



Project Delivery Newsletter

Connecting the Dots in Preconstruction

Summer 2023

Small Professional Services Firms (SPSF) Policy & Procurement Procedures

The N.C. Department of Transportation has finalized the Small Professional Services Firms (SPSF) procurement policy and procedures, based on comments we received on the draft. This policy, which has been signed by NCDOT management and the Federal Highway Administration, will allow the Department to increase the outsourcing of professional services to SPSFs and restrict the advertising and awards these firms receive.

[\(NCGS § 136-28.10. Highway Fund and Highway Trust Fund Small Project Bidding\).](#)

SPSF Policy & Procurement
Procedures



SMALL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FIRMS (SPSF) PROCUREMENT POLICY

NCDOT POLICY
F.35.0104
Level: 3

Business Category: Division of Highways (DOH) and Multi Modes		Business Area: Technical Services
Approval Date: June 15, 2023	Last Revision Date: N/A	Next Review Date: July 15, 2024
Authority: Session Law 2022-58 N.C. Gen. Stat. §136-28.10. Highway Fund and Highway Trust Fund Small Project Bidding.		Select all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Requires Board approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Requires Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) approval <input type="checkbox"/> Requires other external agency approval: Click here to enter external agency name(s).
Definitions: "SPSF" – Small Professional Services Firm. Those firms that meet the Small Business Administration criteria for annual receipts or number of employees. "RFLOI" – Request for Letter of Interest. This is the advertisement for Professional or Specialized Services Contracts. The selection criteria outlined in the advertisement will determine the content of the submittal. Typically, these are used for Limited Services Contracts. RFLOI are posted for all contracts soliciting Professional or Specialized Services Contracts. The most qualified firm(s) is/are identified by a selection committee based on the responses to the scoring criteria identified in the RFLOI. "LOI" – Letter of Interest. The LOI is a statement of the respondent firm's/firms' qualifications in response to a particular RFLOI. "LSC" – Limited Services Contract. See definition in the Policy and Procedures for Procurement and Administration of Major Professional or Specialized Services Contracts . "GESCC" – General Engineering Services Contract. See definition in the Policy and Procedures for Procurement and Administration of Major Professional or Specialized Services Contracts .		
Policy: In accordance with the amended NCGS 136-28.10 , the Board of Transportation may delegate full authority to award contracts, adopt necessary rules, and administer the provisions of this section to the Secretary of Transportation. Through this policy and the Small Professional Services Firm (SPSF) Procurement Procedures, NCDOT will administer the Small Business Program to foster growth of small firms where they can build capacity and manage projects as primes. Those areas that utilize professional consultants for delivering projects and services, including the Chief Engineer for the Division of Highways, the Deputy Secretary for Business Administration, the Deputy Secretary for Multi-Modal Transportation, and the Executive Director for the Turnpike Authority, will ensure that procurement of Small Professional Services Firms is considered. At a minimum, a yearly report will be prepared, coordinated between the Chief Engineers Office and the Office of Civil Rights to determine the utilization of SPSF firms.		

Small Professional Services Firms (SPSF)

Page 1 of 2

2024 Standard Specifications &
2024 Roadway Standard Drawings

The 2024 NCDOT Standard Specifications and 2024 NCDOT Roadway Standard Drawings are now available online, and can be found here: [Contract Standards and Development Unit \(ncdot.gov\)](#). Additional content has been posted with these documents and can be accessed at this link, under the 2024 Specifications and Standard Drawings websites or the Contracts Resources website. This includes memos with a summary of changes, Special Provisions to use with 2024 Standard Specifications, new instructions, updated spreadsheets with general notes for both Open Roads Designer (ORD) and SS2. Printed copies of the 2024 Standard Specifications and 2024 Roadway Standard Drawings will be available starting in September.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL PROJECTS WITH LET DATES STARTING IN JANUARY 2024 (OR LATER) SHALL BE PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEW 2024 STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS AND 2024 ROADWAY STANDARD DRAWINGS.

