



DBE CONTRACTING UPDATE

News for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise firms and stakeholders
February 2007

Zoo Interchange consultant solicitation announced

The Wisconsin DOT is beginning the next major step in reconstructing the 270-mile Southeast Wisconsin freeway system by soliciting consultant services for a study of the Zoo Interchange. The proposed engineering and environmental review will examine alternatives to reconstruct and improve the interchange and assess potential environmental impacts.

The Zoo Interchange is the connection of I-94, I-894 and US 45 in western Milwaukee County. The Zoo fully opened to traffic in 1963 and is now the busiest interchange in the state, handling nearly 325,000 vehicles per day in 2005.



WisDOT is currently more than halfway through the reconstruction and improvement of the Marquette Interchange in downtown Milwaukee, with construction to be completed by the end of 2008. The department is also in the midst of an engineering and environmental study of the I-94 North-South Corridor, running from the Mitchell Interchange area in Milwaukee to the Illinois state line. The I-94 North-South Corridor first opened to traffic in 1959, and WisDOT expects to begin reconstruction on the corridor in 2009.

Zoo study calls for 20% DBE share

On February 5, as part of its regular quarterly procedures, WisDOT released a solicitation for consultant services on the Zoo Interchange. The solicitation lists the anticipated project start date as October 1, 2007, with completion by March 1, 2010. Responses to the solicitation are due by February 28, 2007 at 3:00 pm. Governor Doyle has requested \$24 million in the 2007-09 biennial budget to begin studies on the Zoo Interchange, with the legislature expected to act on the budget later this year.

In accordance with WisDOT policy for any consultant contract expected to exceed \$400,000, the Zoo Interchange solicitation calls for a DBE share of 20%. WisDOT has achieved impressive DBE consultant shares on other large projects including the I-94 North-South Corridor studies (28% DBE share to-date) and the US 41 expansion studies and design (19%) in northeast Wisconsin.

Event helps link DBE and prime consultants

On February 10, following the solicitation, WisDOT held a special information session open to all consultants - DBE and non-DBE - to provide information about the solicitation and answer questions. The session also included a networking session to help DBE and other firms meet and develop business partnerships. More than 50 people representing about 30 different firms took part in the event held at the Children's Hospital Corporate Building in Milwaukee.

Consultants that have additional questions about the solicitation should send an e-mail to sandra.macdonald@dot.state.wi.us and reference solicitation number SE02, project ID 1060-33-01. Phone calls will not be accepted. Answers to project questions will be published on the WisDOT Web site approximately two weeks before notice of interest forms are due. Consultants may check www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/engrserv/index.htm for updates and information.

Civil Rights Compliance System helps ensure equal opportunity

WisDOT is taking a computer application originally created for the Marquette Interchange Project and using it to track a variety of DBE and labor data for projects statewide. Based on additional special provision 7 (ASP 7), the Civil Rights Compliance System (CRCS) will now be used on all WisDOT highway construction programs.

CRCS provides an on-line system to track sublets, DBE commitments and actual DBE payments. The system also assists in the management of the Unified Certification Program for DBE firms.

WisDOT implemented ASP 7 to comply with federal regulations that call for a running tally of actual DBE attainments and assurances that DBE and other contractors are fully and promptly paid. ASP 7 took effect with the November 14, 2006 bid letting and applies to all WisDOT highway construction work, regardless of the funding source.

One of the primary benefits of CRCS is its ability to provide accurate and timely information on utilization of DBE firms. The system requires prime contractors to identify all first tier and DBE subcontractors and eventual payments. Lower tier subcontractors only enter payments as

necessary to capture payments to DBE firms. The system tracking makes it easier to identify DBE commitments on a project and how actual payments compare to the commitment levels.

On-line certification process offered

CRCS also provides an on-line process for new DBE certification. Firms seeking certification may register and enter initial information. The system will then generate letters or e-mails indicating the next step or steps in the process, such as a request for additional information. The system also features a searchable directory of certified firms.

Help is available

CRCS is on-line at <https://www.triconsultants.com/wisdot> and requires annual registration. WisDOT's Highway Construction Contract Information site (see back page for address) also includes a notice and a list of frequently asked questions about ASP 7.

Each WisDOT regional office has an equal rights officer who can assist users with CRCS, as can the DBE Support Services office in Milwaukee. For more information on the CRCS system, contact Tess Mulrooney, WisDOT system project manager, at (608) 267-4489 or by e-mail at tess.mulrooney@dot.state.wi.us.

