

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROPOSALS ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING SERVICES

The Sample Contract provided with this Request for Proposals contains federal requirements which must be included with Proposals. Appendices C through K contain compliance requirements and certification forms which must accompany the Proposals. **Failure to comply with the requirements may result in finding the proposal to be nonresponsive.**

Additional information is provided below:

1. Eight (8) copies of the proposal are to be submitted to **Karla Weaver, AICP, Program Manager**, North Central Texas Council of Governments, 616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, Texas 76011 or P.O. Box 5888, Arlington, Texas 76005-5888. **Proposals must be received by 5:00 pm**, Central Standard Time, on Friday, November 18, 2011. Proposals received after that time will not be considered and will be returned to the proposer unopened. Proposals containing original signatures and notary seals should be labeled "Original."
2. The proposal should address the criteria identified in the Request for Proposals that will be used for consultant selection. Proposals should include, at a minimum, the following information.
 - **Proposal Formatting** – Proposals should be printed double-sided and include a footer containing consultant firm name, page number, and total pages in the proposal. (e.g., Planning firm 1 of 20).
 - **Cover Letter** -- A brief summary of the key points of the proposal and approach to accomplishing the work. Name and address of the firm, as well as the contact person's name, phone number, and email address should also be included.
 - **Project Understanding** - A general description of the approach to be used in accomplishing the work, including the project organization and management plan. Senior personnel who will work on the project, including subcontractor personnel, should be identified by name and by role in the project; e.g., project manager, principal in charge, project advisor, etc. The project manager in particular must be specified and a clear indication given as to his/her involvement in the project. If more than one firm will be involved, the proposal should clearly delineate the work to be accomplished by each firm and how the work will be coordinated and managed. Any special requirements or coordination needs should be clearly identified.
 - **Scope of Services and Schedule** - This section should respond to the Request for Proposals task descriptions for the project by describing clearly in detail what and how work in each task will be accomplished, the technical methodology to be used, and the planned work flow and schedule. A description should be included concerning quality control and how this will be maintained and accomplished during the course of this project.

- **Consultant Qualifications** - This section should identify the background and experience of the consulting firm(s) and individuals in similar types of work and the results of that experience, along with up-to-date references (name, current affiliation, and phone number), should be included. Knowledge of the Dallas-Fort Worth area should be specifically indicated.
 - **Compliance Requirements** - Appendices C through K of the Sample Contract contain compliance requirements and other certification forms which must accompany the Proposal.
 - **Affirmative Action Plan** - NCTCOG is required, under Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 21 to request from all contractors an Affirmative Action Plan for the contracting entity. Such a plan will be reviewed by NCTCOG to determine compliance with federal Equal Employment Opportunity requirements. You are requested, then, to submit a plan which should include, at a minimum, a policy statement and utilization analysis of your workforce. An indication of the number and percent of your employees who would be classified as minorities, including both women and ethnic minorities, should be provided. An indication of the number and percent in professional versus nonprofessional positions, or administration versus clerical positions, should also be provided.
3. The North Central Texas Council of Governments, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000(d) to 2000(d)(1) and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations Part 26, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs of the Department of Transportation issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all proposers that it will affirmatively assure that, in regard to any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin in consideration for an award.
 4. NCTCOG has established a Transportation Department-wide overall Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal of 25 percent of the final negotiated contract amount for participation on the part of socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in DOT-assisted projects. Each procurement will establish specific DBE goals dependent upon the type of services being procured. The specific goal for this procurement is identified in Appendix D to the sample contract. **Failure on the part of a majority contractor to meet this goal or to show meaningful good faith efforts may be grounds for finding the proposal nonresponsive.** To facilitate this goal, a list of DBEs is attached for consideration. In the event the proposer is a majority firm and the above stated goal for DBE participation is not met, the prime contractor shall be required to provide justification and documentation for not reaching the goal with disadvantaged subcontractors.

Joint ventures between majority and disadvantaged contractors are encouraged. Whenever a joint venture involves a disadvantaged firm(s), the proposer shall submit with the proposal the names, scope of work, and the anticipated percentage of work of each proposed DBE subcontractor and joint venture. The Affidavit of Intended Entrepreneurship, included as Attachment D.4 of the Sample Contract, is intended for this purpose. **Please submit the original notarized affidavit with the Proposal.** NCTCOG shall reserve the right to approve all substitutions of subcontracts.

For the purposes of this policy, a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise is defined as: A business enterprise that is owned and controlled by one or more socially and/or economically disadvantaged persons. "Owned and controlled" is specified as a business which is (1) a sole proprietorship legitimately owned by an individual who is a disadvantaged person or (2) a partnership or joint venture controlled by disadvantaged persons and in which at least 51 percent of the voting interest and 51 percent of the beneficial ownership interests legitimately are held by disadvantaged persons. Such persons include individuals who are Women, Black, Hispanic, Native Americans, Asian-Pacific Americans, Asian-Indian Americans, or any other minorities or individuals found to be disadvantaged by the Small Business Administration pursuant to Section 8(a) of the Small Business Act. **D/M/WBE Certificates issued by the North Central Texas Regional Certification Agency are required.**

The contractor shall maintain for three years such records as are necessary to determine compliance with their DBE obligations and shall submit regular reports to enable the North Central Texas Council of Governments to monitor this compliance.

5. The NCTCOG Executive Board encourages the use of local firms. However, all proposals, regardless of firm locale, will be evaluated using the consultant selection criteria contained in the Request for Proposals.
6. A consultant selection committee will review the proposals and select a firm it considers qualified to undertake the project. The selection of the proposal will be based on the technical proposal and interviews but will be subject to negotiation of conditions of cost satisfactory to NCTCOG. NCTCOG reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to contract for any or all portions of the project with the selected consultant.
7. After a consultant has been selected and negotiations have been completed, the selected firm will be asked to itemize the budget for the project on Form 60, which is included as Appendix B of the Sample Contract. The overall project budget should delineate the cost of personnel, fringe benefits, overhead supplies, printing, and travel. If a joint venture or subcontract is involved, the selected consultant will be asked to provide a budget for each firm. Overhead rates will be subject to approval and must be based on audited financial records; copies of support data for the overhead rate will be requested. Travel costs will be reimbursed as identified in the Sample Contract.
8. Procurement information shall be a public record to the extent provided by the Texas Open Records Act and the Freedom of Information Act and shall be available to the public as provided therein. If a proposal contains information that the proposer considers proprietary and does not want disclosed to the public or used for any purpose other than the evaluation of the offer, all such information must be indicated with the following suggested language:

The information contained on pages _____ shall not be duplicated or used in whole or in part, for any purpose other than to evaluate the proposal; provided that if a contract is awarded to this office as a result of or in connection with the submission of such information, NCTCOG has the right to duplicate, use or disclose this information to the extent provided in the contract.