

# Question & Answer Report

NJDOT's MEGA Construction Project - Feb 23, 2024 - Re-Advertisement of Route 7 Kearny



Webinar ID 871 5102 7184  
Date Friday, February 23, 2024  
Report from Jeffrey Hua, r6catalyst (jeffrey.hua@r6catalyst.com)

Question Details				
Asker Name	Asker Email	Question	Answer	Answer Name
Juan Carlos Lovill	andesces.jcl@gmail.com	why is the chat disabled?	Juan, the chat is disabled to record questions in the Q&A if attendees have any specific questions.	r6catalyst
Betty Brano	betty@branodesign.com	Can you give us the Project Number again? Thanks.	Project number is DP24101. UPC number is 950652. Contract number is 002950652.	Brian W.
George Lobman	George@utcanj.org	The Department went thru the bidding stage once before with a disasterous outcome. It should be made clear that the low bidder must submit a DBE goal equal to or greater than the goal listed. And all submittals should have additional good faith efforts attached since a .12 % deficit will eliminate your bid.	George, requirements and specifics regarding DBE requirements for bidders will be addressed towards the end of the session. Please feel free to submit additional questions once that presentation is finished.	r6catalyst
Juan Carlos Lovill	andesces.jcl@gmail.com	As a sub, do I need to be prequalified with NJDOT? I tried to be prequalified but the 29 pages financial form was too much for me to handle, I'm a micro DBE,MBE,SBE business and don't have the luxury to hire a CPA firm to assist me with that requirement.	Subcontractors are generally not required to be prequalified to work as a subcontractor. Only exception to this is if the project's Special Provisions requires specific work to be performed by a prequalified contractor. Firms looking to subcontract must a complete the Form DC-18 with the prime contractor and file it with the Department's resident engineer on the project.	Brian W.
Juan Carlos Lovill	andesces.jcl@gmail.com	We provide Land Surveying and Civil ENgineering Professional services (We are licensed and have the cert. of authorization to provide professional services) hence, we are not union (we are not labor). Can we still be a sub for a prime contractor?	Whether a firm is union or non union has no bearing on whether they can be used a sub-contractor on the project.	Cheryl T.
Adel Elsekhily	adel.elsekhily@elsegrp.com	How we can be part of this project as a DBE subconsultant that running and own by individual who has more than 30 years of progressive experience in this type of work but the company just established in 2021?	Would need more clarification regarding your question. Please feel free to reask the question.	r6catalyst Cheryl T.
Trish Holper	tholper@dqpenterprises.co	Will you be needing any professional services like Document Control?	We identified the potential subcontracting opportunities earlier in the civil rights presentation. It's not an all-inclusive list. There may be other opportunities based on our evaluation of the contract.	Cheryl T.
Roberto Lacayo	rl@losclasicosllc.com	Hi, what are the needs for flatbed trucking? and any input in connecting with contractors? Thanks.	We outlined potential subcontracting opportunities on the contract including trucking. In terms of connecting with contractors, NJDOT advertises our projects through Bidx and firms can utilize that platform to see who plan holders are and potentially reach out to the eligible bidders on the contract.	Cheryl T.
Stacie Davis	stacie.davis@verizon.net	Just a thought but does it make sense to have the Substantial Completion date in March when the last work done on the job is final paving and striping?	Substantial completion by definition means when the road is ready to be safely and conveniently used by the public. BY that point everything should be complete with the exception of landscape items or cleanup. As far as the date is concerned, the designer creates the construction schedule that is not set in stone. Once the job is awarded the contractor will create their own construction schedule where the completion date is included in the special provision.  Most of the concrete work is being done during the season of spring and summers along with pavement. The completion date and substantial completion date is set in the spec based on the schedule we cannot extend these beyond this point. These are milestones the contractor has to maintain, but as far as the activities it going to be up to the contractor to come up with their own schedules.	Nina C. Nabil H.

