

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
TO DEVELOP, DESIGN, CONSTRUCT, AND MAINTAIN  
THE  
US 181 HARBOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

**VOLUME I  
INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS**

**A PROJECT OF THE  
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**ISSUED OCTOBER 2, 2014  
ADDENDUM #1 ISSUED OCTOBER 28, 2014**



**Texas Department of Transportation  
125 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street – Fifth Floor  
Austin, Texas 78701**

**CERTAIN KEY DATES**

<b><u>EVENT</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
Addendum #2 to RFP issued	November 18, 2014
Last Day for Questions to Addendum #2 to RFP	December 2, 2014
ATC Presentation Meeting	December 8, 2014
One-on-one Meetings with Proposers regarding RFP Addendum #2	Week of December 8, 2014
Technical Proposal Due Date	February 17, 2015 12:00 noon
Price Proposal Due Date	March 3, 2015 12:00 noon
CDA Conditionally Awarded (anticipated)	March 26, 2015

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## EXHIBITS

- Exhibit A Definitions and Acronyms
- Exhibit B Technical Proposal Instructions
- Exhibit C-1 Financial Proposal Instructions
- Exhibit C-2 Price Proposal Instructions
- Exhibit D Required Forms

- Form A Proposal Letter
- Form B-1 Identification of Proposer and Equity Members
- Form B-2 Information About Proposer Organization
- Form B-3 Information About Major Participants, Major Professional Services Firms and Identified Subcontractors
- Form C Responsible Proposer Questionnaire
- Form D Industrial Safety Record for Team Members Performing Installation or Construction Work
- Form E Personnel Work Assignment Form
- Form F Non-Collusion Affidavit
- Form G Key Personnel Resume and References
- Form H DBE Certification
- Form I Child Support Statement for State Grants, Loans and Contracts
- Form J Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement
- Form K Proposal Bond
- Form L Opinion of Counsel
- Form M-1 Base Scope D&C Price
- Form M-1.1 Base Scope D&C Price Breakdown
- Form M-1.2 ATC Adjustments
- Form M-2 Developer Draws / Cash Flow Tables (Base Scope D&C Price)
- Form M-3 Option Price
- Form M-4 Developer Draws / Cash Flow Tables (Option 1 Price)
- Form M-5 Developer Draws / Cash Flow Tables (Option 2 Price)
- Form N-1 Operations & Maintenance Price
- Form N-2 Operations and Maintenance Schedule for O&M New Harbor Bridge Price
- Form N-3 Operations and Maintenance Schedule for O&M Roadway Section
- Form O Substantial Completion Deadline
- Form P Equal Employment Opportunity Certification
- Form Q Key Subcontractors
- Form R Certification Regarding Use of Contract Funds for Lobbying

Form S Certification Regarding Ineligible Contractors  
Form T Guarantor Commitment Letter  
Form U Benchmark Rate Submittal Form  
Form V Buy America Certification

Exhibit E Summary and Order of Proposal Contents  
Exhibit F-1 Right of Entry Process for Non-State-Owned Property  
Exhibit F-2 Right of Entry Process for State-Owned ROW  
Exhibit G Minute Order  
Exhibit H Payment for Work Product Agreement



## INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS

### (Request for Proposals: US 181 Harbor Bridge Replacement Project)

## SECTION 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 1.1 Introduction

This Request for Proposals (“RFP”), as amended, is issued by the Texas Department of Transportation (“TxDOT”), an agency of the State of Texas, to seek competitive detailed proposals (individually, a “Proposal” and collectively, “Proposals”) from private entities (“Proposers”) for a Comprehensive Development Agreement (“CDA”). The CDA shall provide that the entity identified in the successful Proposal (“Developer”) shall develop, design, construct, operate, maintain, and potentially finance the US 181 Harbor Bridge Replacement Project (the “Project”), as further described below. The form of the CDA is included in Volume II of the RFP.

TxDOT is issuing the RFP to those Proposers shortlisted for the Project based on TxDOT’s evaluation of qualification statements (“QSs”) delivered to TxDOT on May 27, 2014, in response to the Request for Qualifications for the Project issued on March 26, 2014 (as amended, the “RFQ”).

Proposers must comply with these Instructions to Proposers (“ITP”) during the procurement and in their responses to the RFP. Proposers shall also take the Project goals identified in Section 1.3 below into consideration in drafting their Proposals.

The RFP requires each Proposer to be prepared to act as Developer for the Project if the Proposer is selected to enter into the CDA.

All forms identified in this ITP are found in Exhibit D unless otherwise noted.

### 1.2 Request for Proposals

#### 1.2.1 Documents in the Request for Proposals

The RFP consists of the following volumes and any other documents that may be issued by Addendum, as such documents may be amended and supplemented:

- (a) Volume I – this ITP (including exhibits and forms);
- (b) Volume II – the Comprehensive Development Agreement Documents;
- (c) Volume III – the Reference Information Documents.

Refer to Section 1.2.1 of the CDA for a list of the Contract Documents, as well as their respective order of precedence. See Exhibit 19 of the CDA for a list of the Reference

Information Documents and Volume III for copies of the Reference Information Documents.

The Reference Information Documents are included in the RFP for the purpose of providing information that is in TxDOT's possession to Proposers. TxDOT has not determined whether the Reference Information Documents are accurate, complete or pertinent, or of any value to Proposers. Except as may be provided otherwise in the CDA, TxDOT makes no representation, warranty or guarantee as to, and shall not be responsible for, the accuracy, completeness, or pertinence of the Reference Information Documents, and, in addition, shall not be responsible for any conclusions drawn therefrom.

### **1.2.2 Definitions and Acronyms**

Refer to Exhibit A hereto for the meaning of various capitalized terms and acronyms used herein, and refer to Exhibit 1 of the CDA for the meaning of capitalized terms and acronyms used but not defined herein or in Exhibit A of this ITP.

### **1.3 Project Goals**

TxDOT's objectives for the Project are as follows:

- (a) Complete the Project on schedule and to the highest degree of quality possible;
- (b) Sustain and enhance economic opportunities in the region by improving mobility and connectivity of the highway network, port accessibility and addressing local accessibility within the Project area;
- (c) Improve traffic operations between and along SH 286 and I-37;
- (d) Reduce safety risks to the traveling public;
- (e) Construct a New Harbor Bridge whose design mitigates premature degradation or corrosion, enhances service life, and improves durability;
- (f) Facilitate participation by disadvantaged business enterprises ("DBEs");
- (g) Maintain a safe environment for all Project personnel and the public at all times;
- (h) Minimize inconvenience and manage mobility to adjacent and surrounding communities during construction; and
- (i) Expedite delivery of Project improvements.

### **1.4 General Project Description and Scope of Developer's Obligations**

### **1.4.1 General Project Description**

The Project limits extend north-south along both US 181 and SH 286 and east-west along I-37, and include: US 181 at Beach Avenue on the north; SH 286 expressway at Morgan Avenue on the south; I-37 and Up River Road on the west; and I-37 and Shoreline Boulevard on the east. As described herein, TxDOT has been authorized to oversee the development of the Project that is the subject of this RFP.

A map of the Project follows on the next page.

## US 181 Harbor Bridge Replacement Project Map



### 1.4.2 Scope of Developer's Obligations

Developer's scope of Work under the CDA will generally include the following:

- Removal and replacement of the existing Harbor Bridge structure with a new divided six-lane long span structure that spans the harbor, including inside and outside shoulders as a new Harbor Bridge (“New Harbor Bridge”)
- The re-routing of US 181 from I-37 to provide an approach to the new bridge from the south
- Improvements to the SH 286 and I-37 interchange to add direct connects to and from US 181 and I-37, and to and from I-37 and SH 286
- Improvements to I-37 from Shoreline Boulevard to Nueces Bay Boulevard to accommodate the re-routing of US 181
- The reconstruction of US 181 north of the new bridge structure to Beach Avenue, including the reconstruction of the US 181 and Burleson Street grade separation
- Utility relocation
- ROW acquisition
- Environmental mitigation
- Public involvement

The Project presents significant challenges, among them are the following:

- Providing a 75-year service life of New Harbor Bridge while minimizing capital and maintenance costs;
- Coordinating with US Coast Guard and US Army Corps of Engineers regarding Section 9 and Section 10 permits for the demolition and replacement of the existing Harbor Bridge;
- Coordinating with Port of Corpus Christi (“the Port”) for accommodation of navigational needs and other requirements of the Port;
- Minimizing impacts to surface streets, businesses, tourism and residential areas during reconstruction; and
- Developing and implementing New Harbor Bridge final aesthetic requirements.
- Providing long-term comprehensive maintenance for the Project.

Work under the CDA will proceed as authorized by notices to proceed (“NTP”) issued by TxDOT under the agreement. An initial notice to proceed (“NTP1”) will authorize Developer to perform certain Work related to the Project Management Plan approved by TxDOT, and to engage in certain investigative and other activities. A second notice to proceed (“NTP2”) will authorize Developer to proceed with the remaining development Work required during construction of the New Harbor Bridge Project. A third notice to proceed (“NTP3”) will authorize demolition of the existing Harbor Bridge and approach roadways.

The limits of work for the Project are as shown on the Schematic Design. Descriptions of the major work elements are listed in Section 1 of the Technical Provisions.

The CDA also includes a twenty-five (25) year maintenance period commencing upon Substantial Completion of the Project, requiring maintenance services for the Project for the entire term.

### **1.4.3 Project Environmental Status**

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (“DEIS”) has been completed for the project and a Record of Decision is anticipated in late 2014. The selection of the preferred alternative is preliminary and no commitment will be made as to any alternative under evaluation in the NEPA process, including the no-build alternative, until the final approval and signature of the Record of Decision. The latest environmental documents are included in the Reference Information Documents. Currently, TxDOT is coordinating Section 10 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act permits with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”), Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (“TCEQ”), and Section 9 of the Rivers and Harbors Act permits with the U.S. Coast Guard (“USCG”). TxDOT anticipates that preliminary approvals of these permits will be in place at the time of the issuance of the EIS Record of Decision. The Developer will be responsible for submittal of the final design and any design modifications or change in permit conditions to each of the regulatory agencies for approval.

### **1.4.4 Status of Required Right of Way Acquisition**

TxDOT is preparing right of way maps for the Project. The right of way maps will be provided to shortlisted Proposers in electronic format on the secure file transfer and sharing site for the Project (the “RFP Website”) as they are available.

