

Request for Information & Notice of Open Forum

Carolina Crossroads

I-20/26/126 Corridor Improvement Project

Lexington and Richland Counties, South Carolina

10/17/2018



Prepared for South Carolina Department of Transportation
and the Federal Highway Administration

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (“SCDOT”) hereby invites interested parties to respond to this Request for Information (“RFI”) regarding a prospective future solicitation to:

Deliver the Carolina Crossroads I-20/26/126 Corridor Improvement Project (“Carolina Crossroads” or “Project”) using a Design-Build (“DB”) framework to design and construct the Project.

The purpose of this RFI is to seek the industry’s perspective and feedback on the questions presented herein and to provide an opportunity for industry input on the overall procurement process, project scope and project delivery approach. Interested firms and parties are strongly encouraged to submit responses with detailed comments. The information contained in the responses to this RFI will help SCDOT progress planning and development efforts for the Project, and help confirm or refine SCDOT’s project procurement, and delivery approach, and may result in the launch of a formal procurement.

1.2 EFFECT OF THIS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

This RFI is an inquiry only, intended solely to assist SCDOT on an administrative level, and is not a formal solicitation or initiation of a procurement process. Submissions will not be evaluated. No contract or agreement will be entered into as a result of this RFI.

This RFI does not represent a commitment to issue a Request for Qualifications (“RFQ”) or a Request for Proposals (“RFP”) in the future, or a commitment that a subsequent procurement, if any, will follow any delivery approach described herein. Therefore, those choosing to respond to this RFI will not, merely by virtue of providing any manner of response, be deemed to be “Proposers” on the Project in any sense.

Submission of responses is not a prerequisite for participating in a future procurement. Participation in this RFI, ensuing Open Forum, RFI one-on-one meetings, or an election not to participate, will not confer on any Respondent any preference, special designation, advantage or disadvantage whatsoever in any subsequent procurement process related to the Project.

The Carolina Crossroads Project is only a potential project at this time and remains in the environmental process. No record of decision (ROD) has been obtained. It is possible that the Project scope may be modified through the environmental process. Nothing contained in this RFI is intended to modify, limit or otherwise constrain the environmental process or commit SCDOT or any other entity to undertake any action with respect to the Carolina Crossroads, including any action to procure, design or construct a potential project.

1.3 INVITATION TO RESPOND

SCDOT welcomes responses to this RFI from independent companies or corporations, or from consortia or partnerships that have a potential interest in acting as design-build contractors or designers for a DB Project (“Respondents”). Responses from a variety of firms and organizations are encouraged; specifically those firms with a record of accomplishment in the design and/or construction of major interchange construction projects.

1.4 SUBMISSIONS, QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Any questions concerning this RFI should be directed to SCDOT Contracting Officer Gary Schneider at SchneideGA@scdot.org.

Those wishing to submit an RFI are REQUIRED to upload their completed RFI online through PROJECTWISE in .pdf format. Please enable the Commenting or User Rights Feature before uploading your response. As Respondents may utilize different versions of Adobe, consider using an internet search engine or Help feature of the specific Adobe program to find instructions on how to enable comments.

RFI responses that are uploaded in ProjectWise **shall** be named with the following format:
CCR_RFI_RespondingFirmName.pdf.

Please contact Matthew Boozer at 803-737-7453 or BoozerML@scdot.org to set up an account to begin utilizing the electronic submittal process. Only one completed submittal per Respondent will be accepted. Please be advised of the time required to set up a new account. All requests for new accounts must be received 3 business days prior to the RFI due date indicated in Section 2.3. A business day is hereby defined as a day in which SCDOT Headquarters is open for business. More information regarding ProjectWise is available at http://www.scdot.org/doing/constructionletting_Projectwise.aspx. Other than the naming convention requirements indicated in this section, Respondents shall adhere to the Design Build Electronic Submission requirements outlined in the Electronic Submission and Retrieval Guide at the above link.

In the event a Respondent is unable to submit its RFI response through ProjectWise, the Respondent shall contact SCDOT Contracting Officer to request to submit a response in another format.

