessed as a result of poor or non-performance of duties outlined in this contract.

Contractor is responsible for any injury or damages received or sustained by any person, persons, or property by reason of any act of the Contractor, Subcontractor, its agents or employees, in the performance of the contract.

DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. **Administration:** The Department will provide personnel for administering the terms and conditions of this contract to ensure all services associated with these specifications have been performed to the satisfaction of the Department. The Department will demand strict conformance to this contract and shall enforce the standards of this contract.
- B. **Inspections:** The Department's field representative will conduct frequent, unscheduled inspections and complete an inspection form noting conditions and compliance with contract provisions and quality of workmanship. A copy of the form shall be left on site with an additional copy sent to the Contractor. These inspections will be performed at a minimum frequency of one time weekly.
- C. **Renovation Work:** If the Department deems it appropriate to do renovation work to the facility during the life of the contract, the Contractor will not be in any way responsible for this work or its cost. The Contractor will be required to cooperate with any other Contractor doing work for the Department on the site.
- D. **Grounds, Parking Lot and Roadway:** The Department will be responsible for placement and repairs to pavements, sidewalks, curbs, area lights, (walkway, roadway and parking areas) roadway signs and pavement markings.
- E. **Water:** The Department will be responsible for providing a deep well water supply or municipal water supply. Water shall only be available for Contractor duties being performed on the rest area site, not for work that Contractor is performing at alternate locations or job sites.
- F. **Utilities:** All public utility services contracted by DOT will be paid for by DOT.
- G. **Contractor Personnel:** The Department will not be responsible in any way to the Contractor's personnel for damages, destruction or loss, from any cause, to the Contractor's equipment, supplies, materials or tools or the personal property of the Contractor's personnel. The Contractor will be responsible for all repairs, regardless of cost, resulting from the negligence of the Contractor or Contractor's employees. The Department will not participate in the cost of such repairs.

PERFORMANCE OF WORK

The Contractor's attention is directed to the need for the timely performance of services provided for under this contract. The aesthetic appearance of the site and its reflection on the North Carolina Department of Transportation as well as the safety and convenience of the public is the essence of the service. When the Department observes the Contractor has failed to adequately perform any of the services for which the Contractor is responsible, the Engineer or his designee will take the following action in his/her discretion:

Grounds Services

- A. Non-Compliance: When services (mulching, pruning, weeding, etc.) are not provided in accordance with the contract, the Contractor will be notified and directed to perform the services within 24 hours.

NOTE: The eleven (11) non-compliance issues that will not be subject to the notification and direction to “perform the services within 24 hours” policy but will result in immediate documentation of reduction in compensation have been specified herein and are so noted on page 29, Standard Compensation Reduction Schedule for Lawn and Grounds Maintenance at Each Rest Area Site.

- B. Follow-up on Non Compliance: An inspection of non-compliance items will be made at the conclusion of the 24 hours by the Department. The Contractor's supervisory employee will be asked to accompany the Department's representative during the inspection. If the inspection shows the item or items have been corrected or satisfactory and continuous progress is being made, the previous notice will be rescinded; however, if non-compliance still remains, the supervisor will be given notification in writing with copy of non-compliance mailed to the Contractor's company address.
- C. Reduced Compensation: Should the follow-up inspection show the item(s) remain in non-compliance, the Contractor's monthly compensation will be reduced in accordance with the Standard Compensation Reduction Schedule included under Compensation.
- D. Service(s) Restored: The Contractor shall be responsible for notifying the Department when items have been corrected.
- E. Services Restored by DOT: If the Contractor fails to prosecute the work as directed or fails to perform the work in a safe, satisfactory manner, the Engineer may proceed to have the work performed with other forces. The cost of the work so performed including materials, labor, and equipment will be deducted from payment due the Contractor on his contract.
13. Contract Cancellation: Continued non-compliance by the Contractor will be considered unsatisfactory performance and may be grounds for contract cancellation.

Standard Compensation Reduction Schedule for Lawn & Grounds Maintenance at Each Rest Area Site		
Grounds Maintenance Employees		Each Week/Instance
1.	* Safety precautions not followed as specified (per person).	\$100.00
2.	* Not in specified uniform (per employee).	\$50.00
3.	* Required minimum number of man hours not completed as specified (per hour).	\$200.00
4.	* Supervisor’s Weekly Work Report not completed and left on each site as specified.	\$200.00
5.	* Contractor’s Monthly Work Plan not submitted as specified.	\$200.00
6.	* Supervisor not on site.	\$100.00
7.	* Falsification of information.	\$100.00
Grounds Maintenance		Each Week/Instance
1.	* Grass not mown as directed by the Engineer throughout the year. Grass not mown as specified. Non-adherence to the 36 hour stipulation without cause.	\$1500.00
2.	Edging, trimming/mowing and/or cleanup of mowing cycle not performed as specified.	\$500.00
3.	Debris/trash or excess grass clippings left after mowing cycle.	\$200.00
4.	Slopes/drainage ditches not properly maintained as specified.	\$1000.00
5.	Fertilization and/or liming not performed as specified.	\$1000.00
6.	Aeration and/or seeding not performed as specified.	\$1000.00
7.	* Application of pesticide on the site by an applicator not licensed or without direct on site supervision of a licensed applicator as specified above, pesticides not applied when specified or directed by the Engineer, use of a product (including rate, timing, and area of application) without prior approval, use of a product inconsistent with the label, or unapproved use and/or off target damage.	\$500.00
8.	Weeds in plantings/excess weeds in lawn.	\$500.00
9.	* Damage of plantings (per plant). Replacement planting not performed as specified. Higher maintenance not performed as specified.	\$200.00
10.	Pruning of trees/shrubs not performed as specified.	\$500.00
11.	Mulch needed and/or not placed as specified.	\$2000.00
12.	Cleanup after storms not performed as specified.	\$1000.00
13.	* Leaves and/or seed pods not removed from all grounds weekly or as directed by the Engineer.	\$1000.00
14.	Undeveloped/natural areas not kept clean as specified.	\$200.00
15.	Annual beds not planted and/or maintained as specified. (None present at this time.)	\$500.00

***Deduction not subject to the 24 hour non-compliance policy.**

**NOTIFICATION OF REST AREA CONTRACT NON-COMPLIANCE
FOR LAWN AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**

TO: _____ **FROM:** _____

DATE: _____ **COUNTY:** _____

ROUTE: _____ **EBL** ____ **WBL** ____ **NBL** ____ **SBL** ____

Employee(s) On Duty: _____
(Note: Employee(s) are requested to notify contract supervisor immediately concerning this notice.)