Still time to join Partnering for Employment workshops

WisDOT's Partnering for Employment in Highway Construction workshops are just around the corner. The first event will be held on February 22 at the College of Menominee Nation in Keshena. The second event will be on March 8 at the Country Springs Hotel in Waukesha.

Both events will feature expert discussion of the challenges in developing and maintaining a strong and diverse labor force in highway construction. Representatives of contractors, WisDOT, the U.S. Department of Labor and the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development are all on the agenda for both events.

For more information about the workshops, contact Liz Johnson of WisDOT at (608) 261-0131 or by e-mail at liz.johnson@dot.state.wi.us.

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Volume 4, Edition 2

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On the Web:
www.dot.wisconsin.gov/news/newsletters.htm

Consultants needed to assist on US 41 conversion to Interstate

The US 41 shields in eastern Wisconsin may soon make way for the red, white and blue Interstate highway designation. WisDOT is soliciting for consultant services to help identify and address the necessary federal requirements to designate a new Interstate highway running from Milwaukee to Green Bay along much of existing US 41.

The federal SAFETEA-LU legislation (the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act - a Legacy for Users) of 2005 called for the new Interstate designation. The 131-mile corridor includes the following segments:

- The southern terminus of the route begins where I-94 meets I-894 at the Mitchell Interchange in southern Milwaukee County.
- The route then follows the existing I-894 west and north to where it meets US 45 at the Zoo Interchange in western Milwaukee County.
- From the Zoo, the route proceeds north on US 45 to where it intersects US 41 in northwest Milwaukee County.
- Finally, the route follows existing US 41 north to where it meets I-43 on the northwest side of Green Bay.

Consultant work includes 20% DBE share

WisDOT is soliciting consultant services to analyze geometric, safety, operational and planning features of the route. This analysis will determine any current deficiencies of the route as an Interstate highway and will help identify needed improvements.

The consultant team will also help develop a Tier I environmental impact statement, assist with public involvement, determine cost estimates and create a project management plan. The project will also help coordinate activities with the existing planning and design work for US 41 expansions in Winnebago and Brown counties and the upcoming study of the Zoo Interchange in Milwaukee county.

In accordance with WisDOT policy for any consultant contract expected to exceed \$400,000, the US 41 Interstate conversion solicitation calls for a DBE share of 20%.

MARQUETTE INTERCHANGE PROJECT Stats at a glance

Contracted dollars

Total - \$609.0 million
DBE - \$115.1 million
DBE share - 18.9%

Dollars expended

Total - \$449.1 million
DBE - \$82.7 million
DBE share - 18.4%

Labor hours worked

Total - 1,550,691 hours
Minority - 349,110 hours
Minority share - 22.5%
Women - 50,390
Women share - 3.2%

Notes:

- All data current through December 31, 2006
- Data for contracted and expended dollars includes design consultant, construction and construction administration activities.
- Labor hours worked is for construction only.



The due date for notice of interest is February 28, 2007 at 3:00 pm. The anticipated project start date is April 27, 2007. The project is expected to require 21-24 months for completion.

The solicitation is available on-line at www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/engrserv/index.htm. Consultants should e-mail questions about the solicitation to tammy.gorzlancyk@dot.state.wi.us and reference solicitation number NE07, project ID 1113-00-00. Phone calls will not be accepted.



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Upcoming events

February 22, 2007

Partnering for Employment Workshop
College of Menominee Nation, Keshena
Contact WisDOT at (608) 261-0131

March 8, 2007

Partnering for Employment Workshop
Country Springs Hotel, Waukesha
Contact WisDOT at (608) 261-0131

April 19, 2007

Business Opportunities in Government
Monona Terrace Convention Center, Madison
<http://matcmadison.edu/bpac/bogs/>

Useful WisDOT Web links

Highway Construction Contract Information
www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/engrserv/bid-letting-information.htm.

I-94 NS Corridor and Zoo Interchange studies
www.seffreeways.org

Marquette Interchange Project
www.mchange.org



US 41, Winnebago County
www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/us41expansion/index.htm

US 41, Brown County
www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/us41expansion/brown-index.htm

WisDOT DBE program
www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/engrserv/dbe-main.htm

WisDOT MBE program
www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/mbel/index.htm

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