Respondents are required to comply with the page requirements stipulated in Appendix A (Questionnaire) and to restrict their submissions to a short letter of transmittal, together with the information specifically requested on the Questionnaire.

Marketing materials are not to be submitted as part of a written response.

Respondent's submission shall be uploaded to ProjectWise no later than the RFI due date indicated in Section 2.3. Late submissions may not be considered.

1.5 OPEN FORUM

SCDOT will host an Open Forum for industry participants. The Open Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, November 14, 2018 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM in the Lexington Room of the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center located at 1101 Lincoln Street, Columbia, South Carolina, 29201. At the Open Forum, SCDOT intends to present the latest Project status. Please try to limit your attendance to five people per firm, if possible. Please note that submission of a response to the RFI is not required to attend the Open Forum.

While the forum is geared toward informing the industry about the project, it will also serve as a platform for interactions between larger (national/international) entities and interested regional and local firms and

contractors. The formal Open Forum meeting will be held from 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM and the room will remain available from 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM for communication and information exchange between larger and smaller firms. SCDOT will have representatives from the Office of Minority and Small Business Affairs to answer questions about the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program.

1.6 ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS

SCDOT may elect to hold one-on-one meetings with those firms that submit a response to the RFI to discuss their responses to the RFI. Respondents are encouraged to request an in-person meeting and provide further input to SCDOT. However, if attendance in person is not feasible for you, we will accommodate requests to meet via conference call. Requests for one-on-one meetings should be made in the Letter of Transmittal submitted with the response to the RFI.

One-on-one meetings will be held from 1:00 PM – 5:30 PM on November 14, 2018 and from 9:00 AM – 5:30 PM on November 15, 2018. All one-on-one meetings will be held at SCDOT Headquarters located at 955 Park Street, Columbia, South Carolina, 29201. There will be a limited number of available one-on-one meetings. Each meeting will be of the same duration, which will depend on the number of Respondents. After Respondents have submitted responses to the RFI by the date and time indicated in Section 2.3, SCDOT will assign a one-on-one meeting time during the time period indicated above. While SCDOT does not guarantee a one-on-one meeting for a Respondent, SCDOT intends to conduct as many one-on-one meetings as possible, time permitting, and may add additional time slots at SCDOT's discretion. Respondents will be notified of acceptance of a one-on-one meeting and the time of the meeting by 5:00 PM Eastern time on November 6, 2018.

Attendees may wish to bring materials to the meetings to assist the discussion, however, please note that such materials left with SCDOT may be subject to South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, Title 30, Chapter 4 S.C. Code of law (FOIA). Marketing materials are not to be presented at the meetings.

The protocols for individual meetings are described in Appendix B.

2. CAROLINA CROSSROADS PROJECT OVERVIEW

SCDOT is pursuing the design and construction of the Carolina Crossroads Project in Richland and Lexington Counties. The Project spans from I- 20 at the Saluda River crossing to the Broad River crossing; I-26 from Broad River Road to US-378; and I-126 from I-26 to Colonial Life Boulevard. The Recommended Preferred Alternative is shown in Figure 1 below. For more information about the Carolina Crossroads Project, please visit

<http://www.scdotcarolinacrossroads.com/>.

