Procurement for Federally Funded Projects

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Presentation Outline

- Procurement Basics
 - Rules & Regulations
 - Various Methods & Definition
- Procurement Process for Local Aid Projects
 - Written Policies & Procedure Requirements
 - ▶ Local Aid Review Requirements prior to advertisement
 - RFP Package Requirements
 - Advertisement Requirements
 - Evaluation & Selection Process
 - Negotiation Process
 - Agreement
 - Monitor

Presentation Outline

- Procurement Mistakes to Avoid
 - ► Rating vs Ranking
 - ► Technical Proposal vs Cost Proposal
 - ► Negotiating the Indirect Cost Rates
- ► Additional Resources
- ► Q&A Session

- Procurement of Professional Services for Engineering and Design Related Work
 - ► Engineering and design related services are defined as "program management, construction management, feasibility studies, preliminary engineering, design, engineering, surveying, mapping or architectural related services" (as specified in 23 U.S.C. §112(b)(2)(A) and 23 CFR §172.3).
 - Engineering and Design Related Services (Most Common for Local Aid Projects)
 - ► Preliminary Engineering Phase
 - ► Final Design Phase
 - Construction Phase (Construction Inspections and/or Construction Support Services)

IMPORTANT NOTE

Conflict of Interest

Construction Inspection cannot be performed by the same consultant who has provided design for the project.

- Procurement of Professional Services for Engineering and Design Related Work...
 - ► Contracts for Engineering and Design related services which utilize Federal-Aid Highway program funds must comply with the requirements established in 23 USC 112 and 23 CFR Part 172
 - Many additional Federal laws and regulations apply to the procurement and administration of engineering and design related services.

- Regulations that govern Federal Funds
 - 2 CFR 200 (Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federally Funded Projects
 - ▶ 23 CFR Part 172 (Procurement, Management, and Administration of Engineering and Design Related Services)
 - ► 48 CFR 31 Contract Cost Principles and Procedures

- Consultant Procurement Methods
 - 1. Competitive Negotiation | Qualifications-based Selection | The Brooks Act
 - 2. Small Purchases
 - 3. Noncompetitive

This is what we use for most of Local Aid Projects

- Competitive Negotiation (Qualifications-based Selection | The Brooks Act)
 - Generally apply when the engineering and design-related services you need directly relate to a construction project
 - Unlike low-bid contracting, the Brooks Act requires the selection of a consultant based on its qualifications to provide the needed services.

Competitive Negotiation

- The Brooks Act also requires basing the contract amount on a fair and reasonable cost that is negotiated by the agency and the selected firm.
- ▶ Under competitive negotiation procedures, the goal is to determine and agree to contract terms for "fair and reasonable" compensation, considering the scope and complexity of the work.
- Agencies are required to develop an independent cost estimate (ICE) to serve as a basis for negotiations with the selected consultant. Competitive negotiations take place after selection and only with the selected firm. If a fair price cannot be negotiated based on the ICE, the LPA can go to the next qualified firm.

Small Purchases

- These procedures apply when total contract costs will not exceed the Federal simplified acquisition threshold of \$150,000. If the total contract costs are below the established threshold, applicable State small-purchase procedures may be used to procure engineering and design-related consultant services.
- If a State has an established threshold lower than the Federal \$150,000 threshold, the lower State threshold will apply to the use of Federal-aid funds. If the total contract costs are below the established threshold, applicable State small-purchase procedures may be used to procure engineering and design-related consultant services.

▶ Small Purchases - For New Jersey: State Government - State Contracting law NJ 52:34-7 State bid

advertising thresholds.

52:34-7 State bid advertising thresholds.

As per NJ Dept. Treasury Circular No.: 22-09-DPP (Effective January 18, 2022) - Bid Threshold was increase to \$150,000.00.