TxDOT is advancing limited right of way acquisition prior to the Effective Date of the CDA. TxDOT has identified for early acquisition, parcels owned by the Port and the City of Corpus Christi and will retain responsibility for acquiring these parcels.

Developer's responsibilities will include right of way acquisition activities for any other parcels that have not been acquired by TxDOT as of the Effective Date of the CDA. TxDOT will be responsible for eminent domain activities with Developer support and for the purchase price, relocation assistance and title insurance costs of right of way within the Schematic ROW. The CDA provides further details regarding the right of way acquisition process and the responsibilities of Developer in this process.

### **1.4.5 Status of Required Utility Work**

TxDOT is currently undertaking Surface Utility Engineering (“SUE”) investigations within the Project. TxDOT expects the preliminary SUE information to be available for review by Proposers with the final RFP. TxDOT is currently advancing coordination activities in this area by initiating discussions and planning workshops with Utility Owners. Developer will be responsible for utility relocations required for the Project as set forth in the CDA.

### 1.4.6 Status of Required Railroad Services

TxDOT is planning to have preliminary discussions with Union Pacific Railroad (“UPRR”) regarding its railroad crossing within the Project limits. Developer will be responsible for finalizing an agreement with UPRR.

In addition, TxDOT is currently coordinating with the Port regarding work at railroad crossings within the Port property and anticipates entering into an agreement with the Port regarding railroad crossings and other matters in fall 2014.

### 1.5 Procurement Schedule

The following represents the current schedule for the procurement.

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE and TIME</u>
Last date for Proposers to submit questions regarding RFP Addendum #2	December 2, 2014
Responses to ATCs due – second round	December 3, 2014
ATC Presentation Meeting	December 8, 2014
One-on-one Meetings with Proposers regarding RFP Addendum #2	Week of December 8, 2014
Last date for Proposers to submit: (1) changes in organization; (2) changes in Key Personnel and Key Personnel added since submission of QS; and (3) Questions regarding the RFP	January 14, 2015 12:00 noon
Last date for Proposers to submit: questions regarding any Addenda to the RFP issued after January 14, 2014	Three days after date of issuance of Addendum 12:00 noon
Last date for TxDOT responses to: (1) changes in organization; and (2) changes in Key Personnel	January 21, 2015
Deadline for Pre-submittal for Benchmark Rates and proposed information source	February 13, 2015 12:00 noon
Last date for TxDOT to verify independently and approve Benchmark Rates as described in <u>Section 5.12.2</u>	February 20, 2015
<b>Technical Proposal Due Date</b>	February 17, 2015 12:00 noon

<b><u>EVENT</u></b>	<b><u>DATE and TIME</u></b>
<b>Price Proposal Due Date</b>	March 3, 2015 12:00 noon
Anticipated Conditional Award	March 26, 2015

All times set forth above and elsewhere in the RFP are for local Central time in Austin, Texas. Where the RFP provides a deadline or due date for submission of documents, correspondence or other materials to TxDOT, the document will only be considered timely if TxDOT receives the document by the date and, if applicable, time identified. All dates set forth above and elsewhere in the RFP are subject to change, in TxDOT's sole discretion, by written notice to Proposers.

## **1.6 General Provisions Regarding Proposals**

### **1.6.1 Proposal Contents**

As used in this procurement, the term "Proposal" means a Proposer's complete response to the RFP, including a (a) Technical Proposal, (b) Financial Proposal and (c) Price Proposal. The instructions and requirements for the Technical Proposal, Financial Proposal and Price Proposal are set forth in Exhibits B, C-1 and C-2, respectively. Exhibit E contains a checklist showing the required contents of the entire Proposal. The Proposal shall be organized in the order listed in Exhibit E, and shall be clearly indexed. Each Proposal component shall be clearly titled and identified and shall be submitted without reservations, qualifications, conditions or assumptions. Any failure to provide all the information and all completed forms (Exhibit D) in the format specified or submittal of a Proposal subject to any reservations, qualifications, conditions or assumptions may result in TxDOT's rejection of the Proposal or giving it a lower rating. All blank spaces in the Proposal forms must be filled in as appropriate. No substantive change shall be made in the Proposal forms.

### **1.6.2 Inclusion of Proposal in Comprehensive Development Agreement Documents**

Portions of the successful Proposal will become part of the Comprehensive Development Agreement Documents, as specified in the CDA. All other information is for evaluation purposes only and will not become part of the Comprehensive Development Agreement Documents.

### **1.6.3 Commitments in the Proposal**

The verbiage used in each Proposal will be interpreted and evaluated based on the level of commitment provided by Proposer. Tentative commitments will be given no consideration. For example, phrases such as "we may" or "we are considering" will be



given no consideration in the evaluation process since they do not indicate a firm commitment.

#### **1.6.4 Ownership of Proposal**

Subject to the exceptions specified herein, in the “Rules” (defined below in Section 2.1) and in the Texas Transportation Code (the “Code”), all written and electronic correspondence, exhibits, photographs, reports, printed material, tapes, disks, designs, and other graphic and visual aids submitted to TxDOT during this procurement process, whether included in the Proposal or otherwise submitted, become the property of the State of Texas upon delivery to TxDOT, and will not be returned to the submitting parties. See also Section 2.6.

#### **1.7 Available Public Funds Amount**

TxDOT intends to make \$611 million (the “Available Public Funds Amount”) available for the Price to be paid to the Developer prior to Substantial Completion of Phase 1 and in accordance with the “Maximum D&C Payment Schedule” set forth in Exhibit 5-1 to the CDA. The remainder of the Price above \$611 million will be paid to the Developer on a deferred basis in five equal annual payments commencing on the anniversary of the Scheduled Substantial Completion Date under the terms set forth in the Agreement.

TxDOT contemplates funding the O&M Price under the CDA separately and anticipates the Developer will not be required to carry those costs.

#### **1.8 Federal Requirements**

##### **1.8.1 General Obligations**

TxDOT anticipates that the plan of finance for this Project will include federal funds, and therefore the procurement process, the Comprehensive Development Agreement Documents must comply with applicable federal laws and regulations. TxDOT reserves the right to modify the RFP to address any concerns, conditions or requirements of the Federal Highway Administration (“FHWA”). Proposers shall be notified by Addendum of any such modifications.

##### **1.8.2 DBE Requirements**

TxDOT has determined that Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (“DBE”) requirements apply to the design and construction of the Project, and has adopted a DBE Program to provide DBEs opportunities to participate in the business activities of TxDOT as service providers, vendors, contractors, subcontractors, advisors, and consultants. TxDOT has adopted the definition of DBE set forth in 49 CFR § 26.5. Proposer’s DBE compliance obligations shall be governed by all applicable federal DBE regulations, including Title 49 CFR Part 26, as well as applicable requirements set forth in the CDA and TxDOT’s DBE Program document.

The Project DBE participation goal, including professional services and construction work, during the initial design and construction period under the CDA shall be 9% of the D&C Price. TxDOT's DBE requirements applicable to the CDA are set forth in Section 7.1 of the CDA, the DBE Special Provisions attached as Exhibit 6 to the CDA and TxDOT's DBE Program adopted pursuant to 49 CFR Part 26. As set forth in Section 3.2.8 of Exhibit B, each Proposer shall submit a certification concerning DBE requirements with its Proposal. Failure to provide the required DBE certification shall be considered a breach of the Proposal requirements and shall render a Proposal non-responsive.

Following conditional award of the CDA, the selected Proposer will be required to submit a detailed DBE Performance Plan describing the methods to be employed for achieving TxDOT's DBE participation goals for the Project, including Proposer's exercise of good faith efforts. Requirements for the DBE Performance Plan are set forth in TxDOT's DBE Special Provisions, Exhibit 6 of the CDA. The DBE Performance Plan will be subject to review, comment and approval by TxDOT prior to and as a condition of final award of the CDA.

The selected Proposer will also be required to provide DBE commitments in the form required by TxDOT as DBE subcontractors are identified, in accordance with the DBE Special Provisions, the approved DBE Performance Plan, and TxDOT's DBE Program.

Developer shall not cancel or terminate any subcontract with a DBE firm except in accordance with all requirements and provisions applicable to cancellation or termination of subcontracts with DBE firms set forth in TxDOT's DBE Special Provisions in Exhibit 6 of the CDA.

## **1.9 Insurance Requirements**

Proposers should review carefully the minimum insurance requirements set forth in the CDA. Each Proposer shall take these minimum requirements into account in developing its Proposal.

## **1.10 Qualification To Do Business**

As of the Effective Date, Developer and major participants (excluding the equity members) must be qualified to do business in the State.

## **SECTION 2.0 PROCUREMENT PROCESS**

### **2.1 Procurement Method**

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 223 of the Code, Sections 27.1-27.9 of Title 43, Texas Administrative Code (the “Rules”) and other applicable provisions of Texas and federal Law.

TxDOT will award the CDA (if at all) to the responsible Proposer offering a Proposal meeting the high standards set by TxDOT and which is determined by TxDOT, through evaluation based upon the criteria set forth in the RFP in accordance with the Code and the Rules, to provide the best value to TxDOT and to be in the best interest of the State of Texas.

TxDOT will accept Proposals for the Project only from those Proposers TxDOT has shortlisted for the procurement based on their responses to the RFQ.

TxDOT will not review or consider alternative proposals.

### **2.2 Receipt of the Request for Proposal Documents, Communications and Other Information**

The RFP will be posted on TxDOT’s public website for the Project. In addition, the RFP will be issued to shortlisted Proposers in electronic format on the RFP Website. Access to the RFP Website will be granted only to shortlisted Proposers.

The RFP Website address, username and password shall be provided separately to each shortlisted Proposer. Each shortlisted Proposer will be required to treat the username and password as confidential information and to check the site regularly for Addenda to this RFP, confidential Reference Information Documents and for other procurement related information.

#### **2.2.1 Authorized Representative**

TxDOT has designated the following individual to be its authorized representative for the procurement (the “Authorized Representative”):

Mr. Dieter Billek, P.E.  
Texas Department of Transportation  
7600 Chevy Chase Drive, Bldg. 2, Suite 400  
Austin, Texas 78752  
E-mail: TxDOT\_CRP\_PPP\_US181-HarborBridge@txdot.gov

From time to time during the procurement process, TxDOT may designate another Authorized Representative or representatives to communicate with Proposers on behalf of TxDOT in connection with the procurement.