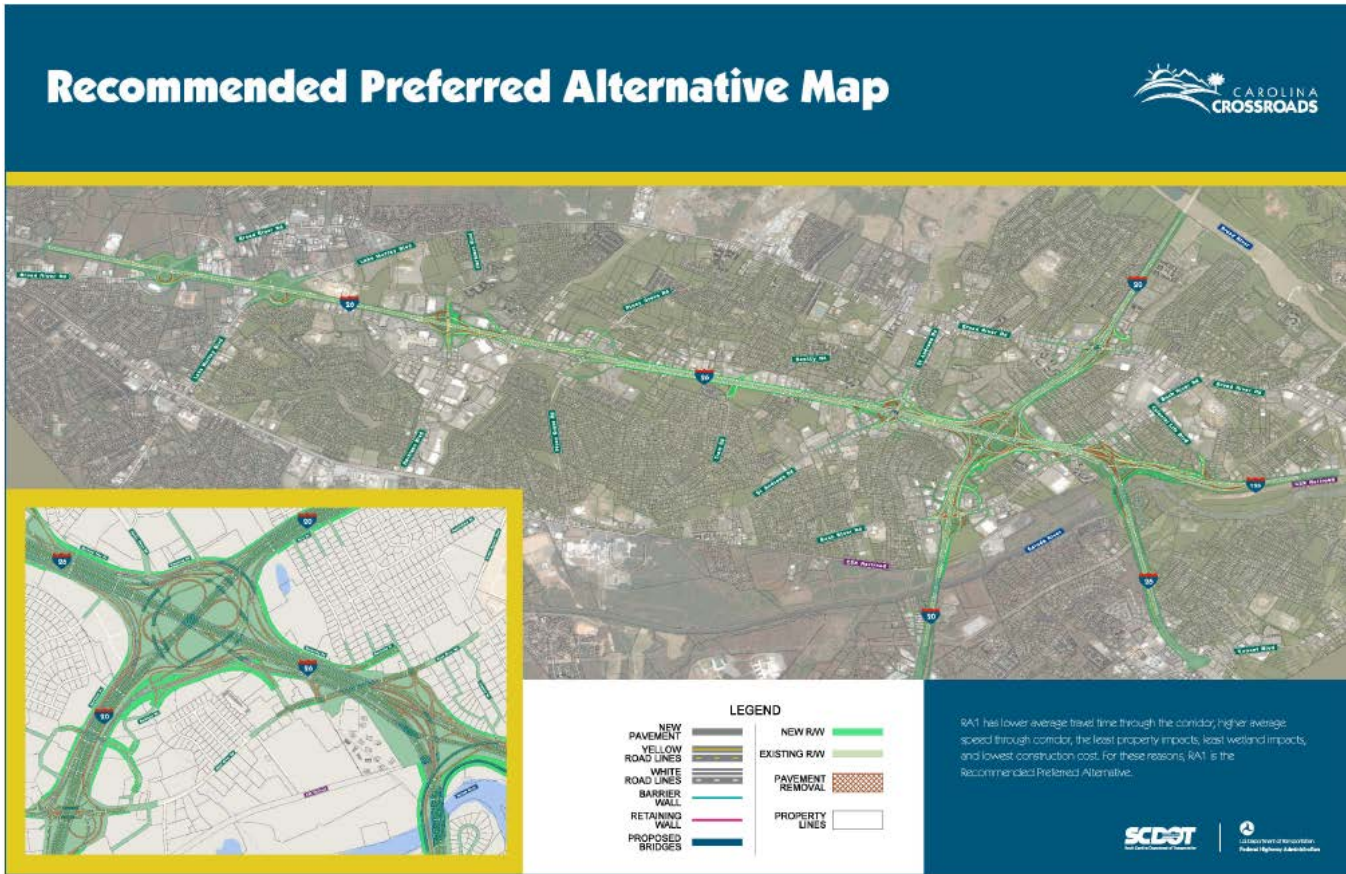


FIGURE 1. LOCATION MAP

2.1 DESIGN ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

Notable features of the Recommended Preferred Alternative include:

- Proposed turbine interchange at the I-26 and I-20 junction, which eliminates all loop ramps in the interchange.
- Widening I-26 with one additional lane in each direction from US 176/Broad River Road to I-126.
- New collector-distributor lanes.
- Relocation of the existing interchanges at I-26 and Bush River Road to eliminate traffic conflict points and weaving maneuvers between Bush River Road and the I-20/I-26 interchange.
- Reconfiguration of Colonial Life Boulevard interchange to a full interchange to provide access to Bush River Road from direction of I-126.
- Interchange improvements at each interchange from Harbison Boulevard to I-126 on I-26; from Bush River Road to Broad River Road on I-20; and from I-26 to Colonial Life Boulevard on I-126.
- Along I-26 south of I-126, the proposed design would significantly lengthen the I-26 eastbound exit ramp, separating the exit ramp from mainline traffic lanes and providing an additional exit lane on I-26 eastbound to US 378 to provide additional queuing storage (dual lane exit).
- More than 40 proposed bridge sites along the freeway corridor.

