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February 7, 2020

Mr. Carlos C. Machado
Division Administrator
FHWA Rhode Island Division Office
380 Westminster Mall, Suite 601
Providence, RI 02903

Subject: Special Experimental Project No. 14 (SEP-14)
Workplan for Three (3) IDIQ Contracts for Bridge Preservation:

1. General Bridge Preservation
2. Painting
3. In-Water Work

Dear Mr. Machado,

INTRODUCTION

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) is hereby submitting this work plan for review and approval for three (3) Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) projects under the provisions of Special Experimental Project No. 14 (SEP 14) for the use of innovative contracting practices. RIDOT has traditionally used the design-bid-build method for constructing highways and bridges.

Located in the northeast and near the coast, Rhode Island's highways and bridges experience freeze-thaw cycles and road salts that accelerate bridge deterioration. RIDOT has documented significant numbers of bridges as their sufficiency ratings deteriorate over time, and has identified a need to be more proactive and responsive to the maintenance needs of its infrastructure.

PURPOSE

The proposed IDIQ contracting method is an innovative process which allows for a more efficient execution of repetitive maintenance needs for bridges. IDIQ will allow RIDOT to procure multiple contractors who will be "on call" to conduct bridge preservation and preventative maintenance activities. RIDOT's purpose is twofold: 1) To be proactive and start a cyclical program to preserve bridges in their current condition as long as possible; and 2) To be able to quickly and efficiently respond to and repair bridge deterioration conditions as soon as they become known through the bridge inspection program.

RIDOT's ultimate goal is to meet the requirement in the 2016 Rhodeworks Plan of having 90% of its bridges be in Good or Fair condition by 2025 and to maintain that 90% sufficiency rating into the future. Having contractors on-call with the qualifications to conduct bridge preservation and maintenance activities in lieu of advertising individual design-bid-build contracts will greatly assist RIDOT in achieving this goal.

SCOPE

RIDOT intends to use three IDIQ contracts to strengthen and bolster bridge preservation and maintenance throughout the state. The contracts are planned as follows: 1) A General Bridge Preservation On-Call contract that will include cyclical activities such as washing, replacing deck joints, sealing concrete, replacing waterproofing membranes and paving; 2) A Painting On-Call contract to efficiently meet the various painting needs of RIDOT's bridges and; 3) An In-Water On-Call contract to address maintenance needs that are in-water such as channel restoration/protection, rip-rap repair/installation, clearing and maintaining channels under bridges and culverts.

RIDOT intends to advertise RFP's for the above three contracts and to select multiple contractors for each contract based on their qualifications for relevant work. Contractors will be required to submit their qualifications based on the requirements of the RFP.

A Technical Evaluation Group (TEG) will be convened at RIDOT to review and evaluate all proposals. All members of the TEG will be required to execute a Conflicts Disclosure Statement prior to the Division of Purchases release of Proposals. Proposals will consist of qualifications only; no price component will be used for the selections. The contractors will be responsible for the cost of preparing the proposals.

The TEG will evaluate the contractor's qualifications in accordance with EVALUATION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PROPOSALS section below. An award of a contract is not a guarantee of work. Contractors who are awarded contracts will be given opportunities to bid on task order assignments under the three on-call Task Order Programs outlined in SCOPE above.

SCHEDULE

The on-call bridge preservation contracts will be three-year contracts with the option of two (2) 1-year extensions that RIDOT reserves the right to exercise. Task assignments will be assigned within the first three years of service. The extension option will be utilized to complete any ongoing original construction services. All services must be completed within the five-year contract term. It is anticipated that the contracts will be awarded in Spring of 2020.

Individual task orders will be distributed to the selected contractors for bidding on throughout the first three years of the contract.

EVALUATION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PROPOSALS

There will be no scoring as part of the evaluation and selection of contractors. There will also be no cost component to the proposals. The proposals will be comprised of the contractor's qualifications, experience, key personnel, and team. The acceptance criteria are as follows: All contractors who demonstrate the ability to meet all the requirements in the respective RFP's will be awarded a Contract. The requirements are outlined in the Contractor's Qualifications section of the RFP.

AWARD OF TASK ORDERS

Once the contracts are executed and qualified contractors are on board, RIDOT will issue task orders with specific work items to all the contractors (within each respective contract) to bid on. The lowest bidder will then be selected to do the work. Contractors may elect to not bid on a task order, but this will not affect their participation in any future task orders.

For example: If RIDOT wishes to have twenty bridges power washed and deck joints replaced, a task order with that scope of work will be sent to all the selected contractors for the General Bridge Preservation contract for bidding. Some or all the contractors may submit bids, and the Low Bidder will be selected. Contractors that elected not to submit bids will still receive the opportunity to bid on the next and all future task orders.

REPORTING

RIDOT will prepare and submit initial, interim, and final reports for these three on-call contracts. The initial report will be prepared shortly after award of the three bridge preservation contracts (General, Painting, and In-Water), and will discuss industry reaction to the process and any identifiable effects on the proposals received. Costs will be discussed in the final report as this data will not be available until then.

An interim report will be submitted midway through the contract (approximately two years in) and any issues will be discussed.

A final report will be submitted upon completion of the contract. The final report will contain an overall evaluation of the project and specifically the contracting method using on-call contractors and task orders. Lessons learned and recommendations for improvement will be included.

Attached for your reference is a draft RFP for the General Bridge Preservation contract. The Painting and In-Water work RFP's will be very similar and are still being drafted.

We respectfully request your review and approval of this Workplan for three IDIQ contracts that will help RIDOT more efficiently meet its bridge preservation and maintenance needs. Thank you in advance for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Robert Pavia, P.E. of this office at 563-4079.

Sincerely

/Signed by/

Robert R. Rocchio, P.E.
Chief Engineer,
Infrastructure Maintenance

RJP

Attachments

cc: Fish; Preiss, File (all w/o att.);