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Dominick Genario	dominick.genario@jfcson.us	What are the major differences between this project and what was bid last year?	There's no major changes on the job. The only thing added were responses to questions from contractors. No change in the design or anything else.	Nabil H.
Farrah Desir	farrah@creative-form.com	Hi, are there opportunities to provide CM/Professional services? Such as Inspectors, Safety, Project Managers, Scheulers, Supers personnel?	The construction inspection for this project was already posted on the professional services website as TP 612 and it closed on February 22nd.	Mario S.
Anthony Knight	uniqueled@brightgrips.com	How do you ensure a Prime Contractor into a minority Sub once he or she has been Awarded low bid? When he already has his supply chain set up traditionally	<p>Once NJDOT advertises the contract, that's when the prime and DBE's have an opportunity to get engaged with each other. Either the primes can reach out to DBE's through the NJUCP directory to determine what type of work they may want to subcontract out. That all should be done prior to the bidder either submitting their bid or have 5 days after bid to compile their Civil Rights documentation, their comittment and DBE confirmations. Discussion and negotiation should be before they submit their bid. There is a DBE goal set for this contract and we encourage bidders tor reach out and develop relationships with new DBEs. Firms are added and removed from the directory all the time. We encourage firms to visit BidX.com and select NJDOT to see the opportunities. Through BidX firms are able to see what primes or bidders have received plans and see who the eligible bidders are to help determine who you want to engage.</p> <p>The firm itself can also list themselves as a voluntary planholder to show up on the BidX page to help primes see potential subs and suppliers that are interested in working together. Be proactive and reach out to the primes, don't hope that they come to you.</p>	Cheryl T. Brian W.
John Kayes	john.kayes@faa.gov	As a Small business/Subcontractor and Certified Swt-aside-how do we get a chance to get in front of and meet the Primes ?	NJDOT runs a DBE Supportive Services Program and as part of that program at least once a year we host a Contractor Venture Forum where primes and small firms/DBE's come together to learn about things the department is doing network and etc.	Cheryl T.
Tim Allen	tim@alliedequipmentservices.com	Do SEDs count towards the DBE requirment? Thanks.	Only DBE's can be used to meet this contract goal. A firm must be a certified DBE and must be listed in the NJ UCP directory in order to be given credit for work on the contract. They must be certified in the kind and type of work that the bidder wants them to perform and also perform the commercially useful function.	Cheryl T.
John Kayes	john.kayes@faa.gov	Is a certified federal and state SDVOB considered a DBE for this project?	SDVOB's are not considered DBE's unless they have a distinct DBE certification.	Cheryl T.
Mark Sweeney	mark@asibacc.com	Is a copy of this presentation going to be provided?	Copies of the sign in sheets from today's virtual meeting as well as appropriate presentations will be made available on the department's current advertising page as well as BidX.com	Brian W.
John Kayes	john.kayes@faa.gov	Is there a Set aside requirement besides DBE on this project ?	No, there is only a DBE goal on this contract.	Cheryl T.
John Andrade	jgtruckingservices@yahoo.com	is there any way that a DBE can report to DOT that documantation-proposal was submitted to a prime?	We rely on the primes to submit their commitment and the DBE verification forms for the firms they are listing on their 266. We're looking at exploring different processes for the pre-award requirements, but at this time the prime/bidders must submit everything through Civil Rights. If a DBE wants wants to let us know what they've submitted, they can email information into Contract Compliance.	Cheryl T.
Shakeel Rahman	rahman@pencol.net	we have submitted our DBE affidift of no change we did not get any response for submission and no response to email and phone call where we should contact.	On the NJDOT website, under doing business, Civil Rights and Affirmative Action, and if you keep drilling down to Disadvanatged and Small Business Programs Unit. That's the unit responsible for reviewing certifications and no change affidavits. Everything is submitted electronically through B2G now. As long as DBE firms are listed in the UCP directory they are still considered certified firms and can still be used. That number is (609) 963-2051.	Cheryl T.