## 2.2.2 Identification of Proposer Designated Representative

Each Proposer shall have a designated representative who is authorized to receive documents, communications or notices and to communicate with TxDOT on behalf of the Proposer in connection with the procurement. Proposer's designated representative shall initially be the person identified in the QS as the single point of contact for the Proposer. If a Proposer changes its designated representative(s) subsequent to its submission of its QS, Proposer shall provide TxDOT's Authorized Representative with the name and address of such new designated representative(s). Failure to identify a designated representative in writing may result in a Proposer failing to receive important communications from TxDOT. TxDOT is not responsible for any such failure.

## 2.2.3 Rules of Contact

From the date of issuance of the RFQ (March 26, 2014) until June 27, 2014, the rules of contact provisions in the RFQ were applicable to this procurement. Starting on July 3, 2014, the date the draft RFP was issued, and ending on the earliest of (i) execution and delivery of the CDA, (ii) rejection of all Proposals by TxDOT or (iii) cancellation of the RFP, the rules of contact set forth below shall apply. These rules are designed to promote a fair and unbiased procurement process. Contact includes face-to-face, telephone, facsimile, electronic-mail (e-mail), or formal written communication.

The specific rules of contact are as follows:

(a) No Proposer nor any of its team members may communicate with another Proposer or its team members with regard to the RFP or either team's Proposal, except that (i) subcontractors that are shared between two or more Proposer teams may communicate with their respective team members so long as those Proposers establish a protocol to ensure that the subcontractor will not act as a conduit of information between the teams, and (ii) this prohibition does not apply to public discussions regarding the RFP at any TxDOT-sponsored informational meetings.

(b) Each Proposer shall designate one representative responsible for all communications between the Proposer and TxDOT, and such designated representative shall correspond with TxDOT regarding the RFP only through TxDOT's Authorized Representative (except communications with TxDOT's ombudsman as provided in Section 2.3.2 below).

(c) No Proposer or representative thereof shall have any ex-parte communications regarding the RFP or the procurement described herein with any member of the Texas Transportation Commission ("Commission"), Stakeholder or with any TxDOT staff, advisors, contractors or consultants involved with the procurement or the Project, except for communications with TxDOT consultants who have completed their services for the Project and been released by TxDOT, communications expressly permitted by the RFP or except as approved in advance by the Authorized Representative or the Chief Planning and Project Officer, in his/her sole discretion. The

foregoing restriction shall not, however, preclude or restrict communications with regard to matters unrelated to the RFP or participation in public meetings of the Commission or any public or Proposer workshop related to the RFP. Any Proposer engaging in such prohibited communications may be disqualified at the sole discretion of TxDOT.

(d) Proposers shall not contact any of the Stakeholders regarding the Project, including employees, representatives, members and consultants of the Stakeholders, except as set forth in Sections 2.2.3(d)(i) or (ii) below or as specifically approved in advance by TxDOT in writing after Proposer submits a written request to TxDOT no later than five Business Days in advance of the proposed date for such meeting that includes the proposed date, time and location of the meeting; a list of anticipated attendees; a proposed agenda; and a list of the specific questions to be addressed at such meeting. Notwithstanding the foregoing,

- (i) each Proposer may set up meetings with Utilities; provided that the Proposer shall provide written notice to TxDOT of the date, time, location and anticipated attendees of such meetings no later than three Business Days in advance of such meeting, and
- (ii) each Proposer may contact private landowners and lessees along the Project corridor for the purpose of performing due diligence and discussing aspects of the Proposal, including temporary construction easements, staging areas and borrow; provided, however, (A) the Proposer shall not discuss other Proposers or their Proposals, negotiate exclusive arrangements to the detriment of other Proposers or otherwise seek an unfair competitive advantage and (B) the Proposer shall provide written notice to TxDOT of the name of the private landowner, the topic of the proposed discussion and the date of the proposed discussion no later than seven days in advance of each such meeting. Furthermore, Proposers shall not attempt to obtain from such landowners rights of entry during the procurement, which are governed by Section 2.8.2.

(e) Proposers shall not communicate with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

(f) Any communications determined by TxDOT, in its sole discretion, to be improper may result in disqualification.

(g) Any official information regarding the Project, other than communications regarding a Proposer's ATCs, will be disseminated from TxDOT on the RFP Website. Any official information regarding the Project will be in writing, on TxDOT letterhead, and signed by TxDOT's Authorized Representative or designee.

(h) TxDOT will not be responsible for any oral exchange or any other information or exchange that occurs outside the official process specified herein.

Proposer shall note that no correspondence or information from TxDOT or anyone representing TxDOT regarding the RFP or the Proposal process in general shall have any effect unless it is in compliance with Section 2.2.3(g).

## **2.2.4 Language Requirement**

All correspondence regarding the RFP, Alternative Technical Concepts (“ATCs”), Proposals, Comprehensive Development Agreement Documents are to be in the English language and U.S. customary units. If any original documents required for the Proposal are in any other language, Proposer shall provide a certified English translation, which shall take precedence in the event of conflict with the original language.

## **2.3 Questions and Responses Process, and Addenda**

### **2.3.1 Questions and Responses Regarding the RFP**

Proposers shall be responsible for reviewing the RFP and any Addenda issued by TxDOT prior to the Technical Proposal Due Date, and for requesting written clarification or interpretation of any perceived mistake, discrepancy, deficiency, ambiguity, error or omission contained therein, or of any provision that Proposer fails to understand. Failure of Proposer to so examine and inform itself shall be at its sole risk, and no relief for error or omission will be provided by TxDOT. Proposers shall submit, and TxDOT may respond to, requests for written clarification in accordance with this Section 2.3.1. To the extent responses are provided, they will not be considered part of the Contract Documents, nor will they be relevant in interpreting the Contract Documents, except as expressly set forth in the CDA.

TxDOT will only consider comments or questions regarding the RFP, including requests for clarification and requests to correct errors, if submitted by a shortlisted Proposer to the Authorized Representative or, if it is a confidential communication regarding the procurement process, to TxDOT’s designated ombudsman, by hard copy, facsimile or other electronic transmission in the format prescribed herein (see Section 2.3.2 for a description of the instances in which communications may be submitted to the ombudsman).

Such comments or questions may be submitted to the Authorized Representative at the RFP Website, with a copy sent via e-mail, at any time prior to the applicable last date and time specified in Section 1.5 or such later date and/or time as may be specified in any Addendum and shall: (i) be in Microsoft Word format (ii) be sequentially numbered; (iii) identify the document (i.e., the CDA, the Technical Provisions, etc.); (iv) identify the relevant section number and page number (e.g., CDA, Section 5.2) or, if it is a general question, so indicate; (v) not identify the Proposer’s identity in the body of the question or contain proprietary or confidential information and (vi) indicate whether the question is a Category 1, 2, 3 or 4 question, as defined below.

“Category 1” means a potential “go/no-go” issue that, if not resolved in an acceptable fashion, may preclude the Proposer from submitting a Proposal. “Category 2” means a major issue that, if not resolved in an acceptable fashion, will significantly affect value for money or, taken together with the entirety of other issues, may preclude the Proposer from submitting a Proposal. “Category 3” means an issue that may affect value for money, or another material issue, but is not at the level of a Category 1 and Category 2 issue. “Category 4” means an issue that is minor in nature, a clarification, a comment concerning a conflict between documents or within a document, etc.

Proposers will be limited to 75 questions per RFP version issued, including the draft RFP, final RFP and Addenda, if any, unless otherwise specified; provided however, Proposers will be limited to 30 questions regarding RFP Addendum #2.. If a question has more than one subpart, each subpart will be considered a separate question. Corrections of typographical errors, incorrect cross references or internal inconsistencies within or among the RFP documents will be excluded from the limitation on the number of questions.

Except with respect to one-on-one meetings, no telephone or oral requests will be considered, and e-mail requests must be followed up by delivery of a hard copy with an original signature either through the US mail or other delivery. Proposers are responsible for ensuring that any written communications clearly indicate on the first page or in the subject line, as applicable, that the material relates to the US 181 Harbor Bridge Replacement Project. No requests for additional information or clarification submitted to any person other than TxDOT’s Authorized Representative or, subject to compliance with Section 2.3.2, to TxDOT’s designated ombudsman will be considered. Questions may be submitted only by the Proposer’s designated representative(s), and must include the requestor’s name, address, telephone and facsimile numbers, and the Proposer he/she represents.

The questions and, if applicable, TxDOT’s responses will be in writing and will be delivered to all Proposers, except that TxDOT intends to respond individually to those questions identified by a Proposer or deemed by TxDOT as containing confidential or proprietary information relating to Proposer’s Proposal or ATCs. TxDOT reserves the right to disagree with a Proposer’s assessment regarding confidentiality of information in the interest of maintaining a fair process or complying with applicable Law. Under such circumstances, TxDOT will inform Proposer and may allow Proposer to withdraw the question, rephrase the question, or have the question answered non-confidentially or, if TxDOT determines that it is appropriate to provide a general response, TxDOT will modify the question to remove information that TxDOT determines is confidential. TxDOT may rephrase questions as it deems appropriate and may consolidate similar questions. TxDOT contemplates issuing multiple sets of responses at different times during the procurement process. Except for responses to questions relating to Addenda, the last set of responses will be issued no later than the date specified in Section 1.5. A consolidated, final set of questions and answers will be compiled and distributed prior to the Technical Proposal Due Date.

TxDOT may convene pre-proposal meetings with Proposers as it deems necessary (see Section 2.5), and Proposers must make themselves available to TxDOT for such pre-proposal meetings and to discuss any matters they submit to TxDOT under this Section 2.3.1. If TxDOT determines, in its sole discretion, that its interpretation or clarification requires a change in the RFP, TxDOT will prepare and issue an Addendum.