(This is not applicable for Local Aid Projects since LPA have to follow local public contract law,

2. a. Any such purchase, contract or agreement may be made, negotiated, or awarded by the Director of the Division of Purchase and Property or the Director of the Division of Building and Construction, as the case may be, without advertising, in any manner which the director may deem effective to promote full and free competition whenever competition is practicable, if: (1) the aggregate amount involved does not exceed \$25,000.00 or the amount determined pursuant to subsection b. of this section; or (2) (Deleted by amendment, P.L. 1985, c.107) or (3) the aggregate amount involved including labor and construction materials does not exceed \$25,000.00 or the amount determined pursuant to subsection b. of this section in the case of contracts or agreements for the erection, construction, alteration, or repair of any public building or facility.

When the aggregate amount involved does not exceed \$25,000.00 or the amount determined pursuant to subsection b. of this section in the case of contracts or agreements for the erection, construction, alteration, or repair of any public building or facility, the Director of the Division of Purchase and Property or the Director of the Division of Building and Construction may, at the director's discretion, delegate to the appropriate State department or using agency the director's authority to make, negotiate, or award a contract or agreement without advertising.

The Director of the Division of Purchase and Property or the Director of the Division of Building and Construction, as the case may be, shall establish, in accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations concerning procedural requirements for the making, negotiating or awarding of purchases, contracts or agreements pursuant to this section, at the director's discretion.

b.The Governor, in consultation with the Department of the Treasury, shall, no later than March 1 of every fifth year beginning in the fifth year after the year in which P.L.1999, c.440 takes effect, adjust the threshold amount set forth in subsection a. of this section, or the threshold amount resulting from any adjustment under this subsection, in direct proportion to the rise or fall of the index rate as that term is defined in section 2 of P.L.1971, c.198 (C.40A:11-2), and shall round the adjustment to the nearest \$1,000. The Governor shall, no later than June 1 of every fifth year, notify the Director of the Division of Purchase and Property and the Director of the Division of Building and Construction of the adjustment. The adjustment shall become effective on July 1 of the year in which it is made.

- ▶ Small Purchases For New Jersey: Local Government Local Contracting law 40A:11-3
 - a. When the cost or price of any contract awarded by the contracting agent in the aggregate does not exceed in a contract year the total sum of \$17,500, the contract may be awarded by a purchasing agent or other employee so designated by the governing body when so authorized by ordinance or resolution, as appropriate to the contracting unit, without public advertising for bids, except that the governing body of any contracting unit may adopt an ordinance or resolution to set a lower threshold for the receipt of public bids or the solicitation of competitive quotations. If a purchasing agent has been appointed, the governing body of the contracting unit may establish that the bid threshold may be up to \$25,000 or the threshold amount adjusted by the Governor pursuant to subsection c. of this section. Such authorization may be granted for each contract or by a general delegation of the power to negotiate and award such contracts pursuant to this section.
 - b. Any contract made pursuant to this section may be awarded for a period of 24 consecutive months, except that contracts for professional services pursuant to subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 5 of P.L.1971, c. 198 (C.40A:11-5) may be awarded for a period not exceeding 12 consecutive months. The Division of Local Government Services shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations concerning the methods of accounting for all contracts that do not coincide with the contracting unit's fiscal year.
 - c. The Governor, in consultation with the Department of the Treasury, shall, no later than March 1 of every fifth year beginning in the fifth year after the year in which P.L.1999, c. 440 takes effect, adjust the threshold amount, in direct proportion to the rise or fall of the index rate as that term is defined in section 2 of P.L.1971, c. 198 (C.40A:11-2), and shall round the adjustment to the nearest \$1,000. The Governor shall, no later than June 1 of every fifth year, notify each governing body of the adjustment. The adjustment shall become effective on July 1 of the year in which it is made.

Noncompetitive

- ► This method may be used in limited circumstances where the service is available only from a single source, an emergency exists, or where competition is determined to be inadequate after a solicitation has been made.
- You must obtain approval from FHWA for each use of this procurement method.

