

LEGAL NOTICE

CSO Solicitation No. 2449

Request for Letters of Interest

NEPA/PE/PD for Route 2 Extension to I-91 over the CT River

The Connecticut Department of Transportation (Department) is seeking to engage one (1) consulting firm to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and corresponding Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) to fulfill NEPA and CEPA requirements and perform preliminary engineering/preliminary design for Project No. PP063-0041, the Route 2 extension to I-91 and new Bridge over the Connecticut River in the city of Hartford and town of East Hartford. This expressway extension on a new alignment is one of the first mid-term projects from the historic Greater Hartford Mobility Study. Route 2 in East Hartford will be extended to the north and cross over the Connecticut River with a new structure. This improvement will alleviate congestion and reduce demand at the I-84/I-91 interchange. This assignment is high complexity for volume considerations. Refer to the following website for Volume Adjustment Factors: <https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/Consultant-Selection/Consultant-Selection-Information>.

The selected firm will provide environmental planning studies and documentation to address the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) for the subject project. The selected firm will perform preliminary engineering to support environmental analysis and further development of the conceptual layout identified in the Greater Hartford Mobility Study Final Report. This includes development of alternatives and engineering and permitting efforts up to Design Approval or if deemed appropriate, to support Alternative Contracting methods. If Alternative Contracting methods are deemed appropriate, the selected firm may be tasked with support for the chosen Alternative Contracting method. At the discretion of the Department, the selected firm may be tasked with providing final design services to provide contract documents (plans, specifications, and estimates) for any breakout or supporting projects that may result from the NEPA/PD phase.

Anticipated tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Perform Scoping for NEPA and prepare and assist in drafting of the Notice of Intent and implementation of an agency coordination plan.
- Assist in preparation of material necessary to fulfill scoping and coordination necessary under CEPA
- Perform data collection, resource identification, mapping, and studies.
- Refinement of the draft Purpose and Need developed during the PEL Process
- Further develop conceptual layout for analysis and comparison of impacts.
- Perform and document analyses of alternatives as required under NEPA and CEPA.
- Conduct extensive public and stakeholder involvement efforts including outreach to Environmental Justice (EJ) communities.
- Perform Section 106 and possible 4(f) requirements.
- Perform engineering activities including analyses that include innovative highway and bridge design, traffic modeling/operations, highway safety, geotechnical and hydraulic studies, pedestrian/bicycle/transit amenities and illumination/incident management systems.
- Identify mitigation strategies for potential impacts.
- Coordinate with key regulatory agencies including possible use of the NEPA/Section 404 merger process.
- Identify permit needs and to the extent possible, perform preliminary permitting activities.
- Perform analyses in support of federal requirements for changes to interchange system access.
- Perform constructability analysis and preparation of financial plan as per federal regulations.
- Cost and Schedule risk assessment.
- The selected firm may also be required to perform photogrammetry, field, hydrographic and topographic survey.

The value of this contract is estimated to be approximately \$20 to \$30 million dollars. It is anticipated this will be a multiphase contract and will utilize either a lump sum or cost plus-fixed fee payment method. An approximate timeline of 2 years, from the Notice of Intent, is expected to complete the NEPA/Environmental Document phase. Following a Record of Decision, it is anticipated to start Preliminary Design and to the extent possible, preliminary permitting activities to expedite the next phase of the project.

Please be advised that the selected firm may not be eligible to provide services as a prime consultant on any subsequent phase of any task and/or breakout assignments for which they provided services under this contract.

The selected firms must provide all electronic design data (i.e., Ground files, Design files, Digital Terrain Models [surfaces], Alignments, Contract Plans, and/or all other Electronic Engineering Data) in conformance with the Department's CONNECT Digital Design Environment. Submissions will also be required to comply with the Department's Digital Design Environment and the Digital Project Development Manual (<https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/Engineering-Applications/CTDOT---CONNECT-DDE>).

Firms responding to this request should be of adequate size and sufficiently staffed and experienced to perform this assignment and will be required to provide the necessary staffing upon execution of the contract. The selected firm may be required to establish and/or maintain a Connecticut office for the duration of assignment. The Project Manager may be required to work in the Connecticut office and be available for supervision of the staff performing the assignment.

