

**MAINE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
REQUEST FOR LETTER OF INTEREST
For
---CONTRACTOR INPUT DURING DESIGN---**

Bridge rehabilitation of the Aroostook River Bridge carrying Route 161 over the Aroostook River in Caribou (WIN 027278.00)

SUBJECT Letter of Interest for the above project in the city of Caribou

REQUIREMENT Maine Department of Transportation is seeking Letters of Interest from contractors to become prequalified to bid and to participate in a project review process.

ONLY CONTRACTORS THAT BECOME PREQUALIFIED WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO BID ON THE PROJECT(S).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

MaineDOT is currently in the design phase for this project. The Department intends to develop and finalize recommendations resulting from this contractor interface process and will advance designs to the PS&E stage for advertising in the 4th quarter of 2026.

This project specific prequalification invites input from the contracting community to help meet key construction goals including minimizing traffic impacts, reducing bidder's risk, and reducing cost. The project location, traffic impacts, contractor access and material handling, rigging and installation, and scope of work are significant, requiring anticipation and understanding of the design and its impact to construction.

The purpose of this rehabilitation project is to:

- 1) Replace the deficient bridge deck
- 2) Perform structural repair of truss members resolving flame cut areas
- 3) Address bridge joint deterioration and eliminate bridge joints when possible
- 4) Perform structural steel repairs and replacement related to lateral restraint system including existing lateral braces and cross-frames.

The review process will focus on the following:

- Review of construction steel repair
 - Consideration of flame cut areas from previous pin repair sequencing
 - Lateral restraint system repair and replacement alternatives
 - Lateral restraint system repair and replacement sequencing
- Site access and temporary works including laydown area
- Time requirements
- Maintenance of traffic requirements and alternatives

PROJECT REVIEW PROCESS The MaineDOT is fully responsible to lead the design effort and expects to interact with the prequalified contractors as described below to focus on design in relation to the work outlined above.

- **Initial Review Meeting** MaineDOT will meet with the pre-qualified contractors as a group to explain the design basis of the current plans and provide an open forum for feedback on the project. Prior to the meeting, MaineDOT will distribute an agenda with supplemental information as needed. MaineDOT expects to meet with the prequalified contractors within four weeks of the LOI submission. Meeting attendance is mandatory.
- **Group Progress Meetings** MaineDOT may meet with the pre-qualified contractors as a group to update contractors on design progress and provide an open forum for feedback as the design is

progressed. Meeting attendance is mandatory.

- **One on One Meetings** MaineDOT expects to meet individually with each prequalified contractor up to three times to discuss the key areas identified in the Project Description. Meeting attendance is mandatory.
- **Pre-bid Meeting** After the final bid package is advertised, MaineDOT may choose to hold a pre-bid meeting with the prequalified contractors to present the final bid package and receive additional comments and questions. Questions presented at this meeting will be answered and distributed as a bid amendment. It will be determined at the time of advertise whether the pre-bid meeting is mandatory.

Supplemental information and review materials will be provided by MaineDOT as needed in advance of the meetings. The Department will use information gained at the meetings to make project decisions and may revise the plans and specifications as appropriate. The Department does not intend to share information discussed at the one-on-one meetings. However, the final bid documents could reflect contract decisions resulting from such information. Neither the Department, nor the Contractor, will be bound by verbal or written representations made prior to the formal advertising for bids for the project. After advertisement for bids, Standard Specification Section 102.5, Communications Before Bid Opening, will be fully observed.

The Department reserves the right to terminate this process at any time.

CRITERIA The Department will determine prequalification for this project based on an evaluation of the Letter of Interest which must include:

1. A statement that the firm desires to be prequalified to bid for the subject project.
2. A statement that the firm commits to actively participate in the project review process in order to develop appropriate and constructible design plans.
3. Evidence of the firm's bonding capacity for a single contract.
4. A summary of past experience of the firm that demonstrates they are qualified to successfully complete the construction of the proposed scope of work.
5. Acknowledgement that the firm is willing to apply and will acquire a Bridge Prequalification with MaineDOT, if not already prequalified. If not already prequalified, the firm shall acquire the prequalification prior to attending the Initial Review Meeting. **Firms not prequalified in advance of Initial Review Meeting shall not be allowed to bid on the subject project.** For information and applications to obtain a MaineDOT prequal, go to <https://www.maine.gov/dot/doing-business/contractor-prequalification>

RFIs (Requests For Information) RFIs may be emailed directly to RFI-Contracts.MDOT@maine.gov with the subject of "RFI – Aroostook River Bridge Project - 27278.00". Answers will be posted as 'Amendments' on the website with this Notice. Bidders shall not contact any other departmental staff. The Department will not be responsible for any answers given or information not posted on the website. RFIs will be received up to 12:00 noon of the Wednesday prior to the submission deadline.

SUBMISSION– Submit your original, signed Letter of Interest, on company letterhead; your experience as asked for in #4 above; A MaineDOT prequal. application including Safety and Civil Rights Supplementals (if not already Bridge prequalified w/ MaineDOT) to:

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Attn: George Macdougall Maine Department
of Transportation 16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0016

Submittals may be e-mailed (Word or Adobe Format) to george.macdougall@maine.gov as long as a hardcopy of required material is received by the deadline below. Please use the subject of "BID – Aroostook River Bridge Project - 27278.00".

- **Deadline for Letter of Interest submission: 4:00 PM, Thursday, April 2, 2026.**
Contractors will be informed of their prequalification status by Friday, April 10, 2026.