2.2 STATUS OF THE PROJECT

It is anticipated that the FEIS and ROD will be issued jointly in early 2019. This timeline is subject to change.

2.3 SCHEDULE

| Event | Date |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| RFI Due Date | 2:00 PM Eastern Time November 5, 2018 |
| Open Forum | November 14, 2018 |
| One-on-One Meetings | November 14 – 15, 2018 |
| Publish RFQ | Winter 2019 (Anticipated Date) |

2.4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information regarding the Project will be posted at <http://www.scdot.org/business/carolina-crossroads.aspx>. Respondents are encouraged to monitor this site for Project information and updates, as well as for any future solicitation information related to the Project. Future solicitations will also appear in the South Carolina Business Opportunities (SCBO) Publication and other publications.

3. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

3.1 PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATES

The estimated capital cost for the Project is in excess of \$1.5 billion.

3.2 PUBLIC FUNDING SOURCES

SCDOT currently proposes to fund the project using a blended funding approach that combines Federal-Aid and State funding sources.

4. ANTICIPATED PROJECT PROCUREMENT PROCESS

SCDOT intends to use Design-Build to deliver this project. Refer to SCDOT's Design-Build Procurement Manual, available at <http://www.scdot.org/business/design-build.aspx>

5. CONDITIONS FOR THE SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION

5.1 CHANGES TO THIS RFI

At any time, in its sole discretion, SCDOT may, by written addenda to this RFI, modify, amend, cancel and/or reissue this RFI. If an amendment is issued prior to the date information is due, it will be made available on the following website: <http://www.scdot.org/business/carolina-crossroads.aspx>. Interpretation of this RFI or additional information will only be given by written amendment to this RFI from SCDOT's contact person named in section 1.4 above.

5.2 INFORMATION PREPARATION COSTS

SCDOT shall not be liable for any costs incurred by any Respondent in the preparation, submission, presentation, or revision of its information and response, or in any other aspect of the Respondent's pre-information submission activity. All such costs shall be borne solely by the Respondent.

5.3 DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION CONTENTS

All materials and information submitted in response to this RFI, and any materials delivered to SCDOT during one-on-one meetings, are subject to FOIA.

If a Respondent has special concerns about the confidentiality of materials and information that it desires to make available to SCDOT, but which the Respondent believes is exempted from disclosure under FOIA, such Respondent shall specifically and conspicuously designate that material and information in writing and by placing "CONFIDENTIAL" on the portion of such page affected, together with a concise written explanation as to why the information is exempt from disclosure under FOIA. No oral designations of any kind will be accepted. Blanket written designations that do not identify the specific materials and information are not acceptable and may be cause for SCDOT to treat the entire response as public information.

SCDOT may disclose the contents of all responses to this RFI, except to the extent exempt from FOIA. By delivering a response, as well as by registering and participating in a one-on-one meeting with SCDOT, each Respondent consents to such disclosure and expressly waives any right to contest such disclosure. In determining whether to release documents, the SCDOT will rely on Respondent's marking of each page or portions of pages of documents as being "Confidential".

5.4 OWNERSHIP OF SUBMITTED MATERIALS

All materials and information submitted in response to or in connection with this RFI shall become the property of SCDOT and will not be returned to the submitting parties. SCDOT shall have the right to use such materials and information and ideas set forth therein without restriction.

5.5 RIGHTS OF SCDOT AND DISCLAIMER

SCDOT reserves to itself all rights available to it under applicable law, including but not limited to the unqualified right, at any time and in its sole discretion, to change or modify this RFI, to reject any and all information, to seek clarification of information, to request additional information, and to undertake communications with one or more Respondents or others who, at any time subsequent to the deadline for submissions to this RFI, may express an interest in the subject matter hereof.