Please be advised that the following item is in Non-Compliance and reduction in compensation is in effect (24 hour limit to correct non-compliance when applicable):

Description of Non-Compliance Item	Date & Time of 1 st Inspection	Date & Time of 2 nd Inspection (Follow-up)	Rescinded? Yes/No	\$ Amount of Reduction

Standard Reductions that are not subject to the 24 hour non-compliance policy as specified are effective immediately. The reduction in compensation for 24 hour limit items begin with the above date and time of the second inspection.

Contractor: Please notify NCDOT when you have corrected item(s).

The above item(s) was/were corrected on the following date and time: _____

NCDOT Inspector Signature 1st Inspection _____

NCDOT Inspector Signature 2nd Inspection _____

Reduction 1: (\$ _____) X (_____ Unit) X (_____ Week/Instance) = \$ _____

Reduction 2: (\$ _____) X (_____ Unit) X (_____ Week/Instance) = \$ _____

Reduction 3: (\$ _____) X (_____ Unit) X (_____ Week/Instance) = \$ _____

Reduction 4: (\$ _____) X (_____ Unit) X (_____ Week/Instance) = \$ _____

If the Contractor fails to perform the work in a satisfactory manner, the Division Engineer may proceed to have the work performed by DOT or with other forces. The cost of the work will be deducted from payment due the Contractor.

Cost of Work Performed by DOT/Other Forces \$ _____

Amount of Total Reduction \$ _____

NCDOT Engineer Signature _____

COMPENSATION

The Department agrees to pay the Contractor the line item price per month for “Provide Professional Lawn and Grounds Maintenance” described herein upon receipt and approval of an invoice for the monthly period invoiced, less the 5% withheld during the first year of the contract as stated in the Performance Guarantee. The Department agrees to pay the Contractor each line item price for Furnish and Apply landscape materials described herein upon receipt and approval of an invoice.

All work or items necessary to complete the work other than those listed on the “Bid Proposal Form” will be considered incidental in nature and no additional compensation shall be made.

Monthly Submittal Data required for processing payment is as follows:

1. Monthly invoice for services rendered.
2. DBE-IS form.

All data must be correct and accurate. In addition to the monthly submittal data listed above, the Engineer may request further information.

NOTE: The contract terms are payable upon receipt. The Contractor is requested to wait ten (10) days after submission of invoice and other required monthly submittal data before contacting NCDOT regarding payment not being received.

Reduction Schedule: This Contract is set up for full 100% payment provided all services are rendered as outlined herein; however, when the Contractor fails to provide any part of the service in accordance with the terms of the contract, adjustments will be made to the monthly compensation on the monthly invoice submitted for payment. The reduction will be calculated according to the Standard Compensation Reduction Schedule for Lawn and Grounds Maintenance at Each Rest Area Site. In addition, any costs incurred for work performed by other forces that is the responsibility of the Contractor will be deducted from the monthly compensation.

BASIS OF PAYMENT

Lawn and grounds maintenance of rest areas and furnish and apply landscape material prices and payments will be full compensation for all work covered in this contract including, but not limited to, furnishing all labor, equipment, transportation, supplies and materials necessary to complete the work for one (1) year, regardless of the estimated quantities in their bid.

Payment will be made under:

ITEM	PAYMENT PER
Provide Professional Lawn and Grounds Maintenance	Month (MON)
Furnish and Apply Mulch	Cubic Yard (CYD)
Furnish and Apply Turfgrass Fertilization	Ton
Furnish and Apply Limestone	Ton
Furnish and Apply Turfgrass Overseeding	Pound (LB)
Furnish and Apply Repair Seeding (Includes All Materials Needed)	Acre (AC)

NOTE:

Minimum Wage: In the event of a Federal or State minimum wage increase, the contract price may be subject to change. The Contractor may be given an increase in contract price equal to his increased verified payroll labor costs resulting from the increase in the minimum wage, provided the Contractor furnishes the Department with correlating cost records which support the contract price increase.