- For Local Aid Purpose We are mostly using Method 1
 - ► Competitive Negotiation | Qualifications-based Selection | The Brooks Act
- ▶ To be eligible for Federal Funds:
 - ► Each Local Public Agency seeking federal-aid funds must complete NJDOT Division of Local Aid's Federal Aid Eligibility Assessment.
 - Local Public Agency must have written procurement policies and procedures (This is reviewed as part of Federal Aid Eligibility Assessment)

- ▶ The required written policies and procedures must address:
 - Preparing a scope of work and cost estimate for selecting a consultant
 - ▶ The solicitation, evaluation, ranking, and selection of consultants
 - Negotiation of consultant reimbursement
 - Monitoring a consultant's work
 - Consultant errors and omissions.

- Overview of the Procurement Process for Local Aid Projects
 - 1. Prepare RFP package & submit to Local Aid District Office for review
 - 2. Local Aid District office to review & provide approval to advertise RFP
 - 3. Advertise RFP
 - 4. Receive Proposals
 - 5. Evaluate & Select
 - 6. Negotiate
 - 7. Agreement
 - 8. Monitor

- ▶ LPA to prepare and submit the package including the following for Local Aid Review prior to advertisement:
 - Detailed Request for Proposal (RFP)
 - Evaluation Criteria
 - Independent Cost Estimate (ICE)



- Detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) should include the following at minimum:
 - Detailed Scope of Work (Project Locations and Existing Conditions; Description of Proposed Improvements, Location Map; Project related tasks and deliverables)
 - Method of Payment (Cost Plus Fixed Fee)
 - ► General Instructions (Submission of Proposals; Quotations, Proposals, and Forms; Interpretations and Questions; Award of Contract; New Jersey Anti-Discrimination; Mandatory Affirmative Action Certifications; Insurance Requirements; Indemnifications; Payment; Termination; Other applicable requirements)
 - ▶ Submission of Proposals (Separate sealed cost proposals will be received by the Purchasing Agent on January xx,xxxx, 10:00 a.m. EST at specific location; number of copies)
 - Creation of a Proposal Requirements Checklist for additional information such as: (Copies of DBE Certifications; Proof of NJDOT approved Overhead Rates; New Jersey Business Registration; Statement of Ownership; Non-Collusion Affidavit; Acknowledgement of Receipt of Addendum; Checklist Signature Page)

Evaluation Criteria					
Quality and Presentation of proposal	Understanding of Project Scope	Team's experience with Similar Projects			
Teams experience with Federal Projects	Relevant Experiences of Resident Engineer/Team Lead/Project Manager	Overall Project Team Experience			
Technical Qualifications (Education, Certification, Licenses)	Project Management Plan (QA/QC)	Comprehensive Work Plan			
Team's Location	Firm/Team's Overall Workload & Capabilities	Schedule			

Price shall not be used as a factor in the evaluation, ranking, and selection phase. All price or cost related items which include, but are not limited to, cost proposals, direct salaries/wage rates, indirect cost rates, and other direct costs are prohibited from being used as evaluation criteria.

Project Manager	Project Specific Education, License and Other Requirements (TP Section 5)	Experience On Similar Projects (TP Section 6)	Similar Project Experience (TP Sections 6 & 7)
PROJECT MANAGER	Requirements for Project Manager	UP TO 6 PROJECTS 4 TO 10 YEARS	EXPERIENCE IN NJDOT PROJECT DELIVERY PROCESS WITH THE MANAGEMENT OF AT LEAST ONE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT WITH SIMILAR SIZE AND COMPLEXITY FROM PRELIMINARY DESIGN/ENGINEERING PHASE THROUGH THE COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION WITHIN LAST 15 YEARS. DEPUTY PROJECT MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE CAN (CANNOT) BE APPLIED FOR 1-3 PROJECTS. EXPERIENCE WITH FHWA'S NEPA PROCESS. EXPERIENCE IN MAINTAINING PROJECT'S BUDGET, SCHEDULE, SCOPE AND QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR BUDGET, SCHEDULE AND DELIVERY OF DESIGN DOCUMENTS/ STUDY REPORTS. EXPERIENCE IN PROJECT'S PUBLIC OUTREACH. EXPERIENCE IN PROJECT'S PUBLIC OUTREACH. EXPERIENCE IN PROJECT SPECIFIC CATEGORIES MARKED IN RED BELOW): -HIGHWAY DESIGN INCLUDING GEOMETRIC DESIGN AND/OR DRAINAGE DESIGN AND/OR TRAFFIC SIGNALAGE PROJECTION OR TRAFFIC SIGNALAGE PAYENGERING AND/OR ITSAND/OR PAYEMENT DESIGN AND/OR TRAFFIC SIGNALAGE PAYEMINEERING AND/OR ITSAND/OR PAYEMENT DESIGN AND/OR TRAFFIC SIGNALAGE PAYEMINEERING
	These requiremen	ts are a	irrently being undated. You

GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING	BSCE NJPE	UP TO 6 PROJECTS	PERFORMED FOUNDATION, RETAINING WALL, SHEET PILE, NOISE WALL, SIGN STRUCTURE DESIGN
		3 TO 5 YEARS	PERFORMED SETTLEMENT, STABILITY ANALYSIS PERFORMED WAVE EQUATION, DRIVABILITY, PILE DYNAMIC ANALYSIS PREPARED FOUNDATION REPORTS EXPERIENCE WITH NJDOT (AASHTO BRIDGE AND STRUCTURE DESIGN MANUAL
PAVEMENT DESIGN	Team Leader Requirements	UP TO 6 PROJECTS 2 TO RS	CONCRETE PAVEMENT REHAB TECHNIQUES SOIL MECHANICS – RESILIENT MODULUS AND SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE SUPERPAVE LEVEL! LIFE CYCLE COST ANALYSIS BACK CALCULATION OF FWD DEFLECTION DATA. EXPERIENCE WITH SHRP LTTP DISTRESS IDENTIFICATION MANUAL EXPERIENCE WITH ASSHTO GUIDE FOR DESIGN OF PAVEMENT STRUCTURES. 1993 OR
HYDRAULICS AND HYDROLOGY	BSCE TRAINING OR EXPERIENCE IN DRAINAGE DESIGN	UP TO 6 PROJECTS	LATER DESIGN OF RETENTION AND DETENTION BASIN FOR WATER QUALITY PERFORMED HIGHWAY STORM WATER
	SOFTWARE (I.E. HEC-RAS, PONDPACK, HYDROCAD, STORMCAD, WATERSHED MODELING SYSTEM (WMS)) TRAINING IN SCOUR	4 TO 6 YEARS	DRAINAGE SPREAD CALCULATIONS AND DEVELOPED STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN. PERFORMED SCOUR ANALYSIS AND FLOOD ROUTING CALCULATIONS
C	est version at the f	. 11	DESIGN

These requirements are currently being updated. You can find the latest version at the following link: https://www.state.nj.us/transportation/contribute/business/procurement/ProfServ/pdf/KeyStaffStandards.pdf

DESIGN DROCAD, DELING

ZARD

GEOTECHNICAL AND FOUNDATION DESIGN
AND/OR SUBSTRUCTURE DESIGN AND/OR
RETAINING WALL DESIGN AND OR CULVERT
UTILITY

EXPERIENCE IN CONSTRUCTION
 ENGINEERING INCLUDING SHOP DRAWING
 REVIEWS, CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE
 REVIEWS, AND PREPARATION OF CHANGE OF
PI ANS.

