



OHIO TURNPIKE AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION

FAQs – 2021 Professional Design Service Contracts for Large Projects (over \$50,000)

June 30, 2021

- 1. If a firm has an existing construction administration and inspection contract with OTIC, will the firm be considered for a design project or is the firm ineligible for the design work because it already has a contract with the Commission and the Commission's new policy is intended to increase the number of firms doing business with the Commission?**

A firm that is presently performing construction administration and inspection services for the Commission will not be considered ineligible or excluded from consideration for a new contract for design work (or any other professional design services contract). However, that firm's current workload, including existing contracts with the Commission, will be considered during the evaluation process. The Commission's rating form includes a factor regarding "ability of the responding firm in terms of its workload and the availability of qualified personnel, equipment, and facilities to perform the required professional design services or design-build services competently." This factor is broken into three categories: (1) Organization, (2) Proposed Schedule and (3) Backlog with OTIC, each of which is scored with a value ranging from 1 to 5. A firm's current workload falls under the category "Proposed Schedule" on the rating form. A firm with an existing contract with the Commission may receive fewer points for this item in comparison to a firm without an existing contract with the Commission, while the firm without an existing contract with the Commission may receive up to 5 points on that category.

- 2. Will the 2021 Bridge Projects be advertised in groups?**

The Commission anticipates advertising the 2021 Bridge Projects in two groups, one to be issued during the summer and the other to be issued during the fall. The Commission will rely on those Statements of Qualifications submitted in response to the 2021-2022 Biennial Request for Qualifications for the procurement of these design services. Respondents will be expected to indicate in their responses to the Request for Letters of Interest the specific projects for which they are submitting a response.

- 3. How did the Commission derive the new bridge clearance height of 15 feet 6 inches?**

The Commission permits vehicles with a height of 13'-6" without a permit and 14'-0" with a permit. The Commission decided to increase the existing vertical clearance. This dimension is based on studies and discussions with and from ODOT and other resources.

- 4. In regard to the new ranking form, how does the Commission evaluate "past performance."**

The Commission considers past performance with the Commission and other public entities. Respondents are encouraged to include current and recent projects and experience most applicable to the projects being advertised for contracts. The lack of experience with the

Commission or other public entities will not foreclose a firm from being considered for contracting opportunities with the Commission.

5. Will the Commission continue to utilize the process of issuing a Request for Letters of Interest, creating a short-list and then having only the short-listed firms submit responses to a Request for Proposals?

In its discretion, and as determined on a per project basis, the Commission will utilize either a 1-step process (Request for Letters of Interest only) or a 2-step process (Request for Letters of Interest/Request for Proposals) depending on the project size, scope, schedule and determination of need.

6. The Commission stated it will be adding material testing services to the contracts for construction administration and inspection in the “near future.” When does the Commission anticipate this change to occur?

Due to existing material testing contracts currently in place, the Commission anticipates this change to occur at the end of 2022.

7. Will the Commission be holding meet-and-greet meetings in the near future?

Not this year. The Commission plans to hold an Open House meeting regarding professional design service contract opportunities and projects in January 2022, and each year thereafter. It is anticipated that the annual Open House will be followed by an opportunity for all to schedule individual meet-and-greet sessions (on a sign-up basis).

8. How will the Commission advertise professional design service contracts?

The Commission will advertise contract opportunities on the Commission’s website <https://www.ohioturnpike.org/business/doing-business-with-us/engineering-services> and send a notice to the list of firms with Statements of Qualifications on file for the project specific services. The Commission may also advertise contract opportunities through newspaper advertisement. At this time, the Commission will still utilize the Statement of Qualifications submitted under the 2021-2022 Biennial Request for Qualifications, but the Commission reserves the right to make additional changes to meet operational needs efficiently. Future changes to the RFQ process will be posted on the Commission’s website.

9. Does the Commission plan to do any design-build projects in the near future?

Most Commission projects have a detailed design which is not best suited for design-build. However, there may be projects in the future that warrant considering the design-build delivery method.