### **2.3.2 Ombudsman**

TxDOT has designated an employee who is not involved in this procurement to act as an ombudsman for the purpose of receiving written communications submitted in accordance with this Section 2.3.2 on a confidential basis regarding the procurement process. Instead of submitting written communications to TxDOT's Authorized Representative as provided in Section 2.3.1, a Proposer may submit such confidential communications, comments or complaints regarding the procurement to the ombudsman, where Proposer believes in good faith that confidentiality is essential. Please note that the deadline set forth in Section 2.3.1 applies to comments and questions regarding the RFP that are submitted to the ombudsman. A Proposer must submit such confidential communications in a separate document that does not include any information identifying Proposer. After receiving such confidential communications, the ombudsman shall forward only the separate document containing the confidential communication to TxDOT's Authorized Representative as identified in Section 2.2.1. If the ombudsman determines that the submitted material is not of a confidential nature, or has been submitted past the applicable deadline set forth in Section 2.3.1, the ombudsman shall return the submission to Proposer and instruct Proposer to submit the communication directly to TxDOT's Authorized Representative in accordance with Section 2.3.1. TxDOT has designated the following individual who is not involved in the procurement to be the ombudsman for the procurement:

Rebecca Blewett Esq.  
Associate General Counsel  
Texas Department of Transportation  
125 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701  
E-mail: [Becky.Blewett@txdot.gov](mailto:Becky.Blewett@txdot.gov)

All other questions and requests for clarification should be submitted to the Authorized Representative in accordance with Section 2.3.1.

### **2.3.3 Addenda**

TxDOT reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to revise, modify or change the RFP and/or procurement process at any time before the Technical Proposal Due Date (or, if Proposal Revisions are requested pursuant to Section 5.9, prior to the due date for Proposal Revisions). Any such revisions will be implemented through issuance of Addenda to the RFP. Addenda will be posted on the RFP Website, and Proposers will be notified of the issuance of such Addenda. If any Addendum significantly impacts the



RFP, as determined in TxDOT's sole discretion, TxDOT may change the Technical Proposal Due Date and Price Proposal Due Date. The announcement of such new date will be included in the Addendum. In addition, if the last date for Proposers to submit questions regarding the RFP has occurred or has changed, the Addendum will indicate the latest date for submittal of any clarification requests permitted concerning the Addendum.

Proposer shall acknowledge in its Proposal Letter (see Form A) receipt of all Addenda and question and answer responses. Failure to acknowledge such receipt may cause the Proposal to be deemed non-responsive and be rejected. TxDOT reserves the right to hold group meetings with Proposers and/or one-on-one meetings with each Proposer to discuss any Addendum or response to requests for clarifications. TxDOT does not anticipate issuing any Addenda later than five Business Days prior to the Technical Proposal Due Date. However, if the need arises, TxDOT reserves the right to issue Addenda after such date. If TxDOT finds it necessary to issue an Addendum after such date, then any relevant processes or response times necessitated by the Addendum will be set forth in a cover letter to that specific Addendum.

## **2.4 Pre-Proposal Submittals**

Pre-Proposal Submittals are required as provided in Section 2.11 (regarding changes in a Proposer's organization) and Exhibit B, Section 3.2.5 (regarding changes in Key Personnel). In addition, any Proposer that wishes to submit an ATC pursuant to Section 3.2 must make a Pre-Proposal Submittal as described therein.

## **2.5 Pre-Proposal Meetings**

### **2.5.1 Informational Meetings**

TxDOT may hold joint informational meetings with all Proposers at any time prior to the Technical Proposal Due Date. Informational meetings may be held either in person or by telephonic or electronic means. If held telephonically or electronically, the meeting will permit interactive communication between all Proposers and TxDOT. Written notice of any informational meetings will be sent to all Proposers. If the meeting is conducted by telephonic or electronic means, the notice will inform Proposers of the manner of the meeting.

If any informational meeting is held, each Proposer shall attend with appropriate members of its proposed key management personnel, and if required by TxDOT, senior representatives of proposed team members identified by TxDOT.

### **2.5.2 One-on-One Meetings**

TxDOT intends to conduct one-on-one meetings with each Proposer on the dates set forth in Section 1.5, and on such other dates designated by TxDOT in writing to the Proposers, to discuss issues and clarifications regarding the RFP and Proposer's ATCs.

TxDOT reserves the right to disclose to all Proposers any issues raised during the one-on-one meetings, except to the extent that TxDOT determines, in its sole discretion, such disclosure would impair the confidentiality of an ATC or would reveal a Proposer's confidential business strategies. Participation at such meetings by the Proposers shall be mandatory. FHWA may also participate in all one-on-one meetings.

The one-on-one meetings are subject to the following:

- The meetings are intended to provide Proposers with a better understanding of the RFP.
- TxDOT will not discuss with any Proposer any Proposal or ATC other than its own.
- Proposers shall not seek to obtain commitments from TxDOT in the meetings or otherwise seek to obtain an unfair competitive advantage over any other Proposer.
- No aspect of these meetings is intended to provide any Proposer with access to information that is not similarly available to other Proposers, and no part of the evaluation of Proposals will be based on the conduct or discussions that occur during these meetings.

Persons attending the one-on-one meetings will be required to sign an acknowledgment of the foregoing rules, and each Proposer will be required to identify all participants from the Proposer whether attending in person or by phone.

### **2.5.3 Questions and Responses During One-on-One Meetings**

During one-on-one meetings, Proposers may ask questions and TxDOT may provide responses. However, any responses provided by TxDOT during one-on-one meetings may not be relied upon unless questions were submitted in writing and TxDOT provided written responses in accordance with Section 2.3.1 and then only to the extent expressly set forth in the CDA. The questions and TxDOT's responses will be provided in writing to all Proposers, except to the extent such questions are deemed by TxDOT to contain confidential or proprietary information relating to a particular Proposer's Proposal or ATCs.

### **2.5.4 Statements at Meetings**

Nothing stated at any pre-proposal meeting or included in a written record or summary of a meeting will modify the ITP or any other part of the RFP unless it is incorporated in an Addendum issued pursuant to Section 2.3.3.

## **2.6 Confidentiality/Public Information Act Disclosure Requests**

### **2.6.1 Disclosure Waiver**

Each Proposer, by submitting a Proposal to TxDOT in response to the RFP, consents to the disclosures described in this ITP, including the disclosures in this Section 2.6 and all other disclosures required by law, and expressly waives any right to contest, impede, prevent or delay such disclosure, or to initiate any proceeding that may have the effect of impeding, preventing or delaying such disclosure, under the Public Information Act (the “Act”), the Code, the Rules or any other law relating to the confidentiality or disclosure of information. Under no circumstances will TxDOT be responsible or liable to a Proposer or any other party as a result of disclosing any such materials. Proposer further agrees to assist TxDOT in complying with these disclosure requirements if it is the selected apparent best value Proposer.

### **2.6.2 Observers During Evaluation**

Proposers are advised that observers from federal or other agencies, including representatives of local agencies and municipalities, may observe the Proposal evaluation process and will have the opportunity to review the Proposals after the Technical Proposal Due Date and Price Proposal Due Date. TxDOT has agreed to allow FHWA officials and their outside advisors to oversee the procurement process, which includes access to the Financial Proposals. Outside observers will be required to sign TxDOT’s standard confidentiality agreement.

### **2.6.3 Public Disclosure of Proposal Documents**

Proposers are advised that the information contained in Form J (Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement) and the Executive Summary (described in Exhibit B, Section 3.1) of each Proposal may be publicly disclosed by TxDOT at any time, in TxDOT’s sole discretion.

Proposers are advised that upon recommendation to the Commission of the selection of an apparent best value Proposer and in TxDOT’s sole discretion, TxDOT may publicly release (a) each Proposal with the exception of the Price Proposal, and (b) the selected apparent best value Proposer’s Price Proposal, or any of the information contained therein. In the event TxDOT is unable to reach agreement on the CDA with the selected apparent best-value Proposer and TxDOT, in accordance with applicable law, chooses to enter into negotiations with the next highest ranking Proposer, then the Price Proposal submitted by the next such highest ranking Proposer and any information contained therein may be disclosed as described in the previous sentence for the selected apparent best-value Proposer.

Prior to recommendation to the Commission of the selection of an apparent best-value Proposer, any Price Proposal submitted by Proposers and the information contained therein shall be subject to disclosure as described in Section 2.6.4.

After recommendation to the Commission of the selection of an apparent best-value Proposer, but prior to execution of the CDA, any Price Proposal submitted by Proposers and the information contained therein, other than that of the apparent best-value Proposer (or that of the next highest ranking Proposer, if such Proposer is in CDA negotiations with TxDOT) shall be subject to disclosure as described in Section 2.6.4.

After final award, or in the event that the procurement is cancelled by TxDOT, TxDOT shall have the right to publicly disclose any and all portions of all the Proposals, except the non-public financial statements of privately held entities. However, the non-public financial statements of privately held entities shall be subject to disclosure as described in Section 2.6.4.

#### **2.6.4 Disclosure Process for Requests Under the Act**

If a request is made under the Act for disclosure of the Proposals or information contained therein, other than information which may be otherwise disclosed pursuant to the Proposer's express consent given in accordance with Section 2.6.1, TxDOT will submit a request for an opinion from the Office of the Attorney General prior to disclosing any such documents. Proposer shall then have the opportunity to assert its basis for non-disclosure of such documents and claimed exception under the Act or other applicable Law to the Office of the Attorney General within the time period specified in the notice issued by TxDOT and allowed under the Act. However, it is the responsibility of Proposer to monitor such proceedings and make timely filings. TxDOT may, but is not obligated to, make filings of its own concerning possible disclosure; however, TxDOT is under no obligation to support the positions of Proposer.

By submitting a Proposal to TxDOT in response to the RFP, Proposer consents to, and expressly waives any right to contest, the provision by TxDOT to the Office of the Attorney General of all, or representative samples of, the Proposal, including any non-public financial statements of privately held entities and other confidential or proprietary information, in accordance with the Act; and each Proposer consents to the release of all such information to the Attorney General for purposes of the Attorney General making a determination in response to a disclosure request under the Act. Under no circumstances will TxDOT be responsible or liable to a Proposer or any other party as a result of disclosing any materials, whether the disclosure is deemed required by Law or by an order of court or occurs through inadvertence, mistake or negligence on the part of TxDOT or its officers, employees, contractors or consultants.

All Proposers should obtain and thoroughly familiarize themselves with the Act, Code and any Rules applicable to the issue of confidentiality and public information. TxDOT will not advise a Proposer as to the nature or content of documents entitled to protection from disclosure under the Code, the Act or other Texas laws, as to the interpretation of such laws, or as to definition of trade secret. Proposer shall be solely responsible for all determinations made by it under applicable Laws. Each Proposer is advised to contact its own legal counsel concerning the effect of applicable Laws to that Proposer's own circumstances.