USE OF REST AREAS

- A. In accordance with Article 23 of Chapter 130A of the North Carolina General Statutes. Smoking is prohibited in State government buildings. Therefore, the rest area is non-smoking facility. The Contractor or his employees shall not smoke inside any buildings on the rest area site or outside the buildings near the entrances.
- B. The Contractor is advised that Department is responsible for issuing permits to religious, non-profit, charitable, or educational organizations for solicitation purposes for such activities as providing free coffee to travelers during a specific time frame. **ALL OTHER FORMS OF SOLICITATION ARE PROHIBITED AT REST AREAS.** The Contractor shall not restrict or disrupt any organization with a valid permit from soliciting at the rest area facilities; however, such activity should be reported to the Engineer.
- C. The Contractor shall report all illegal activity to local authorities and the Engineer immediately. All unsanctioned activity shall be reported to the Engineer immediately.
- D. Contractors are advised that rest areas are for the convenience and safety of the traveling motorist and that customer service is of primary importance.
- E. The Contractor shall provide information and assistance to motorists in need of aid or direction, including, but not limited to:
1. Furnishing directions to nearest hospital or emergency medical facility.
 2. Knowing how to get immediate ambulance service.
- F. The Contractor is cautioned concerning the following items:
1. Do not get confrontational with any travelers, including those with pets.
 2. Do not make telephone calls for assistance, except for medical emergency or for law enforcement assistance.
 3. Do not attempt to be emergency medical personnel unless certified to do so. In case of emergencies, contact local emergency services.
 4. Do not bring any illegal drugs, alcohol, guns, knives, explosives, or incendiary devices onto the rest area site(s).
 5. Do not attempt to be a law enforcement officer. Employees will not be permitted to have firearms on the rest area property. Contractor's personnel shall cooperate with duly constituted law enforcement officers in the performance of their duties.
 6. Do not give permission for any activities to be conducted at the rest area.
 7. Do not perform mechanical work on anyone's vehicle.
 8. Do not recommend any specific service station, garage, restaurant, motel, campground or other commercial enterprise.
 9. All misplaced/lost items found at the rest area site shall be reported to the Engineer immediately. Items shall be kept in a secure location until the owner or Department retrieves the items. Each item shall be tagged showing date and place found, description of item and signature of finder.
- G. Employees will not be allowed to have family members, friends, etc. visiting (hanging around) the rest area property while employees are on duty.
- H. The Contractor will not be permitted to set up temporary utility building(s), trailer(s), vehicles, etc. for storage, office, etc. A utility/storage building, used by the janitorial Contractor is located on the site. The grounds maintenance Contractor will not be allowed to store any materials or equipment within the rest area site. Needed materials and equipment should be brought with the Contractor on each site visit. Under no circumstances shall NCDOT be responsible for any theft, vandalism, or damage to the Contractor's equipment or materials.

LAWS**EXECUTIVE ORDER 24**

By **EXECUTIVE ORDER 24**, issued in 2009, and N.C. G.S. § 133-32, it is unlawful for any vendor or contractor (i.e. architect, bidder, contractor, construction manager, design professional, engineer, landlord, offeror, seller, subcontractor, supplier, or vendor), to make gifts or to give favors to any State employee of the Governor's Cabinet Agencies (i.e., Administration, Commerce, Correction, Crime Control and Public Safety, Cultural Resources, Environment and Natural Resources, Health and Human Services, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Revenue, Transportation, and the Office of the Governor). This prohibition covers those vendors and contractors who:

- (1) have a contract with a governmental agency; or
- (2) have performed under such a contract within the past year; or
- (3) anticipate bidding on such a contract in the future.

For additional information regarding the specific requirements and exemptions, vendors and contractors are encouraged to review Executive Order 24 and G.S. Sec. 133-32.

Executive Order 24 also encouraged and invited other State Agencies to implement the requirements and prohibitions of the Executive Order to their agencies. Vendors and contractors should contact other State Agencies to determine if those agencies have adopted Executive Order 24."

**G.S. 20-175 (b). PEDESTRIANS SOLICITING RIDES, EMPLOYMENT, BUSINESS OR FUNDS
UPON HIGHWAYS OR STREETS.**

No person shall stand or loiter in the main traveled portion, including the shoulders and median, of any State highway or street, excluding sidewalks, or stop any motor vehicle for the purpose of soliciting employment, business or contributions from the driver or occupant of any motor vehicle that impedes the normal movement of traffic on the public highways or streets: Provided that the provisions of this subsection shall not apply to licensees, employees or contractors of the Department of Transportation or of any municipality engaged in construction or maintenance or in making traffic or engineering surveys.

In the event the solicitation event or the solicitors shall create a nuisance, delay traffic, create threatening or hostile situations, any law enforcement officer with proper jurisdiction may order the solicitations to cease. Any individual failing to follow a law enforcement officer's lawful order to cease solicitation shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

(1937, c. 407, s. 136; 1965, c. 673; 1973, c. 507, s. 5; c. 1330, s. 39; 1977, c. 464, s. 34; 2005-310, s. 1; 2006-250, ss. 7(a), 7(b); 2008-223, s. 1.)

G.S. 14-132. DISORDERLY CONDUCT IN AND INJURIES TO PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES.

- (a) It is a misdemeanor if any person shall:
- (1) Make any rude or riotous noise, or be guilty of any disorderly conduct, in or near any public building or facility; or
 - (2) Unlawfully write or scribble on, mark, deface, besmear, or injure the walls of any public building or facility, or any statue or monument situated in any public place; or
 - (3) Commit any nuisance in or near any public building or facility.
- (b) Any person in charge of any public building or facility owned or controlled by the State, any subdivision of the State, or any other public agency shall have authority to arrest summarily and without warrant for a violation of this section.
- (c) The term "public building or facility" as used in this section includes any building or facility which is:
- (1) One to which the public or a portion of the public has access and is owned or controlled by the State, any subdivision of the State, any other public agency, or any private institution or agency of a charitable, educational, or eleemosynary nature; or
 - (2) Dedicated to the use of the general public for a purpose which is primarily concerned with public recreation, cultural activities, and other events of a public nature or character.
 - (3) Designated by the Attorney General in accordance with G.S. 114-20.1.

The term "building or facility" as used in this section also includes the surrounding grounds and premises of any building or facility used in connection with the operation or functioning of such building or facility.

(d) Any person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

(1829, c. 29, ss. 1, 2; 1842, c. 47; R.C., c. 103, ss. 7, 8; Code, s. 2308; Rev., s. 3742; 1915, c. 269; C.S., s. 4303; 1969, c. 869, s. 7 1/2, c. 1224, s. 2; 1981, c. 499, s. 2; 1993, c. 539, s. 72; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 24, s. 14(c).)

G.S. 20-161. STOPPING ON HIGHWAY PROHIBITED; WARNING SIGNALS; REMOVAL OF VEHICLES FROM PUBLIC HIGHWAY.

(e)When any vehicle is parked or left standing upon the right-of-way of a public highway, including rest areas, for a period of 24 hours or more, the owner shall be deemed to have appointed any investigating law-enforcement officer his agent for the purpose of arranging for the transportation and safe storage of such vehicle and such investigating law-enforcement officer shall be deemed a legal possessor of the motor vehicle within the meaning of that term as it appears in G.S. 44A-2(d).