UTILITY
ENGINEERING

BS IN ENGINEERING
UP TO 6
PROJECTS

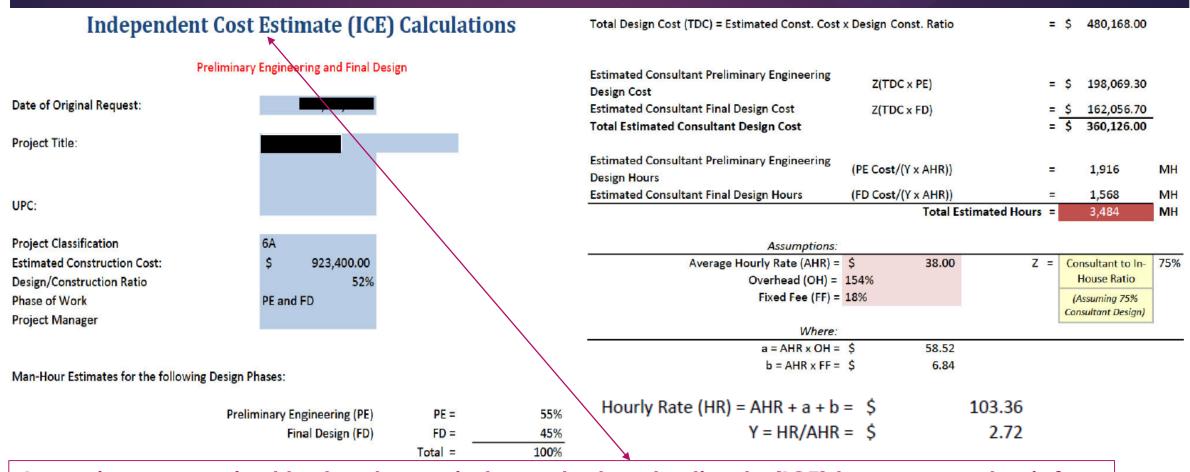
3 TO 5 YEARS

PREPARATION OF UTILITY
 RELOCATION SCHEMES AND DESIGNCONSTRUCTION PLANS
 PREPARATION OF UTILITY AGREEMENT PLANS

MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS.

 PREPARATION OF STILLITY AGREEMENT PLANS
 PREPARATION OF SPECIFICATIONS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS)

EXPERIENCE WITH NJDOT CAPITAL PROJECT



Agencies are required to develop an <u>independent cost estimate (ICE)</u> to serve as a basis for negotiations with the selected consultant. Remember The Brooks Act - this is required to be <u>"fair and reasonable"</u>

Independent Cost Estimate

UPC Project Title Project Classification Phase of Work Request Date

6A PE and FD 05/14/21 Preliminary ICE Final ICE
Preliminary ICE w/Consultant Comparison Report
Final ICE w/Consultant Comparison Report

PM 0
Est. Const. Cost \$ 923,400.00
Design Const Ratio 52%

Prepared by

Total %	PE %	Unit Description	Total Hours Prelim. & Final	PE Hours	FD Hours	Recommended FD Hours
8	57	PM (Consultant)	279	159	120	
2	100	Survey	70	70	0	
4	50	Utilities	139	70	70	
48	40	Prepare Roadway Plans	1,672	669	1,003	
0	0 100	Geometrics	0	0	0	
	100		0	0	0	
	0	Design Exception	0	0	0	
	0	Access	0	0	0	
	0	ROW Engineering	0	0	0	
	0	Structures	0	0	0	
4	100	Community Involvement	139	139	0	
4	4 100	Environmental	139	139	0	
	0	Cultural Resources	0	0	0	
	0	Hazardous Waste	0	0	0	
10	30	Traffic/Electrical/Lighting	348	105	244	
21	0	Specs/Reviews	732	0	732	
0	0	ITS	0	0	0	
0	0	Construction Support services	0	0	0	
	1	Total Hours	3,484	1,350	2,169	0

- Advertisement
 - Must be approved by Local Aid prior to advertisement
 - ▶ Two (2) Legal Newspapers (1 Local & 1 Regional) for three (3) consecutive weeks
 - ▶ LPA will provide at least 14 working days after the last advertisement for the Consultant to respond to the solicitation



- Evaluation & Selection
 - ▶ LPA receives the proposals at the designated time and place. A <u>separate sealed</u> cost proposal is submitted as part of the proposal.
 - ▶ Proposals are evaluated and ranked independently by members of the Consultant Selection Committee (CSC). The consultant Selection Committee shall consist of at least three individuals
 - All submitted proposals must be evaluated and ranked according to the evaluation criteria and scoring process outline in the RFP. CSC members review and score independently. CSC members should meet to go over scores to make sure there are no anomalies

- Evaluation & Selection
 - ▶ The members of the Consultant Selection Committee meet to discuss the rankings and, if necessary, ask the top ranked Consultants to make an oral presentation. This requirement for presentation should be part of the RFP to be applicable.
 - ▶ The top ranked Consultant is selected, and their cost proposal is opened.