In the event of any proceeding or litigation concerning the disclosure of any Proposal or portion thereof, including any non-public financial statements of privately held entities and other confidential or proprietary information submitted by Proposer, Proposer shall be responsible for prosecuting or defending any action concerning the materials at its sole expense and risk; provided, however, that TxDOT reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to intervene or participate in the litigation in such manner as it deems necessary or desirable. All costs and fees (including attorneys' fees and costs) incurred by TxDOT in connection with any litigation, proceeding or request for disclosure shall be reimbursed and paid by Proposer whose Proposal is the subject thereof. If TxDOT voluntarily intervenes in litigation or a proceeding, such Proposer shall not be liable to reimburse TxDOT for costs and fees (including attorney's fees and costs) incurred by TxDOT in connection with such litigation or proceeding, unless the Proposer requests TxDOT to intervene.

## **2.7 TxDOT Studies and Investigations**

TxDOT has completed Site investigations. To the extent TxDOT undertakes any additional investigative activities, the information obtained by TxDOT from such activities may be made available to Proposers in the Reference Information Documents. All information provided by TxDOT will be subject to the same limitations applicable to similar information furnished in the Reference Information Documents. Specifically, TxDOT makes no representation or warranty as to the accuracy, completeness or suitability of the additional information.

## **2.8 Examination of RFP and Site Access**

### **2.8.1 Examination of RFP**

Each Proposer shall be solely responsible for examining, with appropriate care and diligence, the RFP, including Reference Information Documents and any Addenda, and material posted on the RFP Website, and for informing itself with respect to any and all conditions that may in any way affect the amount or nature of its Proposal, or the performance of Developer's obligations under the CDA with TxDOT. Each Proposer shall also be responsible for monitoring the RFP Website for information concerning the RFP and the procurement. The Proposal Letter (Form A) shall include an acknowledgment that Proposer has received and reviewed all materials posted thereon. Failure of Proposer to so examine and inform itself shall be at its sole risk, and TxDOT will provide no relief for any error or omission.

Each Proposer is responsible for conducting such investigations as it deems appropriate in connection with its Proposal, regarding the condition of existing facilities and Site conditions, including Hazardous Materials, and permanent and temporary Utility appurtenances, keeping in mind the provisions in the CDA regarding assumption of liability by Proposer. Proposer's receipt of TxDOT-furnished information does not relieve Proposer of such responsibility.

The submission of a Proposal shall be considered prima facie evidence that Proposer has made the above-described examination and is satisfied as to the conditions to be encountered in performing the Work, and as to the requirements of the Contract Documents.

### **2.8.2 Site Access**

An expedited process for obtaining rights of entry to access portions of the Project is attached hereto as Exhibit F. Exhibit F-1 is the process for obtaining rights of entry to property that is not owned by the State, and Exhibit F-2 is the process for obtaining a right of entry for access to enter State-owned ROW. Pursuant to the terms of Exhibit F-1 or F-2, as applicable, and subject to the Proposer obtaining any required administrative or governmental approvals, Proposers may be allowed access to portions of the Schematic ROW for purposes of inspecting in-place assets and determining Site conditions through non-destructive investigations, through the Price Proposal Due Date, provided that the conditions specified in Exhibits F-1 and F-2, as applicable, are met. This work may include surveys and site investigations, such as geotechnical, Hazardous Materials and Utilities investigations.

After NTP1 has been issued, the selected Proposer will be allowed access to the Project Right of Way that TxDOT owns, in accordance with the process described in this Section 2.8.2, in order to conduct surveys and site investigations, including geotechnical, Hazardous Materials and utilities investigations, and to engage in the other activities referenced in the Contract Documents that are allowed prior to NTP2.

## **2.9 Errors**

If any mistake, error, or ambiguity is identified by Proposer at any time during the procurement process in any of the documents supplied by TxDOT, Proposer shall notify TxDOT of the recommended correction in writing in accordance with Section 2.3.1.

## **2.10 Improper Conduct**

### **2.10.1 Non-Collusion**

Neither Proposer nor any of its team members shall undertake any of the prohibited activities identified in the Non-Collusion Affidavit (Form F).

### **2.10.2 Organizational Conflicts of Interest**

Section 27.8 of Title 43 of the Rules regarding organizational conflicts of interest apply to all comprehensive development agreement projects, including this Project. Proposers are advised that these rules may preclude certain firms and their subsidiaries and affiliates from participating on a Proposer team.

By submitting its Proposal, each Proposer agrees that, if an organizational conflict of interest (as defined in the Rules) is thereafter discovered, Proposer must make an

immediate and full written disclosure to TxDOT that includes a description of the action that Proposer has taken or proposes to take to avoid or mitigate such conflicts. If an organizational conflict of interest is determined to exist, TxDOT may, in its sole discretion, cancel the procurement, disqualify Proposer with a conflict or take other action as necessary to mitigate the conflict. If Proposer was aware of an organizational conflict of interest prior to the award of the CDA and did not disclose the conflict to TxDOT, TxDOT may pursue remedies under the CDA, including termination of the CDA for default.

### **2.10.3 Equitable Treatment of Proposers**

During the procurement process (including the process for evaluation of ATCs and Proposals), TxDOT will make every reasonable effort to treat Proposers equitably.

### **2.11 Changes in Proposer's Organization**

Proposers are advised that, in order for a Proposer to remain qualified to submit a Proposal after it has been placed on the shortlist, unless otherwise approved in writing by TxDOT, Proposer's organization as identified in the QS must remain intact for the duration of the procurement process. If a Proposer wishes to make changes in the team members identified in its QS, including, without limitation, additions, deletions, reorganizations, changes in equity ownership interests and/or role changes in or of any of the foregoing, Proposer shall submit to TxDOT a written request for approval of the change from TxDOT as soon as possible but in no event later than the applicable last date and time set forth in Section 1.5. Any such request shall be addressed to TxDOT at the address set forth in Section 2.2.1, accompanied by the information specified for such entities in the RFQ. If a request is made to allow deletion or role change of any Major Participant identified in its QS, Proposer shall submit such information as may be required by TxDOT to demonstrate that the changed team meets the RFQ and RFP criteria (pass/fail and technical). Proposer shall submit an original and five copies of each request package. TxDOT is under no obligation to approve such requests and may approve or disapprove in writing a portion of the request or the entire request in its sole discretion. Except as provided herein or in the Contract Documents, a Proposer may not make any changes in the team members identified in its QS after the applicable last date and time set forth in Section 1.5. Between the applicable date set forth in Section 1.5 and execution of the CDA, TxDOT, in its sole discretion, will consider requests by Proposers to make changes in Proposers' organization based only on unusual circumstances beyond Proposer's control.

### **2.12 Changes to Companies or Entities Filling Key Project Roles**

In accordance with Section 223.203 of the Transportation Code, a private entity responding to this RFP (i.e., a Proposer) must identify companies that will fill the roles of Key Subcontractors. Furthermore, any private entity selected for the Project may not make changes to the Key Subcontractors so identified unless the original company or entity: (a) is no longer in business, is unable to fulfill its legal, financial, or business

obligations, or can no longer meet the terms of the teaming agreement with the private entity; (b) voluntarily removes itself from the team; (c) fails to provide a sufficient number of qualified personnel to fulfill the duties identified during the proposal stage; or (d) fails to negotiate in good faith in a timely manner in accordance with provisions established in the teaming agreement proposed for the Project. If the Proposer makes team changes in violation of these requirements, any cost savings resulting from the change accrue to the State and not to the Proposer. Proposer shall identify all Key Subcontractors on Form Q. Note that all teaming agreements and subcontracts must be executed and provided to TxDOT before the execution of the CDA.

### **2.13 Sales Tax**

Proposers should assume that the Project is exempt from sales tax for certain Expendable Materials as more particularly described in the Contract Documents. The selected Proposer will be required to submit a Texas Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certification to a seller for exempt items. The referenced form is available online to the public through the Texas Comptroller's website.



## **SECTION 3.0 ALTERNATIVE TECHNICAL CONCEPTS**

### **3.1 Alternative Technical Concepts**

Sections 3.1 through 3.5 set forth a process for pre-Proposal review of ATCs conflicting with the requirements for design, construction, and comprehensive maintenance of the Project, or otherwise requiring a modification of the Technical Provisions. This process is intended to allow Proposers to incorporate innovation and creativity into the Proposals, in turn allowing TxDOT to consider Proposer ATCs in making the selection decision, to avoid delays and potential conflicts in the design associated with deferring of reviews of ATCs to the post-award period, and, ultimately, to obtain the best value for the public.

ATCs eligible for consideration hereunder shall be limited to those deviations from the technical requirements of the as-issued Contract Documents that result in performance and quality of the end product that is equal to or better than the performance and quality of the end product absent the deviation, as determined by TxDOT in its sole discretion. A concept is not eligible for consideration as an ATC if, in TxDOT's sole judgment, it is premised upon or would require (a) a reduction in Project scope, performance or reliability; or (b) an increase in the amount of time required for Substantial Completion of the Work beyond the deadline set forth in Form O; or (c) a deviation of technical requirements for the Option 1 Work. ATCs that, if implemented, would require further environmental evaluation of the Project, may be allowed, provided that Developer will bear the schedule and cost risk associated with such additional environmental evaluation. If Developer is not able to obtain the approvals necessary to implement the ATC, Developer will be obligated to develop the Project in accordance with existing approvals without additional cost or extension of time.

Any ATC that has been pre-approved may be included in the Proposal, subject to the conditions set forth herein.

If a Proposer is unsure whether a concept is consistent with the requirements of the RFP or if that concept would be considered an ATC by TxDOT, TxDOT recommends that Proposer submit such concept for review as an ATC.

### **3.2 Pre-Proposal Submission of ATCs**

Proposer may submit ATCs for review to TxDOT's Authorized Representative specified in Section 2.2.1, until the applicable last date and time for submittal of ATCs identified in Section 1.5. Proposer may submit ATCs for the base scope and the Option 2 Work only, but not for the Option 1 Work. All ATCs shall be submitted in writing, with a cover sheet identifying Proposer and stating "US 181 Harbor Bridge Replacement – Confidential ATCs." Proposer shall clearly identify the submittal as a request for review of an ATC under this ITP. If Proposer does not clearly designate its submittal as an ATC, the submission will not be treated as an ATC by TxDOT. ATC submittals shall

include five copies of a narrative description of the ATC and technical information, including drawings, as described below.

