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Mr. Carlos C. Machado
Division Administrator
FHWA Rhode Island Division Office
380 Westminster Mall, Room 601
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Subject: Special Experimental Project No. 14 (SEP-14)
Workplan for On-Call Contractors Steel Bridge Repairs Task Order Program

Dear Mr. Machado,

A. Introduction

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) submits the following work plan and the attached draft RFP for the subject program for review and approval by FHWA as an Indefinite Delivery/ Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract 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 contracting work from Contractors for the construction, rehabilitation, and repair of its bridges. This traditional method of procurement takes time, and results in longer lead times to procure a contractor to perform the work. This is especially critical for time sensitive repair work, as the longer length of the normal procurement process leads to longer lead times of up to 3 to 4 months before a contractor can physically mobilize from when a project was solicited.

In this work plan it is proposed that RIDOT utilize a form of an ID/IQ contracting method to perform On-Call Steel Bridge Repairs for their steel bridge inventory. Approximately 50% of Rhode Island's aging bridge infrastructure consists of steel bridges. Many of these steel bridges exhibit deterioration to their steel members that can potentially affect load carrying capacity. As part of their routine inspection and load rating program, RIDOT evaluates and identifies bridge elements in potential need of repairs to maintain legal load carrying capacity. This on-call method of contracting would greatly assist RIDOT in providing a more expeditious contracting method in procuring a contractor to complete repairs to their steel bridges.

B. Purpose

The proposed ID/IQ on-call task order contracting method is an innovative process which is being considered and utilized nationally by various state transportation and federal agencies for the maintenance, preservation and repairs of highway infrastructure. This on-call task order contracting method pre-identifies qualified contractors who can meet the requirements and perform the scope of services identified in the Request for Proposals (RFP). This contracting method would allow RIDOT to identify and establish a "pool" of "on-call" qualified contractors who would be given an opportunity to submit bids to perform steel bridge on a task order-based assignment. This alternative contracting method should result in a significant reduction in the time required to solicit and procure a contractor to perform steel bridge repair work. The Department also anticipates that use of this method will also result in a more cost-effective method of contracting for shorter duration and smaller repair projects.

RIDOT desires to utilize the ID/IQ On Call Steel Repairs Contract as a means of exploring innovative

contracting methods for construction. Historically RIDOT has used the design-bid-build method and has limited experience with this method for use on construction contracts. With increasing demands on maintaining and preserving our infrastructure, RIDOT is actively pursuing alternative contracting methods that have the potential to provide more timely and cost-effective solutions for the benefit of the public.

C. Scope

RIDOT intends to advertise an RFP for the subject contract to select multiple on-call contractors to perform the steel bridge repair construction services based on their qualifications and requirements, as identified in the RFP. Contractors will be required to submit a formal proposal in response to the RFP with the required information and qualifications as indicated in the RFP. Contractors responding to the RFP request must be of adequate qualifications required to perform a variety of Steel Bridge Repair Task Order assignments with varying complexities, as identified in the RFP. In addition, the Contractor performing the steel repair work shall be, at minimum, certified as a "Certified Steel Erector (CSE)" in accordance with the AISC Quality Certification Program. It is intended that an award pursuant to the RFP will be made to a Prime Contractor, who will assume responsibility for all aspects of the work. Joint ventures will not be considered, but sub-contracts will be allowed provided the sub-contractor(s) proposed are clearly identified with the type of work to be performed in response to the RFP.

A Technical Evaluation Group (TEG) will be convened at RIDOT to review and evaluate all of the submitted proposals. Proposals will consist of qualifications only; no price component will be used for the selection of contractors. The contractors will be responsible for the cost of preparing the proposals. The TEG will evaluate the contractor's proposal in accordance with the EVALUATION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND PROPOSALS section below. An award of a contract is not considered a guarantee of work. Contractors who are awarded a contract will be given opportunities to bid on individual task order assignments under the On-Call Steel Repair Contract.

Work that may be performed on under this On-Call Steel Repair contract includes, but is not limited to: structural steel repairs to steel bridge elements, including associated surface preparation, containment and painting; temporary shoring; bearing repairs; heat straightening; weld and crack repairs; bridge joint and concrete repairs, as related to beam end deterioration; repairs to damaged bridge railing; and Maintenance and Protection of Traffic Control.