Ensure proper ratings have been assigned prior to opening the cost proposal of the selected consultant.

Negotiation

- The LPA negotiates the Man-hours with the selected Consultant. Approved Independent Cost prepared prior to advertisement is used as the basis for the negotiation to arrive at a fair and reasonable compensation for the solicited services.
- Only work included in the original advertised scope of services are incorporated into the contract.
- ► The allowable costs include the direct costs associated with the specific of the contract as well as overhead costs. Only NJDOT approved overhead rates are used. All prime firms must be Cost Basis Approved (CBA) with NJDOT. The following link provides additional information: https://www.state.nj.us/transportation/business/procurement/ProfServ/CostBasisApprov.shtm



- ▶ If a satisfactory negotiation cannot be reached with the number one Firm, then cost proposal of number two Firm will be opened.
- All other Cost Proposals are returned <u>unopened</u> after a successful negotiation process.

<u>Important Note:</u>

Formally Terminate Negotiate before moving to the second consultant. You can only negotiate with one consultant at a time



- ► LPA must ensure compliance with the federal aid agreement requirements. Costs incurred prior to the execution of agreement are not reimbursable. Non-compliance to these requirements can jeopardize the project funding.
- Project end date is defined within the executed agreement and all work must be completed prior to the project end date to be eligible for reimbursement.
- Project end date cannot be modified without proper executed agreement modification. Administrative delays are usually not considered a valid reason to support agreement modification.

- Once an agreement is executed, the consultant's work must be monitored for the life of the contract for services.
- ▶ LPA must be adequately staffed to oversee this work, and at a minimum must provide at least one full-time LPA employee in responsible charge of the consultant's work.
- ► LPA should monitor the consultant's work for quality and completeness, and invoices must be consistent with the contract terms and the FAR cost principles.



Mistakes to Avoid

- Rating vs Ranking
 - ▶ Ratings are based on a pre-established evaluation criteria. Ranking a firm based on preference or other factors is not allowed.
 - All raters provide scores in each of the evaluation criteria, and each raters scores are totaled. Ranking of the firms does not apply until the end when all of the raters scores for each firm are added together and averaged. The averaged total score for each firm establishes the ranking.

Mistakes to Avoid

- ▶ Technical Proposal vs Cost Proposal
 - Requiring Man Hours as part of the technical proposal
 - ► Man-Hours CANNOT be included with any technical proposal. They should be submitted in separate sealed cost proposal only. Overhead rates cannot be part of the technical proposal either.
 - ▶ A Man-Hour estimate is a direct relationship to cost. It is strictly not allowed.

Mistakes to Avoid

- Negotiating the Indirect Cost Rates
 - An accepted and approved indirect cost rate must be used for purposes of contract estimation, negotiation, and administration and it cannot be negotiated or subjectively capped.
 - ▶ NJDOT Bureau of External Audit approves indirect cost rate of consultant in compliance with the FAR cost principles.

Additional Resources

- Information on FHWA's consultant services policy and guidance http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/consultant.cfm
- Additional regulation on administration of engineering and design-related service contracts http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi/t/text/text- idx?c=ecfr&sid=88df046e4fbccfb189a147f0e13d2e15&rgn=div5&view=text&node=23:1.0.1.2.3&idno=23
- Federal regulations on administration of engineering and design-related service contracts http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi/t/text/text-
 <a href="mailto:idx?c=ecfr&sid=2d0307d68fc3ad4e117788370d178f2e&rgn=div5&view=text&node=48:1.0.1.5.30&idno=48:1.0.1.5.30
- Information on consultant services in Q & A format http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/172qa.cfm
- Link to Guidance Document for NJDOT Activity Description Grouped by Phases https://www.nj.gov/transportation/capital/pd/guidance.shtm -
- Federal Aid Essential <u>Hiring a Consultant Using Competitive Negotiation Procedures Other Programs-</u> Federal-aid Essentials for Local Public Agencies (dot.gov)