If your firm would like to be considered for this assignment, your submittal should consist of a letter-of-interest limited to one (1) page, a Department Form CSO 255 (Rev. June 2022) and up to a maximum of five (5) resumes of the key personnel, which are limited to two (2) pages each. One of the resumes must be that of the proposed Project Manager in charge of the work, as well as the assurance that he/she will be available for work when required. (The CSO 255 form, and any available review material, can be found online at <https://portal.ct.gov/DOT/Consultant-Selection/Consultant-Selection-Information>).

Electronic Submittal – A .pdf of your CSO 255 must be emailed to DOT.CSOSubmittals@ct.gov by 3:00 p.m. on or before **August 2, 2024**, and must be no larger than 10 MB in size. The file name should be in the following format: CSO#2449.FirmName. You will receive a confirmation email by 4:00 p.m. on the due date, once your submittal has been accepted. Please retain proof of sending your submission before the due date/time, in the unlikely event that your email is not received. If you do not receive a confirmation by the time specified above, please contact the Consultant Selection Office at 860-594-3346 or at the email listed above. Firms, who are shortlisted based on their CSO 255 submittal, will be notified by the Consultant Selection Office of the time and date for their final selection interview. The final selections are anticipated by November 2024.

Your CSO 255 submittal should identify the following: your proposed staff and their qualifications, experience, and availability to perform the required services. Your submittal will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Experience, qualification, and availability of current staff, including sub-consultants, proposed for this assignment. Weighted scoring value = 10%
2. Proposed staff or sub-consultant capabilities/experience in the following:

- a. Familiarity with latest NEPA, CEPA and CEQ laws, regulations, process and guidance, as well as most recent final Rules Weighted scoring value = 10%
 - b. Preliminary Highway, Structural, and Traffic Engineering = 30%
 - c. Public Involvement. Weighted scoring value = 10%
 - d. Preparation of the NEPA and CEPA Environmental Documentation. Weighted score= 20%
 - e. Environmental Permitting and Mitigation strategies. Weighted scoring value = 10%
3. Familiarity with FHWA and Department requirements and design standards, policies, design development and administrative procedures. Weighted scoring value = 10%

Responding firms must provide copies of the following required licenses, certifications and/or registrations for the proposed personnel that indicate they are in current standings:

- Project Manager certified with the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) or Connecticut Professional Engineering License (PE).

You are advised that a disadvantaged business sub-consultant (DBE) goal applies to this assignment. The goal is no less than seven (7%) percent of the agreement value. Within the letter of interest, you must indicate the designated certified DBE sub-consultant(s) which you plan to use. The DBE sub-consultants must be currently certified by the Department.

All firms are advised that the prime consultant must perform the major part of the work with employees of the firm. Sub-consultants may be used to comply with DBE requirements or perform specialized work. Joint venturing assignments will not be allowed.

Do not send additional documentation other than what is requested. The Consultant Selection Panel may reject your submittal, and your firm may not be considered for these tasks, if you provide additional documentation such as corporate brochures, background information, and histories.

In accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) Section 9-612(f), as amended by Public Act 21-76, any principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor submitting a bid or proposal for a state contract are directed to the State Elections Enforcement Commission's [Notice to Executive Branch State Contractors and Prospective State Contractors of Campaign Contribution and Solicitation Limitations](#). The Notice is hereby made a part of this solicitation. Additionally, any principal of a state contractor or prospective state contractor is required to complete a [Campaign Contribution Certification](#) prior to execution of the contract.

Please note that Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-252, Section 4-252a, and Section 4a-81 were amended by Public Act 21-76 to no longer require the certifications and affidavits previously required from state contractors and prospective state contractors as part of the bidding, proposal or contracting process. Instead, the requirements for these above-referenced sections are described below.

Notice of Representation Requirements of Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-252: The official or employee of such state agency or quasi-public agency who is authorized to execute state contracts shall represent that the selection of the most qualified or highest ranked person, firm or corporation was not the result of collusion, the giving of a gift or the promise of a gift, compensation, fraud or inappropriate influence from any person.