(1937, c. 407, s. 123; 1951, c. 1165, s. 1; 1971, c. 294, s. 1; 1973, c. 1330, s. 25; 1985, c. 454, s. 6; 2003-310, s. 1; 2007-360, ss. 4, 5; 2009-104, s. 1; 2010-132, ss. 13, 14, 15.)

19A NCAC 02E

SECTION .0407 - CONTROL AND REGULATION OF ROADSIDE PARKS AND REST AREAS

It shall be unlawful, within any scenic service overlook, rest area or other designated parking area on the primary and secondary roads and highways of the state, for any person, firm or corporation to erect tents, booths, or structures of any kind for camping or any other activity; to create loud music or other objectionable noise; except as permitted pursuant to 19A NCAC 2E .0800 of the North Carolina Administrative Code, to solicit contributions, names, support or for any other purpose; to conduct or participate in public or private auctions and other ceremonies; to distribute tracts, pamphlets, favors or any material, product or literature; to erect displays, signs, or carry on any commercial activity; to use public address systems; to distribute or use alcoholic beverages; to engage in disorderly conduct or use vulgar, obscene or profane language; or, to commit any nuisance producing a material annoyance, inconvenience, hurt, discomfort, or that is dangerous to the life, property and welfare of the traveling public.

History Note: Authority G.S. 136-18(9); 136-125; Eff. July 1, 1978; Amended Eff. October 1, 1991; August 1, 1986.

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			
Protected Categories	Definition	Examples	Applicable Nondiscrimination Authorities
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:

- 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.

- 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);
 - Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973, (23 U.S.C. § 324 et seq.), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex);
 - 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;
 - The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, (42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq.), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of age);
 - 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, Non-discrimination 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.)

PROJEJCT SPECIAL PROVISION FORMS

Supervisor's Weekly Work Report, page 42.

Plant Bed Fertilization Requirements, page 43.

DBE-IS form, page 44.

Contractor National Criminal Background Check Certification, page 45.

NCDOT REST AREA LAWN & GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

SUPERVISOR'S WEEKLY WORK REPORT

Route: _____ County: _____ Lane: _____ Date: _____

Start Time: _____ Completion Time: _____ No. of Employees: _____

Names: _____

Weather Conditions: _____

Work Accomplished This Visit:

Lawn _____

Plantings _____

Materials Used _____

Pesticide(s) Applied: _____ Areas Treated: _____

Rate: _____ Applicator: _____

Total Solution Used: _____ Sprayer Used: _____

Additional Comments:

Supervisor's Signature _____ Date _____

To Be Left On Each Site After Each Visit

PLANT BED FERTILIZATION REQUIREMENTS

1. MASS PLANTINGS

*** THICKLY PLANTED BEDS (PLANTED 2' OC OR LESS)
MAY BE BROADCAST**

*** 2 POUNDS N / 1000 SQUARE FEET SHALL BE APPLIED**

NOTE: N = POUNDS OF ELEMENTAL NITROGEN (NOT TOTAL PRODUCT)

**EXAMPLE: 14-14-14 (40 POUND BAG)
0.14 X 40 = 5.6 POUNDS OF NITROGEN / BAG
5.6 POUNDS DIVIDED BY 2 POUNDS = 2.8 X 1000 =2800
1 BAG WILL FERTILIZE 2800 SQUARE FEET OF AREA**

2. INDIVIDUAL PLANTS

***INDIVIDUAL ORNAMENTAL PLANTS, SHRUBS, AND TREES
SHALL BE FERTILIZED PER PLANT REQUIREMENT**

PLANTS, SHRUBS & TREES (PER PLANT WITHIN DRIPLINE)	
SIZE	MEASURE
8-12"	1/2 CUP
13-18"	3/4 CUP
19-24"	1 CUP
25-30"	1 1/4 CUP
31-36"	1 1/2 CUP
37-42"	2 CUPS
>42"	ONE CUP PER FOOT OF BRANCH SPREAD

***CHART BASED ON 14-14-14 ANALYSIS (APPLICATION WILL
BE ADJUSTED PER ANALYSIS USED)**

**FERTILIZER REQUIREMENTS: COMPLETE ANALYSIS,
MINIMUM 50 % CONTROLLED RELEASE NITROGEN,
1-1-1 OR 2-1-1 RATIO**

State of North Carolina
Department of Transportation
Subcontractor Payment Information

Submit with Invoice To: Invoice Coordinator
North Carolina Department of Transportation
Division / Branch
Address
Raleigh, NC XXXXX-XXXX

Firm Invoice No. Reference
NCDOT PO / Contract Number
WBS No. (State Project No.)
Date of Invoice
Signed

Table with 7 columns: Invoice Line Item Reference, Payer Name, Payer Federal Tax Id, Subcontractor / Subconsultant / Material Supplier Name, Subcontractor / Subconsultant / Material Supplier Federal Tax Id, Amount Paid To Subcontractor / Subconsultant / Material Supplier This Invoice, Date Paid To Subcontractor / Subconsultant / Material Supplier This Invoice. Includes a total row at the bottom.

NOTE: - These documents are scanned into our Fiscal program. Please do not highlight or shade the figures.

I certify that this information accurately reflects actual payments made and the dates the payments were made to Subcontractors/Subconsultants/Material Suppliers on the above referenced project.

Signature _____

Title _____

CONTRACTOR NATIONAL CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK CERTIFICATION

HAYWOOD COUNTY I-40 REST AREAS

I, _____ ("Contractor"), certify that:

I have obtained a national criminal background check on all potential employees including all Contracting officers, owners, partners, and/or managers and all personnel who will be representing the contracting company for this contract. None of the employees have a disqualifying criminal background.

