

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROPOSALS
TECHNOLOGY AS A SERVICE
(UPDATED DUE DATE FOR PROPOSALS)

The Sample Contract provided with this Request for Proposals contains federal requirements which must be included with Proposals. Appendices C through I 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. Proposers may submit one hard copy or one flash drive of the proposal to Clint Hail, Transportation Planner III, North Central Texas Council of Governments, 616 Six Flags Drive, Arlington, Texas 76011. Flash drives should contain one file preferably with indexed sections. Flash drives that are unreadable or contain corrupted files may be considered non-responsive. Proposals must be received in-hand **no later than 5:00 p.m., Central Time, on Friday, August 6, 2021 at NCTCOG offices.** 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." The in-hand submittal will count as the official submittal. In addition to the in-hand submittal, NCTCOG is requesting electronic submission of proposal documents to TransRFPs@nctcog.org. Electronic submissions only will not be evaluated.

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 on 8.5 inch by 11 inch paper and include a footer or header containing prime consultant firm name, page number, and total pages in the proposal (e.g., Consultant Firm Name 1 of 30). Minimum font size should be 11 points. Page limits for individual sections are identified below. The compliance requirements/required forms do not count towards the page limits. Proposals must be submitted in English.

 - **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, title, phone number, and email address should also be included. The cover letter is limited to one (1) double-sided page (total of 2 pages).

 - **Project Knowledge and Understanding** – The proposal should provide evidence of an understanding of ways to optimize the travel of freight vehicles through signalized intersections, including strategies for engaging productively with local jurisdictions and the freight industry. Any challenges/opportunities, special requirements, or coordination needs should be identified. This section is limited to a total of twenty-five (25) pages.

 - **Project Approach and Schedule** – This section should respond to the Scope of Work included in the Request for Proposals by describing in detail how each task will be accomplished, the technical methodology to be used, and the planned work flow and a graphic schedule. This section should not merely repeat the Scope of Work provided in the Request for Proposals. If more than one firms will be involved, the proposal should clearly delineate the work to be accomplished by each firm, estimated percentage of work by firm, and how the work will be coordinated and managed by the prime consulting firm. This section is limited to a total of twenty-five (25) pages.

- **Consultant Qualifications** – This section must identify personnel who will perform the work, including subcontractor personnel. Personnel should be identified by name and by role in the project; e.g., project manager, engineering lead. The project manager must be specified. This section should identify similar projects performed by the consulting firm(s). Each project listed should include a brief description of the project and date completed as well as clearly identifying the individuals on the team that worked on the project and their role. Projects listed should include up-to-date references (name, current affiliation, e-mail, and phone number). This section is limited to a total of fifteen (15) pages.
 - **Compliance Requirements** – Appendices C through I 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.
 - **Entities that Boycott Israel (House Bill 89)** – If proposers are required to make a certification pursuant to Section 2271.002 of the Texas Government Code, proposers should include a certification statement that they do not and will not boycott Israel during the term of the contract resulting from this solicitation. If the proposer does not make that certification, proposer must indicate that in its response and state why the certification is not required.
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, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin in consideration for an award.
 4. The NCTCOG Transportation Department has a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program which encourages participation on the part of socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in DOT-assisted projects. The specific DBE goal requirement for this procurement is identified in the RFP and Appendix D to the Sample Contract and is determined by the type of services being procured. **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.2 of the Sample Contract, is intended for this purpose. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, NCTCOG will waive the requirement for a notary seal on Appendix D.2. NCTCOG shall reserve the right to approve all substitutions of subcontracts. 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. **NCTCOG will accept DBE Certificates issued by any member of the Texas Unified Certification Program.**

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 Texas Legislature has adopted House Bill 1295. In short, the law states a governmental entity or state agency may not enter into certain contracts with a business entity unless the business entity submits a disclosure of interested parties (Form 1295) to our agency at the time of a signed contract. As part of contract development, the consultant will be asked to complete the disclosure of interested parties electronically and submit through the Texas Ethics Commission website. NCTCOG will provide a specific contract number associated with the award for inclusion in the submittal. Once submitted, the consultant will be requested to return an e-mail confirmation of submittal to NCTCOG.

For more information about the process, please visit the following website for a Frequently Asked Questions: https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/FAQ_Form1295.html.

6. 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.
7. A consultant selection committee will review the proposals and select a firm it considers qualified to undertake the project. Proposal selection will be based on the technical proposal and/or 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.
8. 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 will be 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.

9. 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 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.