

Advertised: **November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

## **LENOIR COUNTY**

### **REQUEST for LETTERS of INTEREST (RFLOI)**

#### **CONTRACT TYPE (PE / DESIGN / RIGHT OF WAY / CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION)**

TITLE: Kinston Riverwalk Design

ISSUE DATE: November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

ISSUING AGENCY: LENOIR COUNTY

### **SYNOPSIS**

#### **SUBCONSULTANTS ARE PERMITTED UNDER THIS CONTRACT.**

This contract shall be partially reimbursed with Federal-aid funding through the North Carolina Department of Transportation (hereinafter referred to as the Department). The solicitation, selection, and negotiation of a contract shall be conducted in accordance with all Department requirements and guidelines.

The primary firm(s) shall be pre-qualified by the Department to perform ALL of the Discipline Codes listed below for Lenoir County. Discipline Codes required are:

- 316 – Multi-Use Trail Design, Survey & Layout
- 199 – Route Location Surveys
- 032 – Categorical Exclusions / Minimum Criteria Determination Checklist
- 168 – ROW Project Management
- 192 – Right of Way Appraisals
- 193 – Right of Way Negotiators
- 024 – Bridges – Spans Under 200'

**Discipline CODES for each primary firm(s) SHALL be listed on the respective RS-2 FORMS (see section 'SUBMISSION ORGANIZATION AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS').**

This RFLOI is to solicit responses (LETTERS of INTEREST, or LOIs) from qualified firms to provide professional consulting services to:

**Using existing 75% plans, update and finalize the plans for the Kinston Riverwalk Multi-Modal Trail. The Riverwalk Trail has received funding for construction, but first finalized plans must be rendered to determine the layout, survey boundaries and account for easements. The plans include short sections of boardwalk and bridges. There are no engineered plans for these structures as they depend on the eventual surveyed route. Additionally, the selected firm shall assist with bidding, right of way acquisition, and general project oversight and administration in coordination with NCDOT.**

Electronic LOIs should be submitted in .pdf format using software such as Adobe, CutePDF PDF Writer, DocuDesk deskPDF, etc.

**LOIs SHALL be received ELECTRONICALLY OR BY MAIL HAND-DELIVERY no later than 4 p.m., November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

**The address for electronic deliveries is: [adam.short@lenoircountync.gov](mailto:adam.short@lenoircountync.gov)**

**The address for mailings is:  
Lenoir County  
PO BOX 3289  
Kinston, NC 28502**

**The address for hand-deliveries is:  
Lenoir County Administration Building  
County Manager's Office  
101 N. Queen Street, Kinston, NC 28501**

**LOIs received after this deadline will not be considered.**

Except as provided below 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 Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors. Any firm proposing to use corporate subsidiaries or subcontractors must include a statement that these companies are properly registered with the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors and/or the NC Board for Licensing of Geologists. 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. Firms which are not providing engineering services need not be registered with the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors. Some of the services being solicited may not require a license. It is the responsibility of each firm to adhere to all laws of the State of North Carolina.


The firm must have the financial ability to undertake the work and assume the liability. The selected firm(s) will be required to furnish proof of Professional Liability insurance coverage in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000.00. The firm(s) must have an adequate accounting system to identify costs chargeable to the project.

## PE/DESIGN

### **SCOPE OF WORK**

Lenoir County is soliciting proposals for the services of a firm/team for the following contract scope of work:

The proposed contract scope is the planning of a segment of the Kinston Riverwalk – a multimodal trail tracing the curves of the Neuse River. 75% plans have already been produced for the entire trail, with a small portion having already been constructed. This contract would be to finish designing the next portion of the Riverwalk and then manage its right of way acquisitions:

- Assisting and facilitating right of way acquisition;
- Finalizing the route for the trail;
- Designing engineered plans for the short boardwalk and bridge sections
- Ensuring all necessary permits are acquired;
- Ensuring all necessary administrative processes are followed with NCDOT, including:
  - Performing all necessary impact analyses;
  - Environmental review;
  - SHPO review;
  - Any other necessary pre-construction administrative requirements as set forth by NCDOT
- Construction bidding and, contractor selection;
- Any other related design and administration as directed by Lenoir County or NCDOT 

**PROPOSED CONTRACT TIME: January 2025 – June 2025 with a 6 month extension if necessary**

**PROPOSED CONTRACT PAYMENT TYPE: Fixed-price contract, to be paid in equal installments over the course of the contract period. Firms should also include hourly rates for consideration, as Lenoir County or NCDOT may require other services to be charged on an hourly rate, as necessary.**

### **SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS**

All LOIs are limited to **TEN (10)** 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. In order to reduce costs and to facilitate recycling; binders, dividers, tabs, etc. are prohibited. One staple in the upper left-hand corner is preferred.*

LOIs containing more than **TEN (10)** pages will not be considered.

***TWO (2) total copies of the LOI should be submitted.***

**Firms submitting LOIs are encouraged to carefully check them for conformance to the requirements stated above. If LOIs do not meet ALL of these requirements they will be disqualified. No exception will be granted.**

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

Following is a general description of the selection process:

- The LGA's Selection Committee will review all qualifying LOI submittals.
- Lenoir County's Selection Committee MAY shortlist a minimum of three (3) firms to be interviewed. Dates of shortlisting and dates for interviews are shown in the section SUBMISSION SCHEDULE AND KEY DATES at the end of this RFLOI.
- In order to be considered for selection, consultants must submit a complete response to this RFLOI prior to the specified deadlines. Failure to submit all information in a timely manner will result in disqualification.
- Lenoir County reserves the right to reject any and all submissions.