The development a scope of work for an individual task order assignment will be prepared by RIDOT. An assignment may consist of an individual bridge or a group of bridges which may be combined according to similarity of scope, location, and other factors. RIDOT will provide the necessary plans, details, specifications, and specific stipulations of the repair work expected to be performed by the Contractor under a task order assignment. Each On-Call Contractor will be then be afforded the opportunity to submit a bid to perform the work. If they chose to submit a lump sum bid price to perform the work, complete and in place. There is no requirement for an on-call contractor to submit a bid on a potential task order assignment and there is no penalty should they chose to no submit a bid on a work assignment.

Task Order assignments will be made solely at RIDOT's discretion and awarded to the lowest responsible bidder amongst the pre-established pool of on-call Contractors bidding on a task order assignment. There will be no assurances or guarantees of Task Orders being assigned to a Contractor under each Contract and RIDOT reserves the right to revoke or cancel an assignment at any time. All work under a task order assignment will be bid "Lump Sum" by the Contractor and shall include everything required to complete the work assignment as part of the lump sum bid price. A performance bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price from a satisfactory surety company will also be required from a Contractor prior to the award of a task order assignment.

All costs associated with developing or submitting proposals in response to the RFP and subsequent bids on the individual task order assignments will be borne by the Contractor and the State will assume no responsibility for these costs.

All work performed on a task order assignment issued under this Contract will be done in conformance with the latest editions of the Rhode Island Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction; the Rhode Island Standard Details; the Rhode Island Bridge Design Standard Details; Contract and Job Specific Provisions and Specifications; Contract Drawings and/or Sketches, and all applicable Federal and State Rules and Regulations.

D. Schedule

The procurement under this contract will result in multiple Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (ID/IQ) On- Call construction contracts to perform steel bridge repairs. The contracts will be awarded with a base period of three (3) years, and with two (1) one-year extension option periods that RIDOT will reserve the right to exercise. Individual task order assignments will be distributed to the selected contractors for bidding on and assigned within the first three years of service. The extension option will be utilized to complete any ongoing original construction services. All services provided under an assignment must be completed within the five-year contract term. It is anticipated that the contracts will be awarded in Spring/Summer of 2020.

E. Evaluation of Qualifications and Proposals

There will be no scoring as part of the evaluation and selection of contractors for the on-call steel bridge repair contract. There will also be no cost component to the proposals. The proposals will be solely comprised of the contractor's qualifications, experience, key personnel, and team as described in the RFP and reported on the required forms included within the RFP.

The acceptance criterion is as follows: All contractors who fully demonstrate the ability to meet all of the requirements of the RFP will be awarded a Contract. An award of a contract is not considered a guarantee of work. Contractors who are awarded a contract will be given opportunities to bid on individual task order assignments under the On-Call Steel Repair Contract.

F. Award of Task Orders

Contractors who are awarded a contract will be given opportunities to bid on individual task order assignments under the On-Call Steel Repair Contract as they arise at the direction of RIDOT. Task Order assignments will be made solely at RIDOT's discretion and awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, amongst the pre-established pool of on-call Contractors, bidding on a task order assignment. If a Contractor chooses not to submit a bid in response to RIDOT's request, it will not be held against them on future work assignment requests. All work bid under a task order assignment will be "Lump Sum" and inclusive of everything required to complete the work assignment to the satisfaction of RIDOT.

A performance bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price from a satisfactory surety company will be required prior to award of a task order assignment from the lowest responsible bidder. An award of a contract provides no assurances or guarantees to a Contractor of Task Orders being assigned under the Contract and RIDOT reserves the right to revoke or cancel an assignment at any time.

G. Reporting

RIDOT will prepare and submit initial, interim, and final findings' reports, in memorandum or report format as warranted, for this on-call contract. The initial findings report will be prepared shortly after award of the contract and will discuss the industry reaction to the process and any identifiable effects on the proposals received. Costs will not be discussed in the initial report as this data will not be available.

An interim findings report will be submitted midway through the initial contract (approximately two years) summarizing the progress, including industry feedback, issues and available cost data to date.

A final findings report will be submitted upon completion and close-out of the on-call contract. The final findings report will contain an overall evaluation of the entire project and specifically the ID/IQ contracting method using on-call contractors and task orders to complete construction work assignments. A summary of findings, cost, schedule, pros & cons, lessons learned, and recommendations for improvement will be included in the report.

We respectfully request FHWA review and approval of this Workplan and the attached RFP for the subject ID/IQ contract that will help RIDOT more efficiently meet its bridge maintenance needs. Thank you in advance for your consideration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mary Vittoria-Bertrand, P.E. of this office at 563-4291.

Sincerely

/Original Signed by/

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

MVB
Attachments
cc: Bertrand, Gaulin, Preiss, Rocchio, Sammartino; File (w/att.)