Any principal or key personnel of the person, firm or corporation submitting a bid or proposal for a large state contract shall, upon execution of such contract, make the following representations in the resulting contract: (1) That no gifts were made by (A) such person, firm, corporation, (B) any principals and key personnel of the person, firm or corporation, who participate substantially in preparing bids, proposals or

negotiating state contracts, or (C) any agent of such person, firm, corporation or principals and key personnel, who participates substantially in preparing bids, proposals or negotiating state contracts, to (i) any public official or state employee of the state agency or quasi-public agency soliciting bids or proposals for state contracts, who participates substantially in the preparation of bid solicitations or requests for proposals for state contracts or the negotiation or award of state contracts, or (ii) any public official or state employee of any other state agency, who has supervisory or appointing authority over such state agency or quasi-public agency; (2) That no such principals and key personnel of the person, firm or corporation, or agent of such person, firm or corporation or principals and key personnel, knows of any action by the person, firm or corporation to circumvent such prohibition on gifts by providing for any other principals and key personnel, official, employee or agent of the person, firm or corporation to provide a gift to any such public official or state employee; and (3) That the person, firm or corporation is submitting bids or proposals without fraud or collusion with any person.

Notice of Certification Requirements of Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-252a: (a) For purposes of this section, "state agency" and "quasi-public agency" have the same meanings as provided in section 1-79, "large state contract" has the same meaning as provided in section 4-250 and "entity" means any corporation, general partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, joint venture, nonprofit organization or other business organization whose principal place of business is located outside of the United States, but excludes any United States subsidiary of a foreign corporation. (b) No state agency or quasi-public agency shall enter into any large state contract, or amend or renew any such contract with any entity unless such contract contains a certification that such entity has not made a direct investment of twenty million dollars or more in the energy sector of Iran on or after October 1, 2013, as described in Section 202 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act of 2010, and has not increased or renewed such investment on or after said date.

Notice of Representation Requirements of Connecticut General Statutes Section 4a-81: (b) (1) Each contract described in subsection (a) of this section shall include a representation whether any consulting agreement has been entered into in connection with any such contract. Such representation shall be required if any duties of the consultant included communications concerning business of a state or quasi-public agency, whether or not direct contact with a state agency, state or public official or state employee was expected or made. As used in this section, "consulting agreement" means any written or oral agreement to retain the services, for a fee, of a consultant for the purposes of (A) providing counsel to a contractor, vendor, consultant or other entity seeking to conduct, or conducting, business with the state, (B) contacting, whether in writing or orally, any executive, judicial, or administrative office of the state, including any department, institution, bureau, board, commission, authority, official or employee for the purpose of solicitation, dispute resolution, introduction, requests for information, or (C) any other similar activity related to such contracts. "Consulting agreement" does not include any agreements entered into with a consultant who is registered under the provisions of chapter 10 as of the date such contract is executed in accordance with the provisions of this section. (2) Such representation shall be sworn as true to the best knowledge and belief of the person signing the contract and shall be subject to the penalties of false statement. (3) Such representation shall include the following information for each consulting agreement listed: The name of the consultant, the consultant's firm, the basic terms of the consulting agreement, a brief description of the services provided, and an indication as to whether the consultant is a former state employee or public official. If the consultant is a former state employee or public official, such representation shall indicate his or her former agency and the date such employment terminated.

Prior to the negotiation process, the selected firm will be required to have a Department-approved audit, as well as current corporate registration with the Secretary of State (partnerships excluded). The selected firm will also be required to maintain insurance coverage from a firm approved to do business in the State of Connecticut. A minimum of \$5,000,000 Professional Liability Insurance coverage, with a maximum deductible of \$500,000, will be required. Proof of coverage must be submitted on a form acceptable to the State prior to the start of the negotiations process.

The Department, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to cancel this solicitation and terminate the process to retain consultant services, and is under no obligation to contract for the services specified herein.

The Department, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to award subsequent phases of an assignment to other qualified firms.

The Department reserves the right to add other assignments of a similar nature to this selection process should the need arise prior to the interview phase.

All inquiries regarding this request for letters-of-interest shall be directed to Ms. Amie B. Maines of the Consultant Selection Office at (860) 594-3346, or to the email listed above.

Connecticut Department of Transportation
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