### **3.2.1 Pre-Proposal ATC Submittal Requirements**

Pre-Proposal ATC submissions shall include:

(a) a sequential ATC number identifying Proposer, the ATC number (multi-part or multi-option ATCs shall be submitted as separate individual ATCs with unique sequential numbers);

(b) a description and conceptual drawings of the configuration of the ATC or other appropriate descriptive information, including a traffic operational analysis, if appropriate;

(c) the locations where, and an explanation of how, the ATC will be used on the Project;

(d) any changes in roadway requirements associated with the ATC, including ease of operations;

(e) any changes in routine or comprehensive maintenance requirements associated with the ATC, including ease of maintenance;

(f) any changes in the comprehensive maintenance transition requirements associated with the ATC;

(g) any changes in the anticipated life of the item(s) comprising the ATC;

(h) any reduction in the time period necessary to design and construct the Project resulting from implementing the ATC, including, as appropriate, a description of method and commitments;

(i) references to requirements of the RFP that are inconsistent with the proposed ATC, an explanation of the nature of the deviations from said requirements, and a request for approval of such deviations;

(j) the analysis justifying use of the ATC and why the deviation, if any, from the requirements of the RFP should be allowed;

(k) a preliminary analysis and quantitative discussion of potential impacts on vehicular traffic (both during and after construction), environmental permitting, community impact, safety, and life-cycle Project and infrastructure costs, including impacts on the cost of repair, maintenance and operation;

(l) if and what additional right of way will be required to implement the ATC (and Proposers are advised that they shall (i) be solely responsible for the acquisition of

any such right of way, including the cost thereof and obtaining any necessary Environmental Approvals; (ii) not be entitled to any Change Order for time or money as a result of Site conditions (i.e., Hazardous Materials, Differing Site Conditions, geotechnical issues, Utilities, etc.) on such additional right of way; and (iii) not be entitled to any Change Order for time or money as a result of any delay, inability or cost associated with the acquisition of such right of way);

(m) a description of other projects where the ATC has been used, the degree of success or failure of such usage and names and contact information including phone numbers and e-mail addresses for project owner representatives that can confirm such statements;

(n) a description of added risks to TxDOT or third parties associated with implementing the ATC;

(o) a detailed estimate of any additional TxDOT, Developer and third-party costs associated with implementation of the ATC;

(p) a detailed estimate of the Base Scope D&C Price and/or O&M Price adjustment should the ATC be approved and implemented;

(q) an analysis of how the ATC is equal or better in quality and performance than the requirements of the Contract Documents, as applicable;

(r) if applicable, a detailed estimate of the Option 2 Price and/or Option 2 O&M Price adjustment should the ATC be approved and implemented; and

(s) a description (including parcel numbers) of any not yet acquired Schematic ROW parcels that would not be required to be acquired if the ATC were implemented. Any such avoided properties must be complete parcels and must not be parcels that will be donated to TxDOT.

**3.2.2** Proposer shall not make any public announcement or disclosure to third parties concerning any ATC until after pre-approval (including conditional pre-approval) has been obtained. Following pre-approval (including conditional pre-approval), if a Proposer wishes to make any such announcement or disclosure, it must first notify TxDOT in writing of its intent to take such action, including details as to date and participants, and obtain TxDOT's prior written consent, in its sole discretion, to do so.

**3.2.3** If implementation of an ATC will require approval by a third party (e.g., a governmental authority), Proposer shall have full responsibility for, and bear the full risk of, obtaining any such approvals after award of the CDA and submission of data; provided, however, that TxDOT shall retain its role as liaison with any governmental authorities as more particularly described in the Contract Documents, as applicable. If any required third-party approval is not subsequently granted with the result that Proposer must comply with the requirements of the original RFP, Proposer will not be

entitled to a Change Order for additional compensation or time under the CDA, as applicable.

**3.2.4** If TxDOT approves an ATC that identifies any not yet acquired Schematic ROW that would not be required to be acquired if the ATC were implemented, Proposer shall pay for and be responsible for, and bear the full risk of, meeting any conditions attached to the ATC approval, including obtaining third party approvals, and for completing the Final Design such that the identified Schematic ROW is not required to be acquired. If the Proposer does not meet the conditions or does not complete the Final Design to avoid the identified parcels, Proposer shall be responsible for obtaining those parcels at its own cost and its own risk, up to the amount of the ATC adjustment identified in the letter described in Section 3.3 in accordance with the provisions regarding Developer Designated ROW. In such case the Proposer shall not be entitled to any additional time or compensation.

**3.2.5** If TxDOT determines, based on a proposed ATC or otherwise, that the RFP contains an error, ambiguity or mistake, TxDOT reserves the right to modify the RFP to correct the error, ambiguity or mistake, regardless of any impact on a proposed ATC.

### **3.3 TxDOT Review of Pre-Proposal Submission of ATCs**

TxDOT may request additional information regarding proposed ATCs at any time and will, in each case, return responses to each Proposer regarding its ATC on or before the applicable last date set forth in Section 1.5, provided that TxDOT has received all required and requested information regarding such ATC.

TxDOT's responses will be limited to one of the following statements:

- (a) the ATC is acceptable for inclusion in the Proposal;
- (b) the ATC is not acceptable for inclusion in the Proposal;
- (c) the ATC is not acceptable in its present form, but may be acceptable upon the satisfaction, in TxDOT's sole discretion, of certain identified conditions that must be met or clarifications or modifications that must be made; or
- (d) the submittal does not qualify as an ATC but may be included in Proposer's Proposal because it appears to be within the requirements of the RFP requirements; or
- (e) the submittal does not qualify as an ATC and may not be included in the Proposer's Proposal.

In addition, if TxDOT determines that implementation of the ATC will decrease overall project costs but will result in an increase in TxDOT's costs, TxDOT will provide in the ATC approval letter the amount of such increased TxDOT's costs as estimated by TxDOT. Such amount shall be the ATC cost adjustment and shall be added to the Base

Scope D&C Price and O&M Base Scope Price for evaluation purposes only in accordance with Section 5.5.

If TxDOT determines that implementation of the ATC will eliminate the need to acquire as yet unacquired Schematic ROW as identified by the Proposer pursuant to Section 3.2.1(s), TxDOT will provide in the ATC approval letter an ATC cost adjustment for each avoided parcel. The ATC cost adjustment will be based on a percentage of TxDOT's estimated savings relating to acquisition costs, relocation costs, and damages associated with not having to acquire the parcel. In order to qualify for this adjustment, any such avoided properties must be complete parcels and not require a second take. In addition, any such avoided properties must not be properties to be donated to TxDOT. If an ATC receives an ATC cost adjustment and includes the ATC in the Proposal, an adjustment to the Price will be made in accordance with Section 5.5. If the Proposer becomes the successful Proposer, any such parcels will be included in Appendix 2 of Exhibit 2 to the CDA and if acquisition of the parcel becomes necessary, Developer shall be liable for TxDOT's costs to acquire the parcel up to the amount of the ATC cost adjustment.

TxDOT will make a preliminary determination on whether to accept and approve an ATC for submission. TxDOT will then provide each Proposer with an opportunity to request a one-hour ATC presentation meeting to discuss the ATCs that were preliminarily given conditional approval or were rejected. If a Proposer chooses to request a meeting, the Proposer shall provide TxDOT with an agenda regarding the ATCs it wishes to discuss. Thereafter, TxDOT will provide a final determination regarding the ATCs included on Proposer's meeting agenda and discussed during the meeting. Preliminary determinations for the ATCs not included on the Proposer agenda, or shown on the Proposer agenda but not discussed by the Proposer in the ATC presentation meeting, will be deemed final. Proposers will be responsible for ensuring that the ATCs submitted with the Proposal comply with the requirements of the RFP.

Approval of an ATC will constitute a change in the specific requirements of the CDA Documents associated with the approved ATC for that specific Proposer. Each Proposer, by submittal of its Proposal, acknowledges that the opportunity to submit ATCs was offered to all Proposers, and waives any right to object to TxDOT's determinations regarding acceptability of ATCs and any ATC cost adjustments made in accordance with this Section 3.3 and Section 5.5.

TxDOT's rejection of a pre-Proposal submission of an ATC will not entitle Proposer to an extension of the Technical Proposal Due Date, Price Proposal Due Date or the date that the ATCs are due; provided, however, that the foregoing shall not limit TxDOT's absolute and sole right to modify the Technical Proposal Due Date, Price Proposal Due Date or any other date in connection with this procurement.

TxDOT anticipates that its comments provided to a Proposer will be sufficient to enable Proposer to make any necessary changes to its ATCs. However, if a Proposer wishes

additional clarifications regarding necessary changes, Proposer may provide a written request for clarifications under Section 2.3.1.

### **3.4 Incorporation of ATCs in the Comprehensive Development Agreement Documents**

Following conditional award of the CDA, the ATCs that were pre-approved by TxDOT and incorporated in the Proposal by the successful Proposer shall be included in the Contract Documents, as applicable. If TxDOT responded to any ATC by stating that it would be acceptable if certain conditions were met, those conditions will become part of the Contract Documents, as applicable. The Contract Documents will be conformed after conditional award, but prior to execution of the CDA, to reflect the ATCs, including any TxDOT conditions thereto. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, if Developer does not comply with one or more TxDOT conditions of pre-approval for an ATC or Developer fails to obtain a required third party approval for an ATC, Developer will be required to comply with the original requirements of the RFP without additional cost or extension of time as set forth in the CDA.

Prior to execution of the CDA, ATCs from unsuccessful Proposers may, in TxDOT's sole discretion, be presented to the selected Developer for possible incorporation in the Contract Documents, as applicable, during negotiation of the final terms of the CDA pursuant to Section 5.12.1. In addition, following execution of the CDA, ATCs from unsuccessful Proposers may, in TxDOT's sole discretion, be presented to the selected Developer as a TxDOT Change Order in accordance with the CDA.

