

Work Plan
Special Experimental Project No. 14 (SEP-14)
Michigan Department of Transportation
Fixed Price Variable Scope Contracting
January 24, 2013

Project Number: 118843A
Control Section: 77475
County: St. Clair
Length of Project Limits: n/a
Location: various streets in the city of Port Huron
Contract Cost: \$100,000

Introduction

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) proposes to use fixed price variable scope contracting under the provisions of Special Experimental Project No. 14 (SEP 14) for the use of innovative contracting practices.

Purpose

The purpose of this fixed price variable scope contracting method is to utilize a fixed dollar amount attached to the project to obtain the greatest amount of wayfinding signs.

Because the proposed work is consistent at all locations and the final number of sign locations can be adjusted, the MDOT and city of Port Huron expect to gain more value for the dollar by using this innovative contracting method.

This project is unique because it is funded by MDOT and the FHWA as part of the mitigation associated with the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Selected Alternative of the Blue Water Bridge Plaza Study. The funding commitment by MDOT and the FHWA for this project is defined in the ROD as:

“Fund the Development and Installation of a Local Wayfinding Program: Working with the city of Port Huron, MDOT will fund the development and installation of a local wayfinding program designed to increase access and awareness of key local tourism destinations. MDOT will work with the city staff to design appropriate signage and make the necessary installations to assure visitors can find their way from the expanded plaza facility to key local destinations as well as key transportation corridors (i.e., M-25, I-94/I-69). All sign installations will occur once the plaza has been completed. MDOT estimates the cost of this program to be \$100,000.”

This project is being let by MDOT as a Local Agency Project, with the city of Port Huron completing the design and construction inspection. Environmental clearance of the project will follow MDOT requirements for local agency projects (form 0259 & 23 CFR 771) and all potential sign locations will be reviewed. The project has been approved and is already included on the SEMCOG TIP.

Scope

This project will consist of fabrication and installation of wayfinding signs at locations within the city of Port Huron, St. Clair County. The letting document sets the priority of the wayfinding sign locations, which the contractor will follow until the fixed budget amount is reached. The expected limits of work will include up to 43 locations.

Wayfinding sign locations identified in the contract, but not constructed as part of this project, will be considered in future by the city of Port Huron. If installed in the future, these future signing locations will be funded 100% by the city of Port Huron.

Schedule

This project is expected to be advertised for the July 12, 2013 letting. The contractor selection will be based on the lowest bid if all work is completed. If all work cannot be completed using the fixed dollar amount, the contractor completing the most wayfinding sign locations will be selected. In the event of a tie, bidders will be required to submit a revised bid, with the lowest bidder selected. If accepted, the bid will be awarded within 45 days of bid letting. Construction is expected to begin in August 2013 with a completion date in October 2013.

Evaluation

The decorative nature of the wayfinding signs will make comparison to other typical MDOT non-freeway signing installations incompatible. In order to evaluate the success of this innovative contracting method for this type of treatment, MDOT will review the number of bidders, evaluate the individual bids against the engineer's estimate of work, and will solicit feedback from the bidding contractors for suggestions and comments regarding the contracting method.

Reporting

The MDOT will prepare and submit a report on this project to FHWA. The report will be submitted to FHWA within 6 months of completion of the contract and final acceptance by the MDOT. The final report will contain an overall evaluation of the project along with any suggestions and recommendations for improving the process.