

WisDOT January 2012 Bimonthly Solicitation Questions and Answers

Question and Answer

Some questions are not published to eliminate redundancies, and some are deemed unwarranted

Northwest Region / Eau Claire

NW05, 1560-31-00

Q: Was the preliminary plan prepared by the Region or a consultant? If a consultant prepared the plans, which firm prepared them?

A: *The preliminary plan was prepared by the Region.*

Q: Are the alignment, profile and preliminary impacts identified in the preliminary plan?

A: *The preliminary plan has a horizontal and vertical alignment and cross sections, all preliminary, but the you can see the impacts based on these. We have also done a preliminary identification of the environmental impacts (contaminated soil, archaeological, historical, etc.), but we have not prepared the environmental document.*

Q: What software was the preliminary plan completed with?

A: *The preliminary plan was completed using Caice and Microstation. We will want the final plan prepared using Civil 3D.*

Northwest Region / Eau Claire

NW08, 1020-01-02

Q: Who did the 30% plans?

A: *Strand Associates Inc.*

Q: What type of work will be required for on-site staff?

A: *We foresee that on-site staff would do project management and public coordination activities..*

Q: How What software was the preliminary plan completed with?

A: *Caice Civil 3D.*

Q: Is the critical path schedule required in a specific electronic format?

A: *No.*

Q: Besides the traffic analysis for the TMP, are additional traffic analyses or studies required?

A: *No.*

Q: How many people and hours per week will be required?

A: *Not known at this time.*

Q: Can you further clarify 'regular office hours' anticipated for work within the Region office? Would you like to have the entire design work within the region, just the staff, or project staff meetings at the Region on a regular basis?

A: *We are considering having project management and public involvement activities in the DOT offices up to the point that the draft Environmental Assessment is completed. Most of the engineering would take place after the environmental document is completed and that would not be required to be located in the Eau Claire office building.*

Southwest Region

SW02, 7570-02-02

Q: What software platform is the existing design data available in?

A: *The current design is in CAICE.*

Q: Who did the study and the original design?

A: *Ayres and Associates did the original study and design.*

SW05, 5410-05-00

Q: Is the Value Engineering Study included in this contract or will it be provided by WisDOT under a separate contract?

A: *The Department will have a separate contract with a specialized consultant to lead the VE study. The consultant hired for SW05 will be responsible for attending the VE Study and providing all needed technical data and estimates.*

Q: Is it anticipated that subsurface investigation (pavement and structure borings) will be required for this phase of the project?

A: *Yes.*

Q: Is it anticipated that a landscape architect will be needed for corridor aesthetics for this phase of the project?

A: *There will most likely be extensive coordination with locals on aesthetics and a landscape architect could facilitate the conversations and provide designs.*

Q: Is it anticipated that ITS design will be an element needed for this phase of the project?

A: *Final design will not but there will need to be an implementation plan as part of this contract.*

Q: What is the anticipated level of involvement with project controls?

A: *Project Controls will be an integral part of this contract to ensure scope, schedule and budget are maintained.*

Q: The deliverables state that a VE study will be needed. Will the DOT bring in a group to do an independent VE study or will the design team need a VE group on the team?

A: *The Department will bring in a separate consultant to lead the VE study but the SW05 consultant will need to attend the VE study and provide technical data and estimates.*

Q: Please explain the DOT's expectation for the level of experience or type of experience for the community impact assessment.

A: *Because USH 51 is the gateway to the east side of Madison, impacts to the community will be one of the most important aspects of the Study. The Department would expect the Consultant to have extensive experience with community outreach and impact analysis to ensure a smooth study process.*

SW06, 5304-02-00

Q: Please confirm the date of the interview. The solicitation indicates Monday, February 17, 2012, however February 17 is a Friday.

A: *The date of the interview is **Friday**, February 17, 2012.*

SW09, 3663-00-31

Q: The list of Deliverables for SW09 includes "Wetland Delineation Request". Should this be interpreted to mean that the consultant will provide the wetland delineation, or simply request the delineation to be done by others?

A: *The consultant is to provide a request for wetland delineation to the department with an exhibit depicting the general location(s) to be delineated. The actual delineation will be done by others.*

Region/Bureau : Southeast Region WisDOT

Correction/Clarification to Solicitation Notice:

SE 01 – Roster Solicitation

SE 02 – Open Solicitation

SE 03 – Open Solicitation

SE 04 – Open Solicitation

SE 05 – Roster Solicitation

SE 01, 2390-09-00

Q: Why is the solicitation open to consultants who are not on the WisDOT's Roster of Eligible Consultants?

A: *This is a Roster Solicitation.*

SE 02, 2265-03-06

Q: Will the Department be providing topographic base mapping for use in plan production?

A: *The Department will provide orthophotography maps for base mapping.*

Q: Will the Department be providing locations of existing utilities for this project?

