

THIS SOLICITATION IS BEING EXTENDED TO ALL INTERESTED FIRMS

LEGAL NOTICE

CSO Solicitation No. 2451

Request for Letters of Interest

Design & NEPA/CEPA Services for Project No. 0301-TBD

Track Improvement and Mobility Enhancement

The Department is seeking to engage one (1) consultant engineering firm to provide planning and design services for the preparation of studies, permit applications, plans, specifications, estimates, and other necessary documents for rail related improvements between MP 43.27 to MP 48.77 (Norwalk to Westport); including National Environmental Policy Act / Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (NEPA/CEPA) documentation services for environmental regulatory compliance for Project No. 0301-TBD, which includes the full replacement of Bridge No. 08032R MNR NH 44.32 Saga Movable, which carries the Metro-North Commuter Railroad over Saugatuck River and Ferry Lane, in Westport. The "SAGA Bridge Feasibility Study (Fixed Option)" is currently ongoing which will establish if the replacement project can incorporate a fixed span structure or will be required to include a movable span. The firms responding to this solicitation are expected to have sufficient capacity and expertise to provide full NEPA/CEPA development as well as preliminary and final design services for either the fixed span or movable span option. Planning and design services may also include other features within the 5.5 mile track segment such as improvements at stations, rail re-alignment, catenaries and other associated structures. 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>.

Project No. 0301-TBD may include improvements at stations, rail improvements, catenary improvements, bridge rehabilitation and bridge replacements including the replacement of a complex bridge with either a fixed span or movable span structure. The selected firm may be required to perform the follow tasks, including but not limited to:

- Preliminary Design activities
- Perform preliminary environmental planning including data collection, resource identification, mapping, studies and environmental screening analysis
- Review of design alternatives for environmental considerations
- Perform socioeconomic analysis and ensure compliance with Executive Orders 12898 and 14096 regarding Environmental Justice (EJ)
- Conduct or participate in public involvement efforts
- Prepare State and Federal environmental documentation in accordance with the requirements of NEPA and CEPA as well as any associated activities to support production of the NEPA/CEPA document
- Perform analysis and complete documentation pertaining to compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
- Perform analysis and complete documentation pertaining to compliance with Section 4(f) the USDOT Act
- Final Design activities
- State and Federal regulatory permit applications and natural resource and species coordination and consultation activities
- Other tasks as required for the completion of plans, specifications, and estimates
- Design and Construction schedules
- Building Code compliance and review
- Design services during construction and other related engineering-construction support activity

The value of the contract is estimated to be over \$125,000,000.00 and is anticipated this will be a multiphase contract and will utilize lump sum, cost plus-fixed fee and/or billable rate payment methods. This project will be evaluated for Alternative Contracting Delivery Methods, such as Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC).

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 the 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 six (6) 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, the Railroad Infrastructure Structural Design Technical Lead, Station Technical Lead, and the Environmental Technical Lead as well as the assurance that they 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 **June 20, 2024** and must be no larger than 10 MB in size. The file name should be in the following format: CSO#2451.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 **September 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 = **20%**
- (2) Experience with Environmental Permitting, specifically the NEPA/CEPA process. Familiarity with State and Federal resource agency requirements such as National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Coast Guard, and DEEP Fisheries and Wildlife Divisions. Weighted scoring value = **25%**
- (3) Design of railroad bridges including movable or complex and railroad structures overhead, carrying, or adjacent to active rail lines. Weighted scoring value = **40%**
- (4) Load Rating (experience with 3D Finite Element Ratings in accordance with the Department Load Rating Manual). Weighted scoring value = **5%**
- (5) Public Involvement/Outreach. Weighted scoring value = **5%**
- (6) Familiarity with CTDOT and Railroad standards, practices, policies, and procedures. Weighted scoring value = **5%**

Prior to consummation of the agreement, the Project Manager and Railroad Infrastructure Structural Design Technical Lead must be registered as a Connecticut Professional Engineer. The Station Technical Lead must be registered as a Connecticut Professional Engineer and/or Connecticut licensed Architect.

You are advised that a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal applies to this contract. The goal will be no less than four percent (4%) of the agreement value. Within the letter-of-interest submittal, you must include the designated certified DBE sub-consultant(s) which you plan to use. To be eligible for DBE credit, the sub-consultant(s) must be currently certified by the Department in the specific type of work to be performed. If the prime consultant is a Connecticut certified DBE firm, they will satisfy the DBE requirement provided the firm is certified to receive DBE credit for the type of work being performed. All firms are advised that the prime consultant must perform the majority of the work with employees of the firm. Joint venturing 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 consummation 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 \$5M 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 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 Mrs. Amie B. Maines of the Consultant Selection Office at (860) 594-3346, or amie.maines@ct.gov.