

Advertised: **May 5, 2021**

McDowell County

REQUEST for LETTERS of INTEREST (RFLOI)

**ENGINEERING FOR GREENWAY TRAILS AND RELATED
APPURTENANCES**

TITLE: EB- 5619 McDowell County – Fonta Flora Trail

ISSUE DATE: May 5, 2021

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: June 4, 2021

ISSUING AGENCY: McDowell 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 and/or subconsultant firm(s) shall be pre-qualified by the Department to perform any combination of the Discipline Codes listed below for McDowell County. Discipline Codes required are:

Work Code #	Work Code Description
201	Rural Roadway Design
269	Urban Roadway Design

341	Roadway Lighting
235	SUE (Subsurface Utility Engineering)
199	Route Location Surveys
433	Tier I Basic Hydrologic and Hydraulic Design
23	Bridges – Spans over 200'
24	Bridges – Spans under 200'
294	Roadway Foundation Investigation & Design
296	Retaining Wall Investigation & Design
299	Cantilever Retaining Wall Design
300	Anchored Retaining Wall Design
364	MSE Retaining Wall Design
207	Signal Design
208	Signal Equipment Design
155	Pavement Marking Plans
32	Categorical Exclusions
243	Threatened and Endangered Species Survey & Studies
59	Ecological & Biotic Community Studies
280	Wetland and Stream Delineation
76	Freshwater Mussel Surveys
287	Wetland, Stream and Buffer Permitting
152	Pavement Design
70	Erosion and Sediment Control Design
270	Utility Coordination
194	Right of Way Negotiators
192	Right of Way Appraisals
13	Appraisal Review
316	Multi-Use Trail Design, Survey & Layout
132	Landscape & Streetscape Design

WORK CODES for each primary and/or subconsultant 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:

For the purposes of providing engineering services for the development of greenway trails and related appurtenances such as bridges, culverts, parking lots, and accessory structures.

The County of McDowell is seeking a qualified firm to provide general civil engineering consultation and design services under the direction of County Staff. The firm will provide civil engineering services which may include, but are not to be limited to, planning, survey, and design and construction administration for: stormwater, sidewalk, water and sewer, road, and greenway (up to and including bridge) construction, GIS/GPS, traffic studies, traffic impact analysis, hydraulic studies, environmental studies, geotechnical studies, and other general civil engineering services as needed.

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

LOIs SHALL be received electronically, by mail, or by hand delivery no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 4, 2021.

The address for electronic deliveries is: awooten@mcdowellgov.com

**The address for mailings is:
McDowell County
100 Spaulding Road, Suite 1, Marion, NC 28752**

**The address for hand-deliveries is:
McDowell County
100 Spaulding Road, Suite 1, Marion, NC 28752**

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.

SCOPE OF WORK

The **MCDOWELL COUNTY** is soliciting proposals for the services of a firm/team for the following contract scope of work:

PROPOSED CONTRACT SCOPE:

McDowell County is seeking statements of qualifications from firms for the purpose of providing engineering services for the development of the Fonta Flora Trail greenway and related appurtenances such as bridges, culverts, parking lots, and accessory structures.

Description of Services:

The scopes will include design, surveying and right-of-way acquisition. Federal funds will be utilized on this project. As such, experience in complying with the NCDOT's federally funded municipally managed process according to the "Local Programs Management Handbook" is necessary.

Design Professional services may include:

- **Preliminary Engineering/Traffic Analysis**
- **Survey Services**
- **Environmental Documentation (Categorical Exclusion)**
- **Hydraulic Analysis**
- **Preparation of easement and/or right-of-way maps**
- **Subsurface utility investigation**
- **Design of ancillary utility relocations**
- **Preparation of Construction Documents**
- **Preparation of Regulatory permit applications**
- **Participation in Public Meetings**
- **Coordination with outside agencies such as NCDOT, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Private Utility companies, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ), Army Corps of Engineers or Norfolk Southern.**

The consultant must be able to deliver all possible services for acquiring all the property rights required for each project assignment. The acquisitions will include but are not necessarily limited to: Fee Whole parcels, Fee Partial parcels, Various Permanent Easements and Temporary Construction Easements. In addition, the consultant will perform the necessary relocations required for the assigned project. The consultant will be required to perform Right-of-Way Services based on an assigned task authorization, for the completion of the task or project in accordance with G.S. 136-28.1 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, as amended, and in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Uniform Appraisal Standards and General Legal Principles for Highway Right of Way, the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Right of Way Manual, the North Carolina Department of Transportation's Rules and Regulations for the Use of Right-of-Way Consultants, the Code of Federal Regulations, and Chapter 133 of the General Statutes of North Carolina from Section 133-5 through 133-18, hereby incorporated by reference, including the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended.

Right-of-Way services may include:

- Provide appraisal reviews complying with NCDOT's Uniform Appraisal Standards and General Legal Principles for Highway Right-of-Way Acquisitions. The reviewer shall determine that the appraisal meets NCDOT's guidelines and requirements, conforms to acceptable appraisal standards and techniques, does not include any non-compensable items or exclude any compensable items and that the value conclusions are reasonable and based on facts presented in the appraisal. The reviewer has the authority to approve, adjust, request additional data or corrections, not to recommend and to request another appraisal.
- Prepare, execute and record documents with the Register of Deeds conveying title to acquired properties to the Town or NCDOT as appropriate for each task.
- Deliver all executed and recorded deeds and easements to the Town.
- All reports, surveys, studies, specifications, memoranda, estimates, and other documents relative to the completion of the task, including a right-of-way project tracking report and right-of-way quality control plan, or secured by and for the consultant shall be furnished and delivered to the Town and shall remain the property of the Town for use for any public purpose without compensation to the consultant.
- With respect to the payments, costs and fees associated with the acquisition of right of way in this contract or other services, the Town shall be responsible for only direct payments to property owners for negotiated settlements, recording fees, any relocation benefits, and deposits and fees associated with the filing of condemnation. The Town shall assume responsibility for all costs associated with the litigation of condemned claims, including testimony by the appraiser(s).

PROPOSED CONTRACT TIME: 10 months

PROPOSED CONTRACT PAYMENT TYPE: Lump Sum

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

All LOIs are limited to **FIFTEEN (15)** 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 FIFTEEN (15) 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.
- For Limited Services Contracts (On-Call type contracts), the LGA's Selection Committee MAY, at the LGA's discretion, choose any number of firms to provide the services being solicited.
- For Project-Specific Contracts (non On-Call type contracts), the LGA's Selection Committee MAY, at the LGA's discretion, shortlist a minimum of three (3) firms to be interviewed. IF APPLICABLE, 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.

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%** = Related project experience.
2. **25%** = Availability of equipment and facilities to do the needed work expeditiously.
3. **25%** = Present workload with attention to current and future commitments.
4. **25%** = The firm's approach to plan development, organization and management of a project,.

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 **Ashley Wooten 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 firms' 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 schedule to achieve the dates outlined in this RFLOI (if any project-specific dates are outlined below).

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 **Blair Melton** at blair.melton@mcdowellgov.com.

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 **May 22, 2021**. The last addendum will be issued no later than **'May 31, 2021'**.

SUBMISSION SCHEDULE AND KEY DATES

RFLOI Release – **May 5, 2021**

Deadline for Questions – **May 22, 2021**

Issue Final Addendum – **May 31, 2021**

Deadline for LOI Submission – **June 4, 2021**

Firm Selection and Notification - **June 15, 2021**