A: No, the Department will not provide locations of existing utilities. The consultant will need to gather utility locations.

SE 05 PID 1060-27-00, 1060-27-01, 1060-27-02

Q: *Given the magnitude of this Majors project, and the Department's request for information on staffing and projects that address not only study capabilities, but preliminary and final design resume qualifications as well, can the page limit for the NOI response be expanded to that used for recent other Majors projects, to 12 pages?*

A: The page limit for the NOI response for SE 05 has been expanded to 12 pages.

North Central Region/DTSD

NC 04, 1166-07-34

Q: Please describe the work that is required for structure B-39-21

A: Structure B-39-21, Located on northbound IH 39 over CTH CX, is in need of a concrete overlay.

Northeast (NE) Region

NEL 01, 4494-06-00

Q: Will project oversight be by Department Staff or by a Local Program Management Consultant?

A: The project oversight will be by the Local Program Management Consultant.

Q: Will analysis of a roundabout alternative be required at this intersection?

A: An intersection control evaluation will be needed for this project. This will include the evaluation of a roundabout at this location.

NE 01, 6430-12-00

Q: Can you further define the physical project limits for reconstruction?

A: South project limits are at the location where STH 76 transitions from a 4-lane section down to a 2-lane section (north of Green Valley Road). North project limits are at the north side of any improvements to the CTH JJ intersection.

Q: Where are lighting facilities anticipated on the rural project (at the roundabout or other locations)?

A: Lighting facilities would be limited to the potential roundabout at STH 76 & CTH JJ.

NE 02, 1440-29-00

Q: Will the department be providing the ownership reports/title searches for NE02?

A: No. The consultant will order them.

NE 04, 6430-12-00

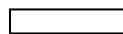
Q: Railroad coordination is listed in both the schedule for deliverables and the consultant requirements. The nearest railroad crossing is one mile west of the CTH OO and WIS 47 intersection and is grade separated. What railroad coordination is anticipated?

A: *The western project limit for the project is just west of the intersection of North Mason and West Northland Avenue which is near/within 1000 feet of the railroad crossing. Whenever a project is within 1000 feet of a railroad, railroad coordination is required to review the crossing to see if any improvements should be included with the project or done concurrent with the project.*

Q: The deliverables and consultant requirements mention "railroad coordination". Can you provide clarification as to why this coordination is needed for this project?

A: *The Region anticipates railroad coordination required of the consultant to be minimal.*

Bureau of Project Development



BPD 02, 0697-XX-XX

Q: The Narrative [p 1, top section] indicates that the anticipated completion date is June 30, 2012. This appears to be incorrect. Would you please confirm the anticipated completion date?

A: *The date listed in the Narrative is in error; the anticipated completion date for the master contract is June 30, 2014.*

Q: The Narrative [p 1, project purpose and need] notes that "WisDOT intends to select multiple consulting firms for Master Contracts...", but the document does not indicate exactly how many contracts will be awarded. How many contracts does the Department intend to award?

A: *WisDOT intends to award three or four Master Contracts.*

Q: How many master VE contracts does WisDOT currently have and what is the approximate value of these assignments?

A: *WisDOT currently has four master contracts for V.E., and the Work Orders for the 2010-2012 biennium total approximately \$500,000.*

Q: The Narrative [p 1, project description] does not indicate how many VE studies would be assigned to each contract. What would be a reasonable expectation of workload (i.e. number of VE studies assigned per year), understanding of course that this estimate would not be construed as a guarantee?

A: *The total number of V.E. studies performed will depend on the number of projects being programmed/designed which meet the FHWA requirement for V.E. A reasonable expectation for each contract is about 3-4 studies within the biennium.*

Q: What proportion of the total number of VE studies conducted over the past five years were mandated by federal law/FHWA regulation?

A: *Generally, V.E. studies at WisDOT are limited to those that are required by Federal policy. In some cases, V.E. studies are completed when a project's cost is below but close to the FHWA threshold, particularly for those projects where V.E. is most likely to yield the greatest benefits.*