- (1) An individual is prohibited from working at rest areas maintained by NCDOT due to a disqualifying criminal background if:
 - (a) The individual has previously been found guilty of having the status of an habitual felon, N.C.G.S. 14-7.1,
 - (b) The individual has a history of convictions for felony or misdemeanor assaultive behavior or felony or misdemeanor convictions for weapons charges,
 - (c) The individual has outstanding arrest warrants that he/she has become aware of, or pending criminal court cases and has not notified the Contractor within 24 hours of awareness,
 - (d) The individual has a pending habitual impaired driving offense, N.C.G.S. 20-138.5,
 - (e) The individual has a prior sex offender conviction,
 - (f) The individual has a conviction(s) that the Department objects based on the nature of the individual's conviction(s) and the need to protect the safety of the traveling public.
- (2) After award and before the start of the contract, I will submit for the Division's inspection the national criminal background check of all employees. If the Division objects to the assignment of an employee on the basis of the employee's national criminal background check, I agree to discontinue using that employee to provide services under the contract.
- (3) I understand that no employee is to begin work at the rest area under the contract without undergoing the national criminal background check and submission of the background check to the Department and approval by the Department of the proposed employee.
- (4) I understand that upon yearly renewal of an existing contract, I shall submit updated national criminal background checks of all employees 30 days prior to the expiration of the current contract year.
- (5) If I receive information that an employee has a disqualifying criminal background, I will immediately remove that employee from contract duties.
- (6) I understand that the Department reserves the right to request a new national criminal background check for any employee at any time.
- (7) I understand that I am to keep the Division aware of any new charges disclosed to me by my employees within 24 hours of disclosure.
- (8) I acknowledge that noncompliance with the requirements in this certification shall be grounds for contract cancellation.

Company Name: _____

Contractor's Signature: _____

Date: _____

This form is required to be completed by the Contractor and submitted with all national criminal background checks at the Project Pre-Work Conference, yearly renewal, and any other times checks are submitted. All costs associated with the background checks shall be at the Contractor's expense.

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

BID PROPOSALS

As stated under “AWARD OF CONTRACT” above, the Engineer will evaluate the Bidder's proposal to determine the responsibility of the bid and insure compliance with contract. The Engineer, using his/her discretion, will determine whether a bidder is “responsible” and capable of performing the required work. The Bidder should demonstrate an understanding of the requirements of the contract, and that the requirements have been addressed in his bid to the satisfaction of the Engineer. The Bidder shall demonstrate experience delivering lawn and grounds maintenance services and that it is capable of performing the required work under this contract, to the satisfaction of the Engineer. This includes services such as mowing, plant bed maintenance, customer service, contract compliance, pesticide laws and regulations, employment laws and regulations, insurance, human resource management, business administration and experience interacting with the public.

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

PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF TRADITIONAL PAPER BIDS

At least one (1) original copy of the Bid Submittal Package, the information required on Bid Submittal Page 4 of 17 for the Contractor's Operations Plan, and all signed addenda; shall be submitted as the Bidder's proposal. **For the benefit and convenience of the Department, please submit one (1) additional copy of the Bid Package.** All bid submittal documents should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the following listed requirements. Failure to comply with any requirement may cause the bid to be considered irregular and may be grounds for rejection of bid. The Department reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to waive any deficiencies or irregularities in the submission of bid documents.

1. The attached Bid Submittal Package (Bid Submittal Pages 1 of 17 through 17 of 17) furnished by the Department shall be used. The bid shall be submitted on the same proposal that has been furnished to the bidder by the Department. Copies of previous proposals shall be rejected. The Bidder shall provide the information requested on Bid Submittal Page 4 of 17 (use additional pages and/or attachments if needed).
2. All entries including signatures shall be written in ink or typed. Copies of signatures shall be rejected.
3. The Bidder shall submit a unit price per month for “Provide Professional Lawn and Grounds Maintenance” which multiplied by twelve (12) will be the total amount of cost for the one (1) year term of the contract. The bidder shall submit a unit price for each “Furnish and Apply” landscape materials which multiplied by the quantity will be the total amount of cost for the one (1) year term of the contract.
4. Adding the total amount bid for the six (6) line items will be the total amount bid for the project and shall be written in figures in the proper place on the Contract Bid Form.
5. Changes in any entry in the Bid Submittal Package 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.
6. The bid shall be properly executed on the included **Execution of Bid – Non-collusion Affidavit, Debarment Certification and Gift Ban Certification** form. All bids are to include 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.
7. The bid shall not contain any unauthorized additions, deletions, or conditional bids.
8. 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.

9. The Bid Submittal Package shall be placed in a sealed envelope and shall be delivered to and received in the DOT Purchasing Section by **2:00 pm on June 26, 2024** at the address indicated in the table below:

MAILING ADDRESS FOR DELIVER OF BID VIA U.S.POSTAL SERVICE	OFFICE ADDRESS FOR DELIVERY BY ANY OTHER MEANS, SPECIAL DELIVERY, HAND DELIVERY, OVERNIGHT DELIVERY OR BY ANY OTHER CARRIER
BID NUMBER: 54-MKB-14-PR7674 Attn: Mike Beaver North Carolina Department of Transportation Purchasing Section Address: 1510 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-1510	BID NUMBER: 54-MKB-14-PR7674 Attn: Mike Beaver North Carolina Department of Transportation Purchasing Section Address: 1 South Wilmington Street, Room 334B Raleigh, NC 27601

IMPORTANT NOTE: All paper bids shall be physically delivered to the office address listed above on or before the bid deadline in order to be considered timely, regardless of method of delivery (including U.S. mail). **This is an absolute requirement.** All risk of late arrival due to unanticipated delay – whether delivered by hand, U.S. Postal Service, courier or other delivery service is entirely on the Vendor. It is the sole responsibility of the Vendor to have the bid physically in this Office by the specified time and date of opening. The time of delivery will be marked on each bid when received, and any bid received after the bid submission deadline will be rejected. Sealed bids, subject to the conditions made a part hereof, will be received at the address indicated in the table in this Section, for furnishing and delivering the commodity or service as described herein.