## **TITLE VI NONDISCRIMINATION NOTIFICATION**

The LGA in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all RESPONDENTS that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit LETTERS of INTEREST (LOIs) in response to this ADVERTISEMENT and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

## **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 Department's Subconsultant Form RS-2. RS-2 forms may be accessed on the Department's website at [NCDOT Connect Guidelines & Forms](#).

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

## **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 LOI**. An application may be accessed on the Department's website at [Prequalifying Private Consulting Firms](#) -- Learn how to become Prequalified as a Private Consulting Firm with NCDOT. Having this data on file with the Department eliminates the need to resubmit this data with each letter of interest.

Professional Services Contracts are race and gender neutral and do not contain goals. However, the Respondent is encouraged to give every opportunity to allow Disadvantaged, Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (DBE/MBE/WBE) subconsultant utilization on all LOIs, contracts and supplemental agreements. 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.

## **DIRECTORY OF FIRMS AND DEPARTMENT ENDORSEMENT**

Real-time information about firms doing business with the Department, and information regarding their prequalifications and certifications, is available in the Directory of Transportation Firms. The Directory can be accessed on the Department's website at [Directory of Firms](#) -- Complete listing of certified and prequalified firms.

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

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

**All prequalified firms who submit responsive letters of interest will be considered.**

In selecting a firm/team, the selection committee will take into consideration qualification information including such factors as:

1. **25 %** = Team Experience
2. **25 %** = Team Qualifications
3. **25 %** = Cost and Price
4. **25 %** = Technical Approach

If Lenoir County chooses to interview top scoring firms/teams. Then all interviewed firms will be rescored to include information gathered from the interview process.

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

## **SUBMISSION ORGANIZATION AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS**

The LOI should be addressed to **Adam Short, Assistant County Manager**, and must include the name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the prime consultant's contact person for this RFLOI.

The LOI must also include the information outlined below:

### Chapter 1 - **Introduction**

The Introduction should demonstrate the consultant's overall qualifications to fulfill the requirements of the scope of work and should contain the following elements of information:

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

### Chapter 2 - **Team Qualifications**

This chapter should elaborate on the general information presented in the introduction, to establish the credentials and experience of the consultant to undertake this type of effort. The following must be included:

1. Identify recent, similar projects the firm, acting as the prime contractor, has conducted which demonstrates its ability to conduct and manage the project. Provide a synopsis of each project and include the date completed, and contact person.
2. If subconsultants are involved, provide corresponding information describing their qualifications as requested in bullet number 1 above.

### Chapter 3 - **Team Experience**

This chapter must provide the names, classifications, and location of the firm's North Carolina employees and resources to be assigned to the advertised work; and the professional credentials and experience of the persons assigned to the project, along with any unique qualifications of key personnel. Although standard personnel resumes may be included, identify pertinent team experience to be applied to this project. Specifically, the Department is interested in the experience, expertise, and total quality of the consultant's proposed team. If principals of the firm will not be actively involved in the study/contract/project, do not list them. The submittal shall clearly indicate the Consultant's Project Manager, other key Team Members and his/her qualifications for the proposed work. Also, include the team's organization chart for the Project / Plan. A Capacity Chart / Graph (available work force) should also be included. Any other pertinent information should also be listed in this section.

**Note:** If a project team or subconsultant encounters personnel changes, or any other changes of significance dealing with the company, NCDOT should be notified immediately.

#### Chapter 4 - **Technical Approach**

The consultant shall provide information on its understanding of, and approach to accomplish, this project, including their envisioned scope for the work and any innovative ideas/approaches, and a prompt schedule to achieve the goals outlined in this RFLOI.

#### 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** to be, or anticipated to be, utilized by your firm.
  - Subconsultant Form RS-2 Rev 1/15/08.
  - 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.

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

The required forms are available on the Department's website at:

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/business/consultants/Pages/Guidelines-Forms.aspx>

[Prime Consultant Form RS-2](#)

[Subconsultant Form RS-2](#)

All submissions, correspondence, and questions concerning this RFLOI should be directed to **Adam Short** at 101 N. Queen Street, Kinston, NC 28501 or PO Box 3289 Kinston, NC 28502 or [adam.short@lenoircountync.gov](mailto:adam.short@lenoircountync.gov).

IF APPLICABLE, questions may be submitted electronically only, to the contact above. Responses will be issued in the form of an addendum available to all interested parties. Interested parties should also send a request, by email only, to the person listed above to be

placed on a public correspondence list to ensure future updates regarding the RFLOI or other project information can be conveyed. Questions must be submitted to the person listed above no later than **November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. The last addendum will be issued no later than **November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**.

## **SUBMISSION SCHEDULE AND KEY DATES**

RFLOI Release – **November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

Deadline for Questions – **November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Issue Final Addendum – **November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

Deadline for LOI Submission – **November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Interviews (if necessary) – **the weeks of December 9<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Firm Selection and Notification \* – **December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

\* Notification will **ONLY** be sent to selected firms.