No Respondent or any other person or entity shall have any rights against SCDOT arising from the contents of this RFI, the receipt of information, or the incorporation in or rejection of information contained in any response or in any other document. SCDOT makes no representations, warranties or guarantees that the information contained herein or on the project website, or in any addenda hereto or thereto, is accurate, complete, or timely or that such information accurately represents the conditions that would be encountered during the performance of any subsequent contract issued from a separate procurement. The furnishing of such

information by SCDOT shall not create or be deemed to create any obligation or liability upon it for any reason whatsoever; and each Respondent, by submitting its information, expressly agrees that it has not relied upon the foregoing information, and that it shall not hold SCDOT liable or responsible therefore in any manner whatsoever.

5.6 ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Refer to the SCDOT Design-Build Procurement Manual Section 3.3.2 for conflict of interest information pertaining to any future solicitation.

APPENDIX A - QUESTIONNAIRE

Respondents are invited to return the following questionnaire together with Letter of Transmittal to SCDOT. Total page count for the questionnaire should not exceed 15 pages, utilizing 12pt Arial type font, inclusive of the Letter of Transmittal. Please follow the format below.

Letter of Transmittal

- Maximum of 2 pages
- Include the firm and/or consortium name;
- Reference Carolina Crossroads RFI;
- Name, title and contact information (email and phone number) of the person responsible for interfacing with SCDOT; and
- Whether your team is interested in a one-on-one meeting to discuss the contents of your RFI.

General Information

- 1) Please briefly provide the following descriptive information for the Respondent and its team members (if any). The purpose of this question is to aid SCDOT in understanding the identity and business of the Respondent.
 - Name of Respondent and its team members (if any)
 - Describe principal business for Respondent and its team members (if any)
- 2) What potential interest do you represent in relation to the Project (i.e. design-build contractor or lead designer)?

Schedule

- 3) Please provide comments on what you see as a reasonable schedule (procurement and overall project delivery).

Design

- 4) Provide suggestions on how to manage and mitigate the risk of using preliminary project data and information which was prepared prior to the project's design and construction.
- 5) Given the location and nature of the Project, where do you foresee significant opportunities to employ innovative design, construction methods, and/or materials to acquire efficiencies in cost and schedule?

Environmental Approval

- 6) SCDOT is currently developing a compensatory mitigation plan expected to cover the wetland and stream impacts for the Recommended Preferred Alternative (RPA) through a combination of mitigation bank credits and Permittee Responsible Mitigation (PRM). SCDOT plans to purchase mitigation bank credits and construct all restoration activities associated with the approved mitigation plan. SCDOT anticipates the PRM plan to cover between 60,000 to 70,000 stream credits. Additional credits required beyond what SCDOT is able to provide will be the responsibility

of the Design-Build contractor. How does this plan for compensatory mitigation affect your ability and willingness to pursue the Project?

Funding

- 7) How would the inclusion of a maximum allowable draw schedule (provided by SCDOT or as proposed by Design-Build contractor) affect your ability and willingness to pursue this Project?