Note that the U.S. Postal Service does not deliver mail to the specified office address but to the State’s Mail Service Center. Vendors are cautioned that bids sent via U.S. Mail, including Express Mail, may not be delivered by the Mail Service Center to the agency’s purchasing office on the due date in time to meet the bid deadline. All Vendors are urged to take the possibility of delay into account when submitting a bid.

All bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope. Clearly mark each package with: (1) Vendor name; (2) the IFB number; and (3) the due date. Address the package(s) for delivery as shown in the table above.

Bids shall be marked on the outside of the sealed envelope with the Vendor’s name, IFB number, and date and time of opening. If Vendor is submitting more than one bid, each bid shall be submitted in a separate sealed envelope and marked accordingly. For delivery purposes, separate sealed bids from a single Vendor may be included in the same outer package. Do not include bids for more than one solicitation in the same package.

Failure to address proposals correctly could result in delayed delivery service.

OPENING OF BIDS

Bids subject to the conditions made a part hereof will be received until 2:00 pm on June 26, 2024 and then publicly opened for furnishing the services as described herein.

Opening of bids is to be in the NCDOT Transportation Building Complex located at 1 South Wilmington Street, Raleigh 27601.

NOTE: Parking at the Transportation Building Complex is limited. Arrive early!

Issuance of this Proposal does not constitute a commitment on the part of the NCDOT to award or execute a Contract. The Department retains the right, in its sole discretion, at any time to reject any or all bids and to cancel or cancel and reissue a Proposal, before or after receipt and opening of bids in response thereto, or take any other actions it considers in its discretion to be in the best interest of the State.

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PERFORMANCE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT
SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CONTRACT
BID SUBMITTAL PACKAGE

June 5, 2024

Solicitation RFP No. 54-MKB-14-PR7674

NCDOT Highway Division 14

Haywood County

Rest Area Professional Lawn and Grounds Maintenance

NOTE:

By submission of a bid package the bidder agrees that they shall provide sufficient labor, labor hours, supervision, training, materials, equipment and supplies to complete all requirements as listed in this contract to an acceptable level as determined in the discretion of the Engineer, regardless of the quantities estimated in their bid.

This entire package (Bid Submittal Pages 1 of 17 through 17 of 17, including attachments) is to be returned as the contractor's bid and received by the Department of Transportation's Purchasing Section prior to 2:00 PM, June 26, 2024.

Failure to complete the bid submittal documents as indicated may be cause for rejection of the Contractor's bid.

Bidder/Offeror: _____

Company Name

ATTENTION

Federal Employer Identification Number or alternate identification number (e.g., Social Security Number) is used for internal processing, including bid tabulation.

Enter ID number here: _____

Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 132-2.10(b) this identification number shall not be released to the public.

This page will be removed and shredded, or otherwise kept confidential,
before the procurement file is made available for public inspection.

**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CONTRACT BID FORM**

PROPOSAL NO: 54-MKB-14-PR7674
WBS ELEMENT NO: 14RE.104438
COUNTY: HAYWOOD – DIVISION 14
LOCATION: I-40, EAST AND WESTBOUND LANES, MILE MARKER 10, EAST OF THE NC/TN STATELINE
TYPE OF WORK: PROFESSIONAL LAWN AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE OF REST AREAS
PROJECT: HAYWOOD COUNTY REST AREAS (PAIR)/WELCOME CENTER

The Contractor agrees to provide the services outlined in this proposal for the subject rest areas (pair), for one (1) year, for the following fixed prices:

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Total Price
1	Provide Professional Lawn and Grounds Maintenance	12	MON	\$	\$
2	Furnish and Apply Mulch	200	CYD	\$	\$
3	Furnish and Apply Turfgrass Fertilization	5	TON	\$	\$
4	Furnish and Apply Limestone	12	TON	\$	\$
5	Furnish and Apply Turfgrass Overseeding	2,800	LB	\$	\$
6	Furnish and Apply Repair Seeding	3	AC	\$	\$

TOTAL BID FOR PROJECT:	\$ _____
------------------------	----------

CONTRACTOR _____ FEDERAL ID: _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

AUTHORIZED AGENT _____ TITLE _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

This bid has been reviewed in accordance with Article 103-1 of the Standard Specifications for Roads and Structures.

Reviewed by _____ (date)

Accepted by NCDOT _____ (date)
 Division Engineer

CONTRACTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Contractor: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number(s): _____

Email Address: _____

Name of individual authorized to answer questions concerning the information contained herein:

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number(s): _____

CONTRACTOR'S OPERATIONS PLAN**Bidders shall provide the following information:**

Materials Plan: As part of your bid submittal package, on an attached separate document, provide a Materials Plan you propose to use to fulfill the requirements of this contract. The plan should include:

- 1) A listing of all supplies, materials, and specific equipment you propose may be needed for the one year term of the contract;
- 2) The estimated quantities of each you propose may be needed for the one year term of the contract. Please note, if awarded the contract, the bidder will be required to provide all actual quantities required for performance of the contract, regardless of the estimated quantities in their bid.

Personnel Plan: As part of your bid submittal package, below or on an attached separate document, provide a Personnel Plan you propose you use to fulfill the requirements of this contract. The plan should include:

- 1) The number of days you intend to be on-site working each week;
- 2) The minimum number of employees to be on-site working;
- 3) The minimum number of hours each employee works each week;
- 4) The duties to be performed each week.

The operations plan should be clear and legible in all respects without a need for additional explanation or information and should demonstrate that the bidder has a thorough understanding of the requirements of this contract. The Engineer reserves the right to request additional information or clarification if necessary, in his/her discretion.

CONTRACTOR'S LISTING OF MBE/WBE SUBCONTRACTORS

Sheet _____ of _____

Firm Name and Address	Circle One	Item No.	Item Description	* Agreed upon Unit Price	** Dollar Volume of Item
Name Address	MBE WBE				
Name Address	MBE WBE				
Name Address	MBE WBE				
Name Address	MBE WBE				

**** Dollar Volume of MBE Subcontractor \$ _____**

MBE Percentage of Total Contract Bid Price _____ %

**** Dollar Volume of WBE Subcontractor \$ _____**

WBE Percentage of Total Contract Bid Price _____ %

***The Dollar Volume shown in this column shall be the Actual Price Agreed Upon by the Prime Contractor and the MBE/WBE subcontractor, and these prices will be used to determine the percentage of the MBE/WBE participation in the contract.**

**** Dollar Volume of MBE/WBE Subcontractor Percentage of Total Contract Bid Price.**

If firm is a Material Supplier Only, show Dollar Volume as 60% of Agreed Upon Amount from Letter of Intent.