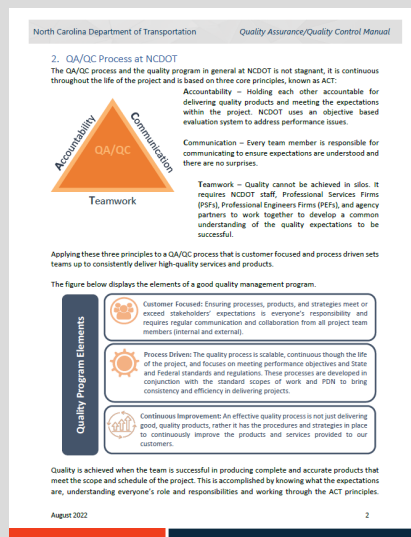
2023 Preconstruction Workshop

Much thanks to the over 700 participants who made the 2023 Preconstruction Workshop a great success! It was a wonderful opportunity for attendees to catch up and learn about NCDOT's latest innovations.

Full videos of all sessions can be found on [YouTube](#).



Focus on Quality



The NCDOT's quality review process is not only a best practice, but an expectation for all project team members (internal and external) to apply to project deliverables.

Poor quality can have significant impacts on project costs, project schedules and NCDOT's reputation, which is also a reflection of industry partners involved.

More information is forthcoming soon on efforts to identify and address trends that hinder successful delivery of high quality products.

Visit our Website (Click on Quality Mgmt. Tab)

The Roadway Design Manual May 2023 Update

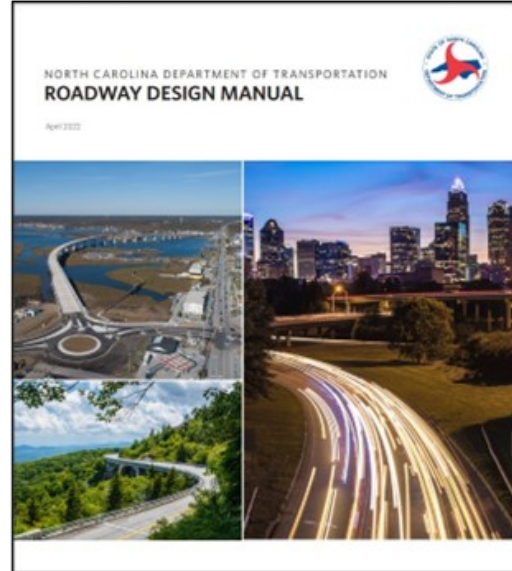
An update to the Roadway Design Manual was released in May 2023. New content was added and revisions were made to address comments and feedback received after the previous update.

Use the two buttons below to see the highlights of what has changed. Click on the picture to the right to go to the current version of the Roadway Design Manual.

List of Revisions to the Roadway
Design Manual

Redline Versions(s) of the Roadway
Design Manual

Anyone with questions or comments about the manual's content are encouraged to use the [Contact Us Form](#) link on the [Roadway Design Manual website](#). The contact form can also be used to request being added to a distribution list for updates.



Contact Form

For questions, feedback, and to sign up for notifications to the *Roadway Design Manual*.

Merger Update

NCDOT, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) reached agreement on an updated Section 404/NEPA Merger Process Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in May 2023. The Merger Process serves to merge Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to provide for more efficient permitting for complex transportation projects, especially those with conflicting resources.

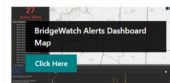
Under the updated agreement, NCDOT will conduct an internal Merger pre-screening for all projects. Those projects with conflicting resources, high levels of controversy or other substantive issues would go through a formal screening with the MOU signatories and will enter the Merger Process as appropriate. Other changes under the new agreement include the development of a Merger Plan, updated Merger public involvement guidelines, and guidance for combining Merger meetings.

Look for the updated Merger MOU and associated guidance documents on the Environmental Policy Unit's (EPU's) [Merger Webpage](#) by the end of July. Training modules for the new guidance are under development and are anticipated to be rolled out in July.

Storm Season Preparations

In preparation for this year's hurricane season, the NCDOT Hydraulics Unit hosted three training sessions covering the flood warning tools that the Hydraulics Unit developed with our partners in N.C. Emergency Management.