### **3.5 Confidentiality**

Subject to the provisions of the Act and the Rules, ATCs and all communications regarding ATCs will remain confidential until a decision is made to select a Proposer or cancel the procurement, at which time all confidentiality rights, if any, shall be of no further force and effect except as otherwise allowed under the Act, applicable Law, and Sections 2.6 and 6.3 of the ITP. By submitting a Proposal, Proposer agrees, if it is not selected, to disclosure of its work product to the Developer after execution of the CDA or, if Proposer has elected to submit a Payment for Work Product Agreement, to the successful Proposer after conditional award.

## **SECTION 4.0 REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMITTAL OF PROPOSALS AND ACCEPTANCE OF DELIVERY BY TXDOT**

### **4.1 General Submittal Requirements**

Each Proposal shall include a Technical Proposal, Financial Proposal and Price Proposal meeting the requirements set forth in Exhibits B, C-1 and C-2, respectively. The Proposal shall be submitted in recyclable, low-cost sealed containers in the format and manner set forth in Sections 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4, respectively.

#### **4.1.1 Proposal Due Dates**

The components of the completed Proposal (i.e., the Technical Proposal, Financial Proposal and Price Proposal) shall be delivered no later than the Technical or Price Proposal Due Date, as applicable, and time specified in Section 1.5. The Technical and Financial Proposal shall be delivered no later than the Technical Proposal Due Date. The Price Proposal shall be delivered no later than the Price Proposal Due Date.

#### **4.1.2 Signatures Required**

The Price Proposal Letter (Form A) shall be signed in blue ink by all parties making up Proposer, and shall be accompanied by evidence of signatory authorization as specified in Form A.

#### **4.1.3 Certified Copies**

Where certified copies of the Proposal are required, Proposer shall mark the document or cover with the words "Certified True Copy" and have the mark oversigned by the Proposer's designated representative(s); provided that for certified copies of the Price Proposal, only the envelopes containing the certified copies shall be marked and signed.

#### **4.1.4 Consequences of Failure to Follow Requirements**

Failure to use sealed containers or to properly identify the Proposal may result in an inadvertent early opening of the Proposal and may result in disqualification of the Proposal. Proposer shall be entirely responsible for any consequences, including disqualification of the Proposal, which result from any inadvertent opening if TxDOT determines that Proposer did not follow the foregoing instructions. It is Proposer's sole responsibility to see that its Proposal is received as required. Proposals received after the date and time due will be rejected without consideration or evaluation.

#### **4.1.5 Requirement to Submit Compliant Proposal**

The Proposal may not include any qualifications, conditions, exceptions to or deviations from the requirements of the RFP, except as contained in pre-approved ATCs (including

conditionally pre-approved ATCs that have been revised to satisfy any conditions to approval). If the Proposal does not fully comply with the instructions and rules contained in this ITP, including the ITP exhibits, it may be disqualified. Any Proposal that contains a material alteration, as determined by TxDOT in its sole discretion, to the ITP forms, will be considered non-responsive and non-compliant. Alterations that have been approved in writing in advance by TxDOT will not be considered material.

If a Proposal is deemed non-responsive or non-compliant, TxDOT may disqualify the Proposal from further consideration, in its sole discretion. Such disqualification will not result in the forfeiture of Proposer's Proposal Security.

Each Proposal must be submitted in the official format specified by TxDOT in the RFP. Proposer shall sign the original copy of the Proposal submitted to TxDOT. Multiple or alternate proposals may not be submitted.

Proposals may be considered non-compliant and may be rejected for any of the following reasons:

(a) If the Proposal is submitted in paper form or on disk other than that specified by TxDOT; if it is not properly signed; if any part of the Proposal is missing from the Proposal package, and/or if it otherwise does not meet the Proposal submittal requirements;

(b) If TxDOT determines that the Proposal contains irregularities that make the Proposal incomplete, indefinite, or ambiguous as to its meaning, including illegible text, omissions, erasures, alterations, or items not called for in the RFP, or unauthorized additions;

(c) If multiple or alternate Proposals are submitted or if the Proposal includes any conditions or provisions reserving the right to accept or reject an award or to enter into a CDA following award;

(d) If Proposer attempts to limit or modify the Proposal Security, if the Proposal Security is not provided (see Exhibit B, Section 6), and/or if requested information deemed material by TxDOT is not provided; and

(e) Any other reason for which TxDOT determines the Proposal to be non-compliant.

#### **4.1.6 Format**

The Proposal shall contain concise written material and drawings enabling a clear understanding and evaluation of the capabilities of Proposer and the characteristics and benefits of the Proposal. Legibility, clarity, and completeness of the Proposal is essential. The Technical Proposal shall not exceed the page limitation set forth in Exhibit B, Section 2.0. No page limit applies to appendices and exhibits, however, TxDOT does not commit to review any information in appendices and exhibits other



than those required to be provided, and the Proposal evaluation process will focus on the body of the Proposal and any required appendices and exhibits.

An 8 ½ by 11-inch format is required for typed submissions and an 11 by 17-inch format is required for drawings, except that (i) any support letters provided from parties outside the United States may be submitted in ISO A4 format and (ii) design drawings may be submitted on scroll mats not to exceed 36 inches in width (and such design drawings shall be submitted on a CD, DVD or USB flash drive in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format and in Bentley Microstation format). Preliminary schedule submissions shall include both a hard copy and the electronic files necessary to view and manipulate the schedule in Primavera. Forms shall not be modified other than to include requested information.

Submittals must be bound with all pages in a binder sequentially numbered. Printed lines may be single-spaced with the type font size being no smaller than 12-point, other than in tables and figures which may be prepared using ten-point font size. The use of 11 by 17-inch foldouts for graphics and maps is acceptable in the main body of the Proposal. However, except for the Aesthetics Plan, 11 by 17-inch foldouts may not include narrative text, except for brief captions necessary to title or describe graphics. Any 11 by 17-inch foldouts included in the Aesthetics Plan may contain narrative text. Any other narrative text included on an 11 by 17-inch foldout may be disregarded by TxDOT. Each 11 by 17-inch foldout will be considered one page.

#### **4.1.7 Additional Requirements for Proposal Delivery**

The completed Proposal shall be submitted and delivered in sealed containers no later than the Price Proposal Due Date and Technical Proposal Due Date and time specified in Section 1.5. Each binder of the Proposal shall be labeled to indicate its contents and the Proposer. The original Proposal shall be clearly identified as “original”; copies of the Proposals shall be sequentially numbered, labeled and bound.

The Proposal is to be delivered to TxDOT at the following address:

Texas Department of Transportation  
7600 Chevy Chase Drive, Bldg. 2, Suite 400  
Austin, Texas 78752  
Attn: Mr. Dieter Billek, P.E.

## **4.2 Technical Proposal**

### **4.2.1 General**

All of the binders comprising the original Technical Proposal and Aesthetics Plan (see Section 4.2.2), together with an electronic copy on one or more CDs, DVDs or USB flash drives shall be packaged in a single container, clearly addressed to TxDOT as provided herein, and labeled “[Proposer Name]: Original Technical Proposal for the US 181 Harbor Bridge Replacement Project.” Proposer shall provide ten (10) certified

copies of the Technical Proposal. The containers that include the required hard copies of the Technical Proposal shall be labeled “Copies of Technical Proposal for the US 181 Harbor Bridge Replacement Project.”

The electronic copies shall be in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) format on CD(s), DVD(s) or USB flash drive(s); provided, however, that: (a) Proposal forms may be submitted in either Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) or Microsoft Word format; and (b) corporate, partnership, joint venture and limited liability company documents (e.g., articles of incorporation, bylaws, partnership agreements, joint venture agreements and limited liability company operating agreements) may be submitted in hard copy and need not be submitted electronically.

#### **4.2.2 Aesthetics Plan**

One original and six certified copies of the Aesthetics Plan shall be provided with the Technical Proposal, and shall be in a separate envelope labeled “[Proposer Name]: Aesthetics Plan for the US 181 Harbor Bridge Replacement Project.” The Aesthetics Plan shall not include any information identifying the Proposer.

#### **4.3 Financial Proposal**

One original and three certified copies of the Financial Proposal consisting of the required items described in Exhibit C shall be delivered to TxDOT at the address identified in Section 4.1.7 by the Price Proposal Due Date.

The financial statements and other financial capacity information submitted in response to Exhibit C-1 Section 2.0 shall be submitted in binders. One original and three hard copies, as well as one digital copy on a CD, DVD or USB flash drive, of the financial capacity information shall be submitted in a separate container labeled “[Proposer Name]: Financial Proposal/Financial Capacity information for the US 181 Harbor Bridge Replacement Project.” The information required in Exhibit C-1 Section 3.0 shall be submitted in a separate container labeled “[Proposer Name]: Financial Model/Related Information for the U.S. Harbor Bridge Replacement Project.”

#### **4.4 Price Proposal**

##### **4.4.1 General**

One original and three certified copies of the Price Proposal, as well as one digital copy in .pdf format on a CD, DVD or USB flash drive, shall be delivered to TxDOT at the address identified in Section 4.1.7 by the Price Proposal Due Date. The Price Proposal shall also include a completed electronic copy of the pricing forms in Excel.

All portions of the Proposal containing pricing information (including all pricing forms and the electronic copies of the Price Proposal) shall not include any information identifying the Proposer and shall be included in a separate container labeled “[Proposer Name]: Price Proposal Pricing Forms for the US 181 Harbor Bridge

Replacement Project.” The original and all copies of the Proposal Security shall be submitted in a separate envelope labeled “[Proposer Name]: Proposal Security for the US 181 Harbor Bridge Replacement Project.”

#### **4.4.2 Option Work**

Proposer shall include the Option 1 Work and Option 2 Work in its Proposal. The Proposer is required to address the Option 1 Work and Option 2 Work in its Technical Proposal, as options to the base scope of work, as set forth in Section 4 of Exhibit B and shall submit price information for the Option 1 Work and Option 2 Work as part of its Price Proposal as described in Exhibit C-2. TxDOT may elect to include the Option 1 Work in the Work by issuance of written notice to proceed in accordance with the CDA. TxDOT will elect to include or not to include the Option 2 Work in the Work and the scope and Price in the CDA will be conformed to reflect such election prior to execution of the CDA.

#### **4.5 Currency**

All required pricing, financial and cost information shall be provided in United States dollars (US\$) currency only.