If firm is a Manufacturer, show Dollar Volume as 100% of Agreed Upon Amount from Letter of Intent.

CONTRACTOR’S WORK EXPERIENCE AND REFERENCES

Bidders shall supply a minimum of three (3) references covering work experience on a contract basis, related to grounds maintenance services. These references are to include private commercial firms, governmental agencies (federal, state, county, city, etc.), and any other references related to lawn and grounds maintenance services which this business or its supervisors, managers, owners or other persons with supervisory responsibility for performance of this contract have had within the last three (3) years, or longer if necessary to attain the required number of references. The references are one factor that will be used by the Engineer to determine whether a bidder is “responsible” and capable or able to perform the work necessary under the contract. The bidder may submit more than three (3) references using this same form. ALL REFERENCE CONTACT INFORMATION SHOULD BE CURRENT.

1. Agency or Firm Name: _____
 Physical Address: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 Contact Person: _____
 Telephone(s): _____
 Email address: _____
 Type of Facility: _____
 Acres of Grounds Maintenance Performed: _____ Lawn _____ Plantings
 Man Hours of Service Provided Per Week: _____
 Length of Contract: _____
 Dates of Contract: _____

2. Agency or Firm Name: _____
 Physical Address: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 Contact Person: _____
 Telephone(s): _____
 Email address: _____
 Type of Facility: _____
 Acres of Grounds Maintenance Performed: _____ Lawn _____ Plantings
 Man Hours of Service Provided Per Week: _____
 Length of Contract: _____
 Dates of Contract: _____

3. Agency or Firm Name: _____
Physical Address: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Contact Person: _____
Telephone(s): _____
Email address: _____
Type of Facility: _____
Acres of Grounds Maintenance Performed: _____ Lawn _____ Plantings
Man Hours of Service Provided Per Week: _____
Length of Contract: _____
Dates of Contract: _____

4. Agency or Firm Name: _____
Physical Address: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Contact Person: _____
Telephone(s): _____
Email address: _____
Type of Facility: _____
Acres of Grounds Maintenance Performed: _____ Lawn _____ Plantings
Man Hours of Service Provided Per Week: _____
Length of Contract: _____
Dates of Contract: _____

BIDDER'S CURRENT NCDA PESTICIDE LICENSE

Bidder (individual's and company name) shall place current license on this sheet and make a copy for submittal.
Proof that the pesticide license belongs to an actual employee of the company will be required.

NON-COLLUSION, DEBARMENT AND GIFT BAN CERTIFICATION

CORPORATION

The prequalified bidder, 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 any bid or contract, that the prequalified bidder has not been convicted of violating *N.C.G.S. §133-24* within the last three years, and that the prequalified bidder intends to do the work with his own bona fide employees or subcontractors and will not bid for the benefit of another contractor.

By submitting this non-collusion, debarment and gift ban certification, the Contractor is attesting his status under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States in accordance with the Debarment Certification attached, provided that the Debarment Certification also includes any required statements concerning exceptions that are applicable.

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. By execution of any response in this procurement, you attest, for your entire organization and its employees or agents, that you are not aware that any such gift has been offered, accepted, or promised by any employees of your organization.

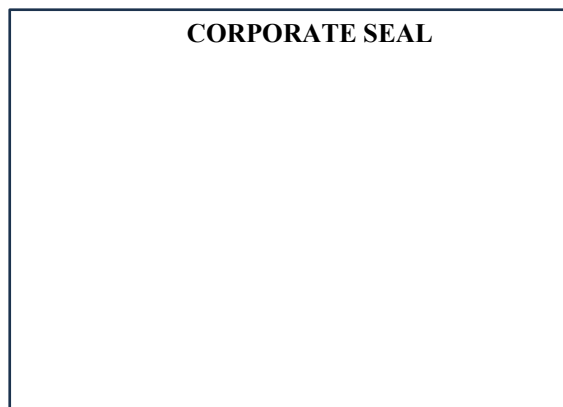
SIGNATURE OF PREQUALIFIED BIDDER

_____ Full name of Corporation

_____ Address as Prequalified

Attest _____ By _____
Secretary/Assistant Secretary President/Vice President/Assistant Vice President
(Select appropriate title) (Select appropriate title)

_____ Print or Type Signer's name Print or Type Signer's name



NON-COLLUSION, DEBARMENT AND GIFT BAN CERTIFICATION

PARTNERSHIP

The prequalified bidder, 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 any bid or contract, that the prequalified bidder has not been convicted of violating *N.C.G.S. § 133-24* within the last three years, and that the prequalified bidder intends to do the work with its own bona fide employees or subcontractors and will not bid for the benefit of another contractor.

By submitting this non-collusion, debarment and gift ban certification, the Contractor is attesting his status under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States in accordance with the Debarment Certification attached, provided that the Debarment Certification also includes any required statements concerning exceptions that are applicable.

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. By execution of any response in this procurement, you attest, for your entire organization and its employees or agents, that you are not aware that any such gift has been offered, accepted, or promised by any employees of your organization.

SIGNATURE OF PREQUALIFIED BIDDER

Full Name of Partnership

Address as Prequalified

Signature of Witness

Signature of Partner

Print or Type Signer's Name

Print or Type Signer's Name

NON-COLLUSION, DEBARMENT AND GIFT BAN CERTIFICATION

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

The prequalified bidder, 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 any bid or contract, that the prequalified bidder has not been convicted of violating *N.C.G.S. § 133-24* within the last three years, and that the prequalified bidder intends to do the work with its own bona fide employees or subcontractors and will not bid for the benefit of another contractor.