Flood Warning Tools Map Products



[Click Here to Read More](#)

Hydraulic Planning and Design Tools

The NCDOT Hydraulics Unit has updated the hydraulic planning documents and design tools. The Hydraulic Planning Report now has built in automation and is flexible to handle one or multiple site

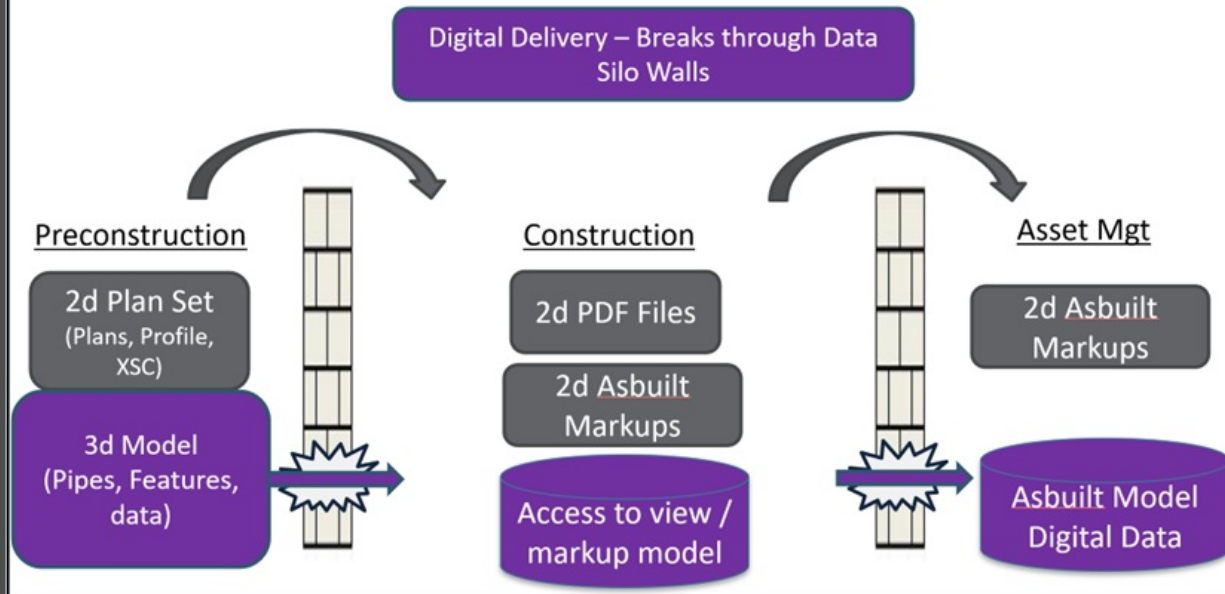
[Click Here to](#)

locations. Additionally, the new hydroplaning assessment tool and mitigation selection guide can be used by planners, designers and operations staff to understand and mitigate hydroplaning hazards.

[Read More](#)

Digital Delivery Initiative (DDI)

Digital Project Delivery



As NCDOT's use of technology progresses, there is a growing need to leverage or make better use of the vast amount of project data that is generated throughout the typical project life cycle agency-wide. This concept is known nationally as **Digital Delivery** and is characterized by seamless data exchange from project conception to construction to asset management. Keep reading for more information on how NCDOT is implementing Digital Delivery!

[Click Here to Read More](#)

[Visit our Website](#)

Wildlife Crossing MOU

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) and the NCDOT recently signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) demonstrating their commitment to improve the infrastructure and safety for wildlife and travelers. Both agencies share common goals to make highways less hazardous for wildlife and reduce the impact highways have on important habitats. The partnership aims to develop effective and efficient natural passages for various species of wildlife to reduce highway hazards for motorists and wildlife, while minimizing habitat fragmentation.



[Click Here to Read More](#)

Project Delivery Connection

Keeping you informed and engaged with NCDOT preconstruction updates

Subscribe to this Newsletter

Let us know what you think

North Carolina Department of Transportation | 1 South Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27602

[Unsubscribe tcanales@ncdot.gov](mailto:tcanales@ncdot.gov)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by bymnquesenberry@ncdot.gov powered by



Try email marketing for free today!