

Special Experimental Project No. 14 (SEP-14)
Alternative Contracting
April 2013

A. Introduction

The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) submits this work plan for review and approval as an alternative contracting methodology under the provisions of Special Experimental Project No. 14 (SEP 14) relating to landscaping installation services. Historically, DelDOT has included landscaping installation activities within the construction project limits for the road or bridge project. The proposed alternative contracting methodology for this SEP-14 request would separate the landscaping activities from the road or bridge construction project and make the landscaping a stand-alone contract completed after the road/bridge project was completed.

Under this proposed contracting methodology, DelDOT would have the flexibility to contract directly with a landscaping company thereby removing the general (road/bridge building) contractor from the landscaping activities. DelDOT sees many advantages of this contracting method including: more timely payment to the landscaper for the accepted work performed, removing the delay in the starting of the warranty period for the installed landscaping, better management of seasonal planting windows, and relieving the lack of communication/coordination between the general contractor and the landscaping subcontractor. DelDOT has had initial meetings with the landscaping companies that have typically completed work in the past and the landscapers are in favor of this new contracting approach.

B. Purpose

The proposed methodology is an innovative process in both project delivery and anticipated cost savings for DelDOT. By contracting directly with a landscaping company, DelDOT will realize cost savings by removing mark-up costs from the general contractor and have more administrative management control on the installation of the specified landscaping through increased direct communication with the landscaper.

C. Scope

While in design, the specifying of the landscaping will be no different than under the current methodology of having the landscaping within the road or bridge construction project. The only difference would be that a watermark would be added prior to advertisement of the project referencing the landscaping details included in the plans were for informational purposes only to the general contractors for the road/bridge construction project. This will be noted so the general contractor and the project inspection staff do not make field changes to the project that would impact future landscaping locations. The main construction project would be bid as a conventional design-bid-build project awarded to the lowest responsible bidder per Delaware Code.

For the landscaping portion of a project, it is proposed that DelDOT would advertise and bid on an annual basis a one year duration open-ended landscaping contract. This contract would follow DelDOT's typical process for advertisement and bidding including Federal provisions for contract administration.

The items contained within the advertised bid would be landscaping items historically utilized within the state with price breakdowns based upon a range of quantities along with mobilization costs and maintenance of traffic (MOT) items (See attachment A).

To provide the greatest flexibility, and due to the open-ended nature of this work, there will not be a single bidder awarded this landscaping work. DelDOT's intention is accept all responsible bidders and to award task orders per location to the submitted bidder that is the lowest cost for that location (based upon landscaping items and including mobilization and maintenance of traffic costs). The contract will clearly state that being placed in the pool of qualified bidders will not imply or guarantee work.

In practice, after the general contractor has completed the work for the road/bridge contract, the landscaping project manager within DelDOT will issue a task order to the lowest bidder for the specified landscaping. The task order issued will include the specified items required, terrain type, MOT Typical Application (TA) along with a specific time period to complete the work (appropriate for the growing season of the landscape). If the requirements of the task order are not met, appropriate actions will be taken per the specifications such as liquidated damages.

It is understood that for larger landscaping projects ($\approx > \$100,000$), they will be competitively bid as a stand-alone project where the lowest responsible bidder will be awarded that project. However, history has shown that the majority of the landscaping work required by DelDOT are lower dollar value contracts. It is anticipated that this open-end contract will be used mostly on smaller scale landscaping projects ($\approx < \$50,000$) such as: intersection improvements, transportation enhancements, and smaller-scale capital projects.

D. Schedule

The landscaping contract will have the following phases:

PHASE I: Preparation of contract (Estimated time: one month)

PHASE II: Advertising and award of open-ended landscaping contract (Estimated Time: two months)

PHASE III: Trial duration of open-end contract (Estimated Time: 12 months)

PHASE IV: Measure effectiveness and reporting of project (Estimated Time: 3 months)

E. Measure Effectiveness

Input will be solicited from appropriate parties as to the effectiveness of the trial open-ended landscaping contract. DelDOT will be evaluating the economic and scheduling effectiveness, quality of work performed, and overall benefit realized by DelDOT. If deemed successful, appropriate adjustments would be made for continued use of this contracting methodology in the future.

F. Reporting

DelDOT will prepare and submit a final report on this initial landscaping contract methodology within 3 months of completion of the contract and DelDOT acceptance of the locations utilizing this landscaping contract. The final report will contain an overall evaluation of the contract along with any suggestions and recommendations for improving the process.

Landscaping Contracts

Proposed Item Listing

| ITEM | DESCRIPTION | UOM | QUANTITY | UNIT PRICE (\$) |
|----------------------|--|------|----------|-----------------|
| Deciduous Shrub | 15-18", BB or cont. | EACH | ≤ 9 | |
| | 18-24", BB or cont. | EACH | | |
| | 15-18", BB or cont. | EACH | ≥ 10 | |
| | 18-24", BB or cont. | EACH | | |
| Evergreen Shrub | 15-18", BB or cont. | EACH | ≤ 9 | |
| | 18-24", BB or cont. | EACH | | |
| | 15-18", BB or cont. | EACH | ≥ 10 | |
| | 18-24", BB or cont. | EACH | | |
| Deciduous Tree | 1 ½ - 1 ¾" BB or cont. | EACH | ≤ 9 | |
| | 2 - 2 ½" BB or cont. | EACH | | |
| | 1 ½ - 1 ¾" BB or cont. | EACH | ≥ 10 | |
| | 2 ½ - 3" BB or cont. | EACH | | |
| Evergreen Tree | 3-4', BB or cont. | EACH | ≤ 9 | |
| | 5-6', BB or cont. | EACH | | |
| | 6-8', BB or cont. | EACH | | |
| | 3-4', BB or cont. | EACH | ≥ 10 | |
| | 5-6', BB or cont. | EACH | | |
| | 6-8', BB or cont. | EACH | | |
| Herbaceous Perennial | Plug, size 2.25 x 5.00"; volume 11.3 cu. in. (Deep Plug) | EACH | ≤ 100 | |
| | | EACH | 101-200 | |
| | | EACH | > 201 | |
| | 1-quart container | EACH | ≤ 25 | |
| | 1-gallon container | EACH | | |
| | 1-quart container | EACH | > 26 | |
| 1-gallon container | EACH | | | |
| Misc. | Mulch | S.Y. | ≤ 100 | |
| | | | > 101 | |
| Watering, Plants | M/Gal | ≤ 50 | | |
| | | > 51 | | |
| Mobilization | New Castle County, Category I | EACH | | |
| | New Castle County, Category II | EACH | | |
| | Kent County, Category I | EACH | | |
| | Kent County, Category II | EACH | | |
| | Sussex County, Category I | EACH | | |
| | Sussex County, Category II | EACH | | |

Category I - flat terrain

Category II - sloped terrain

All item prices are in-place with a 1-year warranty.