

CITY OF GASTONIA REQUEST FOR LETTER OF INTEREST

THE CITY OF GASTONIA DESIRES TO ENGAGE QUALIFIED PRIVATE ENGINEERING FIRMS (PEF) TO PROVIDE PLANNING AND DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE LINEBERGER/DOWNTOWN BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN CONNECTOR

The primary and/or subconsultant firm(s) shall be pre-qualified by NCDOT to perform required work codes:

- **00032 – Categorical Exclusions**
- **00199 – Route Location Surveys**
- **00434 – Hydraulic Design Tier II**
- **00269 – Urban Roadway Design**
- **00207 – Signal Design**
- **00270 – Utility Coordination**

The selected firm will report directly to the City of Gastonia. The selected firm is to administer the contract and to ensure that all work is performed in accordance with the contract requirements.

The PEF will be responsible for providing engineers and technicians with the appropriate skills and qualifications to ensure contract compliance. The PEF will be directly responsible for oversight of the project for the City of Gastonia. The PEF shall indemnify and save harmless the City of Gastonia for claims and liabilities resulting from negligence, errors or omissions of the PEF; including, but not limited to, the engineers, technicians or subconsultants.

Any firm wishing to be considered must be properly registered with the Office of the Secretary of State and with the North Carolina Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. Any firm proposing to use corporate subsidiaries or subcontractors must include a statement that these companies are properly registered with the NC Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. The Engineers performing the work and in responsible charge of the work must be registered Professional Engineers in the State of North Carolina and must have a good ethical and professional standing. It will be the responsibility of the selected private firm to verify the registration of any corporate subsidiary or subcontractor prior to submitting a Letter of Interest. The firm must have the financial ability to undertake the work and assume the liability. The selected firm will be required to furnish proof of Professional Liability insurance coverage in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000. The firm must have an adequate accounting system to identify costs chargeable to the project.

The proposed method of payment for this contract is lump sum.

The selection of a private engineering firm to provide work listed above on this specific project will be handled in accordance with the following process:

1. Submission by the private engineering firm of a Letter of Interest (LOI).
2. City of Gastonia will short list private engineering firms to a minimum of three firms.
3. Pre-interview meeting and oral interview at the option of the City of Gastonia.
4. City of Gastonia will select a private engineering firm to provide the work.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Gastonia is proposing to provide a pedestrian and bicycle connection between its downtown and Lineberger Park. The proposed connection will begin at the northeast corner of the park, follow within the existing right of way of Chestnut Street north until its intersection with Second Avenue, then turn west and follow Second Avenue, within its existing street right of way and end at Marietta Street. The completed project will consist of sections of new sidewalk, widened existing sidewalk, crosswalks, and installation of new pedestrian signals at the intersection of Second Avenue and Broad Street, bicycle and “share-row” lanes.

The tasks required to meet these goals will include:

- NEPA documentation, Categorical Exclusion is anticipated,
- surveying,
- Hydraulic design for extension of an existing culvert at Chestnut Street and Fourth Avenue, which may lead to a CLOMR,
- Design of the sidewalk, crosswalks, wheelchair ramps along the entire route
- Design for installation of pedestrian crossing signals at Second Avenue and Broad Street
- Coordination with NCDOT Rail Division and Norfolk Southern Railroad for the work at the intersection of Broad Street and Second Avenue.
- Analysis of roadway widths and lanes configurations to layout new bike lanes or use of share-row markings
- Construction cost estimating and scheduling
- Developing specifications and bid package,
- Preparation of any necessary permit applications
- Assistance in the bid process for any needed addendums.

SMALL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE FIRM (SPSF) PARTICIPATION

The Department encourages the use of Small Professional Services Firms (SPSF). Small businesses determined to be eligible for participation in the SPSF program are those meeting size standards defined by Small Business Administration (SBA) regulations, 13 CFR Part 121 in Sector 54 under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). The SPSF program is a race, ethnicity, and gender neutral program designed to increase the availability of contracting opportunities for small businesses on federal, state or locally funded contracts. SPSF participation is not contingent upon the funding source.

The Firm, at the time the Letter of Interest is submitted, shall submit a listing of all known SPSF firms that will participate in the performance of the identified work. The participation shall be submitted on the NCDOT's Prime Form RS-2 and/or Subconsultant Form RS-2.

Form RS-2 forms may be accessed on the NCDOT website at <https://apps.dot.state.nc.us/quickfind/forms/Default.aspx>.

The SPSF must be qualified with the Department to perform the work for which they are listed.

Real-time information about firms doing business with the NCDOT and firms that are SPSF certified through North Carolina's Unified Certification Program is available in the Directory of Transportation Firms. The Directory can be accessed by the link on the Department's homepage or by entering <https://apps.dot.state.nc.us/vendor/directory/> in the address bar of your web browser.

The listing of an individual firm in the Department's directory shall not be construed as an endorsement of the firm.

