
STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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November 7, 2011

REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST FOR DESIGN SERVICES IM 0703-383: Twin Tunnels Widening Project

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) is soliciting Letters of Interest from consultants or teams interested in providing **Design Services** for the Twin Tunnels Widening Project (Project Number IM 0703-383 (18832) in Idaho Springs, Clear Creek County, Colorado. This project will be delivered with the CM/GC (Construction Manager/General Contracting) delivery method. Selection for design services will be the standard CDOT project specific qualifications based selection. Submitting a Letter of Interest is not a prerequisite for submission of a proposal for this project and is only required to request an informal briefing

The purpose of the project is to widen the eastbound bore of the Twin Tunnels to allow construction of a third lane of traffic to be added from East Idaho Springs (M.P. 241) and the bottom of Floyd Hill (M.P. 244). This work includes widening of the east bound tunnel structure F-15-BO to between 51' and 61'; construction of a new structure adjacent to bridge structure F-15-BH over Clear Creek to accommodate flattening of the curve; preparation of transitions from I-70 to the old US40/Game Check roadway, onto County Road 314 over the bridge structure CLR314-W0.7, and then returning to I-70 just west of the Hidden Valley Interchange at M.P. 243; strengthening bridge structure CLR314-W0.7 to accommodate interstate traffic; and relocation of the CR 314 alignment adjacent to bridge structure F-15-BH to accommodate the flattening of the curve. Additional curve flattening reconstruction, retaining walls, managed lane infrastructure, and restoration of CR314 after use as a detour may be included in the work. The construction cost for the project is estimated to be in the range of \$40.0 million to \$50.0 million.

CDOT has commitments through the I-70 Corridor CSS agreement and I-70 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision. These agreements direct CDOT on stakeholder involvement in the I-70 Corridor for all projects in environmental studies, scoping, design, or construction. CDOT is currently leading an environmental assessment for the project study area to assess impacts and mitigations for this project. A NEPA Decision Document is expected in the Fall of 2012 and the Proposed Action depicts a build and no build alternative with options. A final Request for Proposals will be issued before the NEPA process is concluded and the selected contractor will work with the project team to make sure recommendations from the NEPA Decision Document are not precluded. CDOT expects to start construction in April 2013 and open all three lanes to traffic by October 31th, 2013.

On November 2nd, 2011, CDOT conducted a Risk Assessment and Project Delivery Method Evaluation. The evaluation found that CM/GC would be the most appropriate delivery method based on Delivery Schedule, Project Complexity & Innovation, Level of Design, Initial Project Risk Assessment, Cost, Staff Experience/Availability, Level of Oversight & Control, and Competition & Contractor Experience.

The Purpose and Core Values for this project are:

The purpose of the Twin Tunnels project is to improve eastbound highway safety, operations and travel time reliability in the Twin Tunnels area of the I-70 Mountain Corridor east of Idaho Springs.

| Stakeholder Core Values |
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| <p>Safe travel for people and goods. Safety for emergency responders and maintenance workers. A safe crossing for wildlife.</p> |
| <p>Mobility through safe and reliable transportation facilities.</p> |
| <p>A primary access and visual gateway to the Mountain Mineral Belt, historic Idaho Springs and Front Range communities.</p> |
| <p>Wildlife, wildlife habitat, migration routes and access to Clear Creek.</p> |
| <p>Clear Creek, as a clean, high-quality water resource, a recreational asset, an aquatic resource with sustainable fisheries' habitat, a drinking water source, and a defining natural feature of the corridor.</p> |
| <p>Tourist destinations and community facilities, including the Scott Lancaster Trail and Bridge, the waste-water treatment plant, the planned Clear Creek Greenway, the frontage road, and Clear Creek.</p> |
| <p>History as a defining element of Clear Creek County. Celebrating the cultural resources associated with mining and mining towns, and the first successful tunneling operation as part of the construction of I-70 west through Colorado's mountains.</p> |

The Project Goals of this project are:

1. SAFETY, MOBILITY, AND OPERATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS
 - a. Improve safety, mobility, and operational characteristics in the project limits.
 - b. Improve travel time reliability along the I-70 corridor.

2. QUALITY
 - a. Design and construct a quality project that is consistent with the overall vision and commitments approved by the PEIS/ROD.

3. SCHEDULE and BUDGET
 - a. Meet the project schedule and budget to have three east bound lanes fully operational from approximately mile post 241.5 west of the Twin Tunnels to mile post 244 at the bottom of Floyd Hill by October 31, 2013 without sacrificing quality.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL
 - a. Adhere to all environmental compliance requirements, including those documented in the Twin Tunnels final decision document, permitting stipulations and I-70 Mountain Corridor PEIS/ROD commitments.
 - b. Implement innovative methods for environmental stewardship and community supported enhancements within the project scope, schedule, and budget.

5. STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT
 - a. Provide meaningful stakeholder involvement as prescribed in the I-70 Mountain Corridor CSS.

- b. Facilitate and foster collaboration, communication, and partnerships among all members of the project team.

6. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

- a. Provide accurate, meaningful, and timely communication.

7. CONSTRUCTION

- a. Maintain mobility through the project during construction.
- b. Provide safe conditions for workers and the traveling public.

Issuance of the Request for Proposals is anticipated on December 1st, 2011. Prime Consultants interested in an informal project briefing with CDOT should submit a letter of interest for the project, including a request for the briefing. Informal project briefings will be held in the morning of November 14th and 15th, all day on November 16th, all day on November 28th, and the afternoon of November 29th. Other informal project briefings times may be available at CDOT's discretion and CDOT reserves the right to change interview times as project resources are required. Informal project briefings will be one hour in length and will be filled as requests are received.

Letters of Interest must be received by CDOT no later than November 21st, 2011. Project briefings will not be provided after the issuance of the RFP as team members will be signing Non-Disclosure Agreements on November 30th, 2011. Letters of interest should be sent by registered mail, Federal Express, UPS or similar delivery method that indicates proof of receipt.

Address all letters to:

**Jim Bemelen
Twin Tunnels Widening Project
Project No. IM 0703-383 (18832)
18500 E. Colfax Avenue
Aurora, Colorado 80011**

Include in your Letter of Interest the name, address, phone/fax numbers, and e-mail for a contact person at your firm.

Additional information on the project will be posted as it becomes available on the CDOT website at: <http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/i70twintunnels/cmgc> in the next few days.