By submitting this non-collusion, debarment and gift ban certification, the Contractor is attesting his status under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States in accordance with the Debarment Certification attached, provided that the Debarment Certification also includes any required statements concerning exceptions that are applicable.

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. By execution of any response in this procurement, you attest, for your entire organization and its employees or agents, that you are not aware that any such gift has been offered, accepted, or promised by any employees of your organization.

SIGNATURE OF PREQUALIFIED BIDDER

Full Name of Firm

Address as Prequalified

Signature of Witness

Signature of Member/Manager/Authorized Agent
(Select appropriate Title)

Print or Type Signer's Name

Print or Type Signer's Name

NON-COLLUSION, DEBARMENT AND GIFT BAN CERTIFICATION

JOINT VENTURE (2) or (3)

The prequalified bidder, 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 any bid or contract, that the prequalified bidder has not been convicted of violating N.C.G.S. § 133-24 within the last three years, and that the prequalified bidder intends to do the work with its own bona fide employees or subcontractors and will not bid for the benefit of another contractor.

By submitting this non-collusion, debarment and gift ban certification, the Contractor is attesting his status under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States in accordance with the Debarment Certification attached, provided that the Debarment Certification also includes any required statements concerning exceptions that are applicable.

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. By execution of any response in this procurement, you attest, for your entire organization and its employees or agents, that you are not aware that any such gift has been offered, accepted, or promised by any employees of your organization.

SIGNATURE OF PREQUALIFIED BIDDER

Instructions: **2 Joint Venturers** Fill in lines (1), (2) and (3) and execute. **3 Joint Venturers** Fill in lines (1), (2), (3) and (4) and execute. On Line (1), fill in the name of the Joint Venture Company. On Line (2), fill in the name of one of the joint venturers and execute below in the appropriate manner. On Line (3), print or type the name of the other joint venturer and execute below in the appropriate manner. On Line (4), fill in the name of the third joint venturer, if applicable and execute below in the appropriate manner.

(1) _____
Name of Joint Venture

(2) _____
Name of Contractor

Address as Prequalified

Signature of Witness or Attest

BY

Signature of Contractor

Print or Type Signer's Name
If Corporation, affix Corporate Seal

AND

Print or Type Signer's Name

(3) _____
Name of Contractor

Address as Prequalified

Signature of Witness or Attest

BY

Signature of Contractor

Print or Type Signer's Name
If Corporation, affix Corporate Seal

AND

Print or Type Signer's Name

(4) _____
Name of Contractor

Address as Prequalified

Signature of Witness or Attest

BY

Signature of Contractor

Print or Type Signer's Name
If Corporation, affix Corporate Seal

Print or Type Signer's Name

CORPORATE SEAL(S)

NON-COLLUSION, DEBARMENT AND GIFT BAN CERTIFICATION

INDIVIDUAL DOING BUSINESS UNDER A FIRM NAME

The prequalified bidder, 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 any bid or contract, that the prequalified bidder has not been convicted of violating *N.C.G.S. § 133-24* within the last three years, and that the prequalified bidder intends to do the work with its own bona fide employees or subcontractors and will not bid for the benefit of another contractor.

By submitting this non-collusion, debarment and gift ban certification, the Contractor is attesting his status under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States in accordance with the Debarment Certification attached, provided that the Debarment Certification also includes any required statements concerning exceptions that are applicable.

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. By execution of any response in this procurement, you attest, for your entire organization and its employees or agents, that you are not aware that any such gift has been offered, accepted, or promised by any employees of your organization.

SIGNATURE OF PREQUALIFIED BIDDER

Name of Prequalified Bidder

Individual Name

Trading and Doing Business As

Full name of Firm

Address as Prequalified

Signature of Witness

Signature of Prequalified Bidder, Individual

Print or Type Signer's Name

Print or Type Signer's Name

NON-COLLUSION, DEBARMENT AND GIFT BAN CERTIFICATION

INDIVIDUAL DOING BUSINESS IN HIS OWN NAME

The prequalified bidder, 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 any bid or contract, that the prequalified bidder has not been convicted of violating *N.C.G.S. § 133-24* within the last three years, and that the prequalified bidder intends to do the work with its own bona fide employees or subcontractors and will not bid for the benefit of another contractor.

By submitting this non-collusion, debarment and gift ban certification, the Contractor is attesting his status under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States in accordance with the Debarment Certification attached, provided that the Debarment Certification also includes any required statements concerning exceptions that are applicable.

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. By execution of any response in this procurement, you attest, for your entire organization and its employees or agents, that you are not aware that any such gift has been offered, accepted, or promised by any employees of your organization.

SIGNATURE OF PREQUALIFIED BIDDER

Name of Prequalified Bidder

Print or Type Name

Address as Prequalified

Signature of Prequalified Bidder, Individually

Print or Type Signer's Name

Signature of Witness

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.

BID SUBMITTAL PACKAGE CHECKLIST

This checklist has been provided for your benefit to assist you in completing your Bid Submittal Package to help ensure that all necessary items have been completed.

Check Box	Page Number	Description
	1	Cover Sheet.
	2	Contract Bid Form.
	3	Contractor Contact Information.
	4	Contractor's Operations Plan.
		Attachment to Operations Plan including Materials List as specified.
		Attachment to Operations Plan including Personnel Plan as specified.
	5	Listing of MBE/WBE Subcontractors.
	6-7	Contractor's Work Experience and References, with a minimum of three (3) references included.
	8	Copy of Bidder's (individual's name and company name) NCDA Current Pesticide License, license placed on sheet and copied.
	9-16	Execution of Bid Non-Collusion Affidavit, Debarment Certification and Gift Ban Certification, executed.
	17	Bid Submittal Package Checklist.
		Addenda, if applicable.
		Submit original and one (1) duplicate copy.
		Mark the original as "Original" and the copy as "Copy".

End of bid submittal package!