Risk Assessment, Allocation and Mitigation

- 8) Please recommend specific steps that SCDOT could take to motivate innovation and reduce contingency for Project risks – either through incentive/disincentive clauses, risk/reward sharing mechanisms in the Project agreement, or other mechanisms you have utilized on similar projects.
- 9) Based on your experience related to right-of-way acquisition on similar projects, discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the following scenarios regarding overall project schedule and cost.
- Assigning all risk of just compensation and relocations costs to SCDOT (Provide suggestions to incentivize reduction of right-of-way impacts under this scenario);
 - assigning all risk of just compensation (excluding premium payments) and relocation costs to design builder;
 - assigning all risks of just compensation (including premium payments) and relocation costs to the design builder;
 - sharing risk of just compensation and relocation costs between both entities (what percentage of distribution of risk for each).
- 10) Please comment on mechanisms to distribute risk between SCDOT and the design-builder as it relates to utility relocation and discuss advantages/concerns as it relates to both schedule and cost risks. Please specifically discuss opportunities to manage risks associated with utility relocations, particularly those without prior rights.
- 11) Do you believe it would be beneficial to have utility one-on-one meetings during the proposal phase to ask questions to assess utility risk based on utility company responses?
- 12) Please provide any specific suggestions and refinements to the allocation of responsibilities between SCDOT and a design builder that you believe would result in best value for SCDOT.
- 13) Please provide any examples of proposal requirements, RFP terms and conditions, or other specifications in previous large highway interchange or infrastructure procurements that you participated in, that in your view could be modified to reduce proposal development and overall project pursuit costs, without compromising the competitiveness of the procurement.
- 14) What forms of index pricing should be considered in order to share risk?
- 15) Discuss advantages in establishing different substantial completion dates to maximize the efficiency and eliminate risk.

- 16) What recommendations do you have regarding relaxing maintenance of traffic restrictions that would facilitate the construction of the Project? What performance metrics would you recommend? Discuss your willingness to compensate SCDOT for user costs associated with relaxed restrictions.
- 17) What is the largest uncertainty or risk regarding maintaining traffic during construction? Indicate any key locations in which access to the work areas will be critical to delivering the project.
- 18) Indicate any issues or concerns with using TransModeler software to provide the traffic analysis if necessary for any alternative technical concepts.
- 19) Provide any other input on the overall procurement process, project scope or project delivery approach that you believe will help SCDOT progress planning and development efforts for the Project.

APPENDIX B – PROTOCOLS FOR ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS

By electing to engage in a one-on-one meeting with SCDOT regarding the Project, you agree to the following protocols for the meeting.

1. Purpose of One-on-One Meeting

The meeting is intended to provide SCDOT an opportunity to obtain a better understanding of your insights on project-related issues, including your feedback on the questions presented in the RFI.

2. Limit on Number of Participants

No more than 10 individuals representing your firm or team may attend the meeting.

3. Length of Individual Meeting

The length of individual meetings will be set by SCDOT based on the total number of Respondents requesting a meeting, however, the meetings will be no longer than 90 minutes.

4. Fair, Uniform Process

SCDOT will conduct meetings in a fair, consistent and transparent manner and shall endeavor to provide uniform information to all.

SCDOT will not guide you on development of statements of qualifications or proposals or coach you on such development.

5. Questions from SCDOT

SCDOT may ask for clarifications regarding your responses to the RFI, proposed teaming arrangements, and other matters.

6. No Commitments or Reliance

SCDOT will not make any commitments during the meeting, and anything SCDOT says during the meeting may not be construed as a commitment by SCDOT. You may not rely upon any statements or information that SCDOT may provide in the RFI or at the meeting, including its responses to your questions, as being accurate, complete or timely.

No statements or information that you may provide at the meeting will be relied upon by SCDOT or construed as commitments by you.

7. No Effect on Future Procurement

Neither the RFI nor the one-on-one meeting initiates or is part of a procurement of services for the Project. If SCDOT subsequently elects to initiate a procurement, your attendance at the meeting, conduct or discussions that occur during the meeting, and materials and information provided to SCDOT before or during the meeting will have no bearing on the evaluation of any future statements of qualifications or proposals.

8. Materials and Information

All materials and information you submit to SCDOT will become the property of SCDOT and will not be returned. SCDOT has the right to use such materials and information, the ideas they contain, and any other ideas you provide to SCDOT, without restriction.

Any written materials and information you deliver to SCDOT are subject to FOIA.

If you believe particular content is exempt from disclosure you should specifically and conspicuously designate that material and information in writing and by placing "CONFIDENTIAL" in the portion of each affected page, together with a concise written explanation as to why the information is exempt from disclosure under FOIA. In determining whether to release documents, the SCDOT will rely on Respondent's marking of each page or portions of pages of documents as being "Confidential".

9. Costs

SCDOT will not reimburse any costs you incur to prepare for, travel to and from, or participate in the meeting.