PREQUALIFICATION

The Department maintains on file the qualifications and key personnel for each approved discipline, as well as any required samples of work. Each year on the anniversary date of the company, the firm shall renew their prequalified disciplines. If your firm has not renewed its application as required by your anniversary date or if your firm is not currently prequalified, please submit an application to the Department prior to submittal of your letter of interest. An application may be accessed at <https://apps03.dot.state.nc.us/vendor/prequal>. Having this data on file with the Department eliminates the need to resubmit this data with each letter of interest.

Even though specific DBE/MBE/WBE goals are not required for this project, the Department of Transportation is committed to providing opportunity for small and disadvantaged businesses to perform on its contracts through established Department goals. The Firm, subconsultant and subfirm shall not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, age, disability or sex in the performance of this contract...

EVALUATION

Firms submitting LOIs to perform the work described above on this specific project will be evaluated based upon certain considerations. The following considerations will be utilized to select a minimum of three firms from those submitting an LOI:

1. Firm's experience, knowledge, familiarity and past performance with projects of similar scope and size - 35%
2. The experience of the firm's proposed staff to perform the type of work required - 35%
3. Firm's understanding of the project specific issues and their responsibility in delivering services for the advertised project - 30%

North Carolina firms qualified to do the required work will be given priority consideration. A North Carolina firm is a firm that maintains an office in North Carolina staffed with an adequate number of employees judged by the Department to be capable of performing a majority of the work required.

After reviewing qualifications, if firms are equal on the evaluation review, then those qualified firms with proposed SPSF participation will be given priority consideration.

FORMAT FOR SUBMISSION OF A CITY OF GASTONIA LETTER OF INTEREST

All letters of interest are limited to 15 pages (RS-2 forms are not included in the page count) inclusive of the cover sheet, and shall be typed on 8 1/2" x 11" sheets, single-spaced, one-sided. Fold out pages are not allowed. **Letters of interest containing more than 15 pages will not be considered.**

Section I - Cover/Introductory Letter

The introductory letter should be addressed to Margo Medlin, Project Administrator. Said letter is limited to 1 page and should contain the following elements of information:

- Expression of firm's interest in the work;
- Statement of whether firm is on register or submitting information with letter of interest;
- Date of most recent private engineering firm qualification;
- Statement regarding firms' possible conflict(s) of interest for the work; and
- Summation of information contained in the letter of interest.

Section II - Evaluation Factors

This section is limited to 6 pages and should contain information regarding evaluation and other factors listed in the advertisement such as:

- A brief synopsis of the firm's previous experience that is focused to the type of project advertised for services [performed within last three (3) years];
- The number of employees within the firm;
- A brief description of the firm's approach to performing this work, including the firm's understanding of their responsibility with regard to safety, contract administration, environmental responsibility, claims, and project delivery;
- The proposed personnel to be assigned to the work by discipline, their availability date on the project.
- Identify project personnel/subconsultants' qualifications and experience as related to this work;
- Unique qualifications of key team members; and
- Any innovative approaches to be used.

Section III - Supportive Information

This section is limited to 8 pages and should contain the following information:

- Capacity Chart/Graph (available work force);
- Organizational chart indicating personnel to be assigned by discipline;
- The resumes of key personnel – Engineers, Transportation Technician III and IV levels only – that are proposed to be assigned to the work;
- Names, classifications, and location(s) of the firms’ North Carolina employees and resources to be assigned to the advertised work; and
- Other information.

Appendices -- CONSULTANT CERTIFICATION Form RS-2

Completed Form RS-2 forms SHALL be submitted with the firm’s letter of interest.

This section is limited to the number of pages required to provide the requested information.

Submit Form RS-2 forms for the following:

- Prime Consultant firm (Prime Consultant Form RS-2 Rev 1/14/08), and;
- ANY/ALL subconsultant firms (Subconsultant Form RS-2 Rev 1/15/08) to be or anticipated to be utilized by your firm.

Complete and sign each Form RS-2 (instructions are listed on the form)

In the event the firm has no subconsultant, it is required that this be indicated on the Subconsultant Form RS-2 by entering the word “None” or the number “ZERO” and signing the form.

The required forms are available at:

<https://apps.dot.state.nc.us/quickfind/forms/Default.aspx>.

SUBMISSION OF LETTER OF INTEREST

Private engineering firms are invited to have letters of interest for this project to the City of Gastonia by **5:00 p.m. on December 18th, 2013. Letters of interest received after this deadline will not be considered.**

Firms submitting letters of interest are encouraged to carefully check them for conformance to the requirements stated above. If Letters of Interest (LOIs) do not meet ALL of these requirements, or to any address other than shown below they will be disqualified. No exception will be granted.

The mailing address is:

City of Gastonia
Attn: Margo Medlin
PO Box 1748
Gastonia, NC 28053

Any questions concerning the advertisement should be directed to margom@cityofgastonia.com or by telephone at (704) 866-6834;

If you feel information provided is inadequate to submit a letter of interest, please contact Margo Medlin.

NOTIFICATION

The short-listed firms will be notified by **December 27th, 2013**. Notification will not be sent to firms not short-listed.

In the event the City of Gastonia elects to hold Oral Interviews, interviews will be held in early December.

The firm selected will be notified as soon as determined. Notification will not be sent to firms not selected.

The City of Gastonia reserves the right to reject any and all Letters of Interest.