- Q: What proportion of the total number of VE studies conducted over the past five years included external team members versus WisDOT staff?
- A: *All of WisDOT's V.E. studies in the past five years have included a combination of WisDOT and consultant (external) staff. All studies are lead by a consultant V.E. team leader with the required qualifications, and typically supplemented by additional consultant staff at the leader's recommendation. V.E. teams are typically made up of about half consultant/external staff and half WisDOT staff from the regional or central offices. (see also question #9, below)*
- Q: What would the range of projects (i.e. standards/policy/specifications, planning, design, safety, etc.) studied in a typical year be?
- A: *Almost all of WisDOT's V.E. studies are related to planning and design, primarily design (often near 30% completion) of roadway construction projects.*
- Q: With multiple contracts, how does WisDOT intend to equitably allocate its VE consultant assignments?
- A: *WisDOT seeks to distribute Work Orders among consulting firms under Master Contract in a balanced manner. Several factors influence WisDOT's choice to use one consultant or another for any given V.E. study, including: Availability of consultant to perform study within WisDOT's desired time frame Any particular specialties of consultant compared to project scope, and/or availability of individual specialists Past performance of consultants*
- Q: The Narrative [p 1, project purpose and need] identifies that the primary objective of this solicitation is to select the team leaders for the VE program, but also indicates that the services may include providing team members as well. The Narrative [p 2, consultant requirements; special skills and expectations] also identifies the importance to be able to access "skilled team members in relevant fields" and be able to "assemble a multi-disciplined VE team..." Given the emphasis placed on selecting the VE team leader, is the Department expecting that the NOI submission include team member credentials as well, or just the confirmation that the consultant can find team members if or when required for a particular VE study assignment
- A: *The most important part of this response is describing the credentials of team leaders. If the consultant will draw from subconsultant partners to build V.E. teams, please indicate those subconsultants.*
- Q: How does the Department intend to manage the various task orders (time and materials, lump sum, etc.) following each negotiation?
- A: *Work orders will be Lump Sum. While the Master Contracts are managed at WisDOT's Central Office, each individual Work Order will be developed and negotiated with the regional office, whose Project Manager oversees the specific project subject of V.E., with oversight from the Central Office.*
- Q: The NOI [p 1, question 2] requests information on existing workload. How would the Department like this information to be conveyed (i.e. a percentage of availability, hours of availability, etc.)?
- A: *Percentage of availability is preferred, for certain periods of time within the subject biennium. The intent of this question is to help WisDOT understand which key individuals are likely to be available for studies within certain time periods.*

Q: The NOI [p 2, question 5] includes a section pertaining to DBE participation but the Narrative does not seem to confirm if DBE requirements are applicable. Do the VE contracts have a DBE requirement? If so, what is the percentage?

A: *V.E. Contracts do not have a DBE requirement.*

Q: Can a sample contract be provided for review?

A: *Samples of boilerplate contracts are available on the WisDOT Consultant Extranet at <https://trust.dot.state.wi.us/extntgtwy/consultants/contract.shtm#specials> Refer specifically to the link for "Specialty Master Contract"; a blank work order is included at the end of the boilerplate. To obtain copies of specific executed Master Contracts or Work Orders, follow the Wisconsin Open Records request procedures.*

Q: What are the insurance requirements for the VE contracts?

A: *Insurance requirements are listed in the boilerplate contract language, available on the WisDOT Consultant Extranet, at <https://trust.dot.state.wi.us/extntgtwy/consultants/contract.shtm#specials> Refer specifically to the link for "Specialty Master Contract", Section V.*

BPD 04, 0697-XX-XX

Q: Would winning this NOI preclude our firm from running or participating in current or future Mega projects? Also, we do not see any schedule or level of effort. Do you have any idea or estimate of project manpower needed?

A: *Being awarded a Master Contract from this solicitation would not preclude a firm from running or participating in any way with a current or future Mega project. However, if a firm is working or participating in a Mega project, that may preclude the firm from receiving a work order under this Master Contract for that same Mega project. It may also be a condition of the Work Order to preclude the firm from providing additional services related that project.*

The level of effort will vary depending on the needs of various projects and will be negotiated through the work order process.

Q: Regarding potential conflicts of interest, if selected for a master contract under this solicitation (BPD 04), would the selected firm be allowed to provide related or ancillary services on the same project and/or other WisDOT projects – either directly for WisDOT or as a subcontractor through a Prime Consultant?

A: *Firms that are awarded a Master Contract under this solicitation will not be restricted from providing related or ancillary services on any WisDOT project, either directly to WisDOT or as a subcontractor. However, WisDOT may determine that a firm working on a project will not be selected to provide services through a Work Order under this Master Contract on the same project. It may also be a condition of the Work Order to preclude the firm from providing additional services related that project.*

Q: It is understood that WisDOT is soliciting assistance through multiple master contracts related to various technical construction expertise, as outlined in the Project Description. Will the successful individual and/or firm require expertise in all (10) items listed in the Project Description, or can they have special expertise in one particular area?

A: *WisDOT may award a master contract to firms that specialize in one or more of the listed areas but not all 10 items listed.*

Q: Will the selected individual and/or firm need to be based in Wisconsin?

A: *No*

BPD 03, Design Opportunity Day

Q: Is the page limit on the NOI 8 pages or 15 pages?

A: *15 pages*

Q: Can more time be provided for the preparation and submittal of the NOIs?

A: *Yes, the deadline for the NOI on BPD 03 has been extended to February 2, 2012.*