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Anthony Knight	uniqueled@brightgrips.com	When are first bids due date for this project?	The project isn't officially advertised at the moment. Our advertisements get posted on Tuesdays and Thursdays of the week. By legal requirement we have to advertise the project for a minimum of 3 weeks. Bid addenda can be issued that would potentially push that bid date back beyond 3 weeks.	Brian W.
RONALD MOORE	gmtransportation512@gmail.com	Is the site to contact bidders at called BIDDEX?	The site is called BidX.	r6catalyst
Markis Abraham	mabraham@abfdevelopmentllc.com	Is there someone responsible for making sure the DBE firms listed in the bidder's utilization report actually get the work? Are you using an independent compliance specialist to confirm this throughout the project? What are the penalties to the contractor if they do deviate from the utilization plan?	NJDOT in the Division of Civil Rights, there's a Contract Compliance Unit. Our unit is responsible for evaluating the bidder commitments and determining whether or not they met the goal or made a good faith effort. We'll then recommend award of the project or not depending on the scenario. Once the project is awarded, our unit is involved in the project R.E. is primarily for monitoring the civil rights aspect of the project including the DBE utilization and any support that the R.E. has. Contract Compliance is also involved in providing a second level of oversight and we work with the R.E.'s to ensure DBE's are utilized. If we're made aware of situations where there's non-compliance, we'll provide guidance to the R.E., to the prime contractor and DBE's. Penalties in terms of failing to meet DBE program requirements are if they fail to meet the goal and do not demonstrate adequate good faith effort there's a monetary adjustment made to payment to the contractor. In terms of if a contractor self-performs work that a bidder committed a DBE to perform and Civil Rights did not give approval, the contractor is not entitled to payment for that work and DBE credit would not be given for that work. There's also issues related to commercially useful function (CUF). If a DBE does not perform the CUF we cannot allow DBE credit for that portion of work on the project. We work to ensure compliance by the primes and also the DBE's.	Cheryl T.
Markis Abraham	mabraham@abfdevelopmentllc.com	The DBE goal of 10% is extremely low given other projects in the area that have successfully met higher DBE goals. Why are you accepting good faith efforts for DBE utilization?	<p>We are required per the DBE regulations that if a bidder cannot demonstrate that they can meet the DBE goal, then they must submit good faith efforts they've made to meet the goal and Civil Rights will determine whether those efforts are adequate or not. In doing our evaluation, we would be looking at several things such as, were other bidders able to meet the goal, and what efforts did they make, how were other bidders able to meet the goal, and what work did they consider to be sub-contracted out, etc.</p> <p>We set goals on a contract by contract basis, we do not have blanket goals. When we evaluated this project we determined a 10% goal was appropriate.</p>	Cheryl T.
Adel Elsekhily	adel.elsekhily@elsegrp.com	Who are the construction inspection prime consultants and can we reach out to them to be a DEB sub?	<p>The DBE directory lists all the certified DBE firms and anyone has the ability to search the directory by NAICS code, business description, name, location, etc. If anyone is looking for construction inspection firms, a great way is to visit the DBE directory and type in construction inspection in keywords or determine the appropriate NAICS codes needed.</p> <p>The prime consultants are listed on our website as well on the professional services website. We have a list of pre-qualified firms in C6 level A and B with phone numbers, contact information, email, etc. The prime CI firms that are registered with NJDOT are accessible that way. As far as construction inspection for this project, no one has been selected yet, but the proposals will already have included the DBE's that they intend to use to meet the professional services goal.</p>	Cheryl T. Mario S.
Juan Carlos Lovill	andesces.jcl@gmail.com	Will as-built drawings be required for the contract? Is the contractor required to verify existing conditions prior to construction activities? I was the surveyor for a similar project in Long Island and the grades below one of the overpasses were off by a foot and a change order (design included) was required causing major delays and budgeting issues.	The contractor is required to verify the existing conditions especially for anything utility related, we provide them a pay item for test pitting and things like that. The contractor has to verify before getting anything in the ground and that everything is on the plan too. We show everything we can on the plan based on our investigation in the field, especially underground utility.	Nabil H.

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Paul Karatzas	pkaratzas@montanaconstructioninc.com	Is the 5 days after the bid for DBE submission calender days or working days?	The 5 days is as defined in the specs and the spec definition is "every day shown on the calendar".	Cheryl T.
RONALD MOORE	gmtransportation512@gmail.com	Where do I get the application for DBE? I don't know if I'm already DBE certified but since I was invited to this meeting I presumed I already was.	One way to see if you're DBE certified is to go to the NJUCP directory and type in your firm name and see if it appears. Another way is to go to NJDOT's website under Doing Business with Civil Rights and Affirmative Action, there's the Disadvanatged and Small Business Programs Unit where there's information about the application and other resources. DBE firms have to apply electronically.	Cheryl T.
Juan Carlos Lovill	andesces.jcl@gmail.com	is Bidx.com free?	BidX.com has various plans and pricing depending on the scope of the plan you want. I believe there's a free plan available, but the information available can be limited. You'll want to contact BidX support on those plans and pricing.	Brian W.