

**MAINE DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION REQUEST FOR LETTER  
OF INTEREST**

**for**

***---CONTRACTOR INPUT DURING DESIGN---***

***BLUE HILL, FALLS BRIDGE #5038***

**SUBJECT** Letter of Interest for the Blue Hill, Falls Bridge #5038, WIN 017712.00.

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

**ONLY CONTRACTORS THAT BECOME PREQUALIFIED WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO BID ON THE PROJECT.**

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**PROJECT DESCRIPTION** MaineDOT has completed a preliminary design report for the Falls Bridge #5038 in the Town of Blue Hill and is advancing the project through final design. The Department will develop and finalize the project design with consideration given to the feedback and recommendations that result from a contractor interface process. The Department will advance the design to the PS&E stage for advertising in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021.

This project specific prequalification invites input from the contracting community to help meet the key project goals of improving constructability, minimizing traffic impacts, reducing bidder's risk, and reducing cost. The constraints presented by the project location, traffic impacts, and scope of work are significant requiring anticipation and understanding of the design and its impact to construction. The review process will focus on, but not be limited to, the following key areas:

- Bridge demolition
- Substructure design and details
- Superstructure design and details
- Utility relocation and coordination
- Construction access, phasing and timing
- Maintenance of traffic

**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. All meetings are anticipated to be virtual meetings through an on-line platform.

- **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 three 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 key project issues related to cost, timing, and impacts to traffic. Meeting attendance is mandatory.

Supplemental information will be provided by MaineDOT as needed in advance of meetings.

The Department will use information gained at the meetings to make project decisions and 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 Contactor, 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.

**CRITERIA** The Department will determine prequalification for this project based on a pass/fail 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 that the firm has a bonding capacity of at least \$10 Million for a single contract.
4. Descriptions of at least 3 active or completed similar and comparable major bridge projects within the past 5 years. At least one project shall have been constructed using accelerated bridge construction. Project references with contact information must be included.
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 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 <http://www.maine.gov/mdot/contractors/prequal/>

**RFIs (Requests For Information)** RFIs may be emailed directly to RFI-Contracts.MDOT@maine.gov with the subject of “RFI – Falls Bridge Project---17712.00”. 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, P.E. Contracts Engineer  
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 – Blue Hill, Falls Bridge Project”.

- **Deadline for Letter of Interest submission: 4:00 PM, Friday, February 5th, 2021**  
**Contractors will be informed of their prequalification status by Friday, February 12th, 2021.**