#### **4.6 Modifications, Withdrawals and Late Submittals**

##### **4.6.1 Modifications to a Proposal**

A Proposer may modify its Proposal in writing prior to the specified time on the Technical Proposal Due Date. The modification shall conform in all respects to the requirements for submission of the applicable component of the Proposal. Modifications shall be clearly delineated as such on the face of the document to prevent confusion with the original components of the Proposal and shall specifically state that the modification supersedes the previous components of the Proposal and all previous modifications, if any. If multiple modifications are submitted, they shall be sequentially numbered so TxDOT can accurately identify the final Proposal. The modification must contain complete Proposal sections, complete pages or complete forms as described in Exhibits B, C-1 and C-2. Line item changes will not be accepted. No facsimile or other electronically transmitted modifications will be permitted.

##### **4.6.2 Withdrawal and Validity of Proposals**

Proposer may withdraw its Proposal at any time prior to the time due on the Price Proposal Due Date by means of a written request signed by the Proposer’s designated representative. Such written request shall be delivered to the address in Section 2.2.1. A withdrawal of a Technical Proposal, Financial Proposal or a Price Proposal prior to the Technical Proposal Due Date will not prejudice the right of a Proposer to file a new Technical Proposal, Financial Proposal or Price Proposal, as applicable, provided that it is received before the time due on the Technical or Price Proposal Due Date, as

applicable. No Proposal may be withdrawn on or after the time due on the Price Proposal Due Date and any attempt to do so will result in a draw by TxDOT upon the Proposal Security.

Proposals shall be valid for a period of 216 days after the Price Proposal Due Date. Except as set forth in the previous paragraph, no Proposer shall withdraw its Proposal prior to expiration of the 216-day period, unless notified by TxDOT that (a) no CDA for the Project will be awarded by TxDOT pursuant to the RFP (b) TxDOT has awarded the CDA to another Proposer and has received the executed CDA and other required documents, (c) TxDOT does not intend to award the CDA to the Proposer; or (d) such Proposer is not the apparent best value or next highest ranking Proposer. If the next best value Proposer is notified during the 216-day period that it is selected for negotiations, such Proposer shall extend the validity of its Proposal for the period until 276 days after the Price Proposal Due Date.

Any Proposer may elect, in its sole discretion, to extend the validity of its Proposal beyond the time periods set forth above.

#### **4.6.3 Late Proposals**

TxDOT will not consider any late Proposals and/or modification or withdrawal requests received after the date and time for submittal on the Technical Proposal Due Date and Price Proposals and/or modification or withdrawal requests received after the date and time for submittal on the Price Proposal Due Date will be returned to Proposer without consideration or evaluation.

#### **4.7 Forfeiture of Proposal Security**

The dollar amount of the Proposal Security to be submitted with each Price Proposal shall be \$50 million (see Exhibit B, Section 6.1). By submitting its Proposal, each Proposer understands and agrees that it shall forfeit its Proposal Security if: (a) it withdraws, repudiates or otherwise indicates in writing that it will not meet all or any part of its commitments made in its Proposal except as specifically permitted hereunder; (b) it is selected for negotiations, but fails to negotiate in good faith with TxDOT as set forth in Section 5.12; or (c) it is selected as the apparent best value Proposer, but fails to provide the documents required under Sections 6.1 and 6.1.1.

Any Proposal that contains a material alteration, as determined by TxDOT, in its sole discretion, to the ITP forms, including any material alteration to the form of Proposal Security (Form K), will be considered non-responsive and non-compliant. Alterations that have been approved in writing in advance by TxDOT will not be considered material. If a Proposal is deemed non-responsive or non-compliant, TxDOT may disqualify the Proposal from further consideration. Such disqualification will not result in the forfeiture of Proposer's Proposal Security.

Each Proposer, by submittal of its Proposal, shall be deemed to have agreed to the foregoing.

#### **4.8 Acceptance of Delivery by TxDOT**

TxDOT will provide receipts for Proposals that are timely delivered to TxDOT as specified herein.

#### **4.9 Costs Not Reimbursable**

The cost of preparing the Proposal and any costs incurred at any time before final award and execution of the CDA, including costs incurred for any interviews, and costs associated with Post-Selection Deliverables, shall be borne by Proposer, except for any costs paid by TxDOT in accordance with Section 6.3.

## **SECTION 5.0 EVALUATION AND POST-SELECTION PROCESS**

TxDOT's goal is to create a fair and uniform basis for the evaluation of the Proposals in compliance with all applicable legal requirements governing this procurement.

The Proposal evaluation process will include review of each Proposal for responsiveness and pass-fail criteria, qualitative evaluation of the Project Development Plan, quantitative evaluation of the Financial Proposal, evaluation of the Price Proposal, a ranking determination and a best value determination. The process may, at TxDOT's sole discretion, include a request for Proposal Revisions, and may include a limited negotiations phase with the selected Proposer(s). The steps in the process and evaluation criteria are set forth in Sections 5.3 through 5.11. The evaluation and selection process is subject to modification by TxDOT, in its sole discretion.

The evaluation process will involve the following steps:

1. TxDOT evaluation committees will:
  - (a) evaluate the Proposals and determine which Proposer has offered the apparent best value Proposal with specific analysis of the overall value of money to TxDOT, based on the specific evaluation criteria set forth herein; and
  - (b) provide a recommendation to TxDOT senior management regarding the apparent best value.
2. TxDOT senior management will review and consider the recommendations from the TxDOT evaluation committees, and will provide a recommendation for conditional award to the Commission. The Commission will issue notice of conditional award after considering the recommendations received.

The details of the evaluation and selection process are set forth more fully in this Section 5.

### **5.1 Organization of the TxDOT Evaluation Committee and Subcommittees**

Evaluation of Proposals will be conducted by TxDOT's Evaluation and Selection Recommendation Committee ("ESRC") with assistance from four separate subcommittees – a pass/fail and responsiveness subcommittee, an Aesthetics Subcommittee, a Technical Solutions Subcommittee, a Project Management Plan Subcommittee and a Price Proposal Evaluation Subcommittee ("PPES").

The ESRC and the various evaluation subcommittees other than the Aesthetics Subcommittee will be comprised of representatives from TxDOT. The Aesthetics Subcommittee shall include representatives from TxDOT, as well as representatives from a Blue Ribbon Panel consisting of representatives from local governments. In

addition to TxDOT and Blue Ribbon Panel voting members, the ESRC and subcommittees may also be assisted by advisors, including TxDOT representatives and outside consultants who will offer advice on the technical, financial and legal aspects of each Proposal. The primary responsibility of these advisors will be to assist the ESRC and subcommittees in making the educated and informed assessment of the individual strengths and weaknesses of the Proposals. In addition, observers, including representatives from federal and other agencies and municipalities, with specific interests and responsibilities associated with the Project may be invited to observe aspects of the evaluation process. All evaluators and outside consultants and observers will be required to sign confidentiality statements and will be subject to TxDOT conflict of interest control requirements.

## **5.2 Best Value Determination**

The best value determination will be based on an 80-15-5 point scale. The Price Score will represent up to 80 points of the total score, the Technical Score will represent up to 15 points of the total score and the Aesthetics Score will represent up to 5 points of the total score. The determination of apparent best value shall be based on the highest Total Proposal Score computed based on the following formula:

$$\text{Total Proposal Score (max. 100 points)} = \text{Price Score (max. 80 points)} + \text{Technical Score (max. 15 points)} + \text{Aesthetics Score (max. 5 points)}$$

### **5.2.1 Price Score**

The Price Score will be calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Price Score} = (\text{Lowest Price Value} / \text{Price Value}) * 80$$

Lowest Price Value = Lowest Price Value submitted by a Proposer as determined pursuant to Section 5.5.

Price Value = Proposer's Price Value as determined pursuant to Section 5.5.

### **5.2.2 Technical Score**

The Technical Score will be calculated based on the ESRC evaluation score for the Project Development Plan (maximum of 100 points) as described in Section 5.4.3. The Technical Score will be calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Technical Score} = \text{ESRC technical evaluation score} * 0.15$$

### **5.2.3 Aesthetics Score**

The Aesthetics Score will be calculated based on the ESRC evaluation score for the Aesthetics (maximum of 100 points) as described in Section 5.6. The Aesthetics Score will be calculated using the following formula:

Aesthetics Score = ESRC aesthetics evaluation score \* 0.05

### 5.3 Pass/Fail and Responsiveness Evaluation

Upon receipt, the Technical Proposals and the Financial Proposals will be made available for review by the relevant pass/fail and responsiveness subcommittees. The Price Proposals will be made available for review by the relevant pass/fail and responsiveness subcommittees on the Price Proposal Due Date. The components of the Proposals will be reviewed (a) for the Proposal's conformance to the RFP instructions regarding organization and format and responsiveness to the requirements set forth in the RFP and (b) based on the pass/fail criteria set forth below.

#### 5.3.1 Technical Proposals

Technical Proposals will be evaluated based on the following pass/fail or responsiveness criteria:

(a) The business form of Proposer, the proposed Developer and any entities that will have joint and several liability (i.e. joint venture members or partners) under the CDA or that will provide a guaranty (including any joint venture agreement, partnership agreement, operating agreement, articles of incorporation, bylaws, association agreements or equivalent documents) is consistent with the requirements of the Project and Contract Documents.

(b) Proposer has provided a DBE certification in accordance with the requirements of Exhibit B, Section 3.2.8.

(c) Proposer information, certifications, signed statements and documents as listed in Exhibit B, Section 3.2 are included in the Proposal and do not identify any material adverse information.

(d) Technical Proposal as outlined in Exhibit B meets all applicable RFP requirements.

(e) Proposer has delivered Proposal Security in the form of a complete, properly executed proposal bond that complies with the requirements of Exhibit B, Section 6.

#### 5.3.2 Schedule Evaluations

The Preliminary Project Baseline Schedule and Form Q will be evaluated on a pass/fail basis based on the Proposer's commitment to meet or beat each applicable "TxDOT Last Allowable Date for Substantial Completion" for each Phase of the Project, as set forth in Form Q. In addition, the Preliminary Project Baseline Schedules will be evaluated for consistency with the technical solution provided and for compliance with the requirements listed in Exhibit B, Section 4.1.2.



### 5.3.3 Financial Proposals

Financial Proposals will be evaluated based on the following pass/fail criteria:

(a) Proposer's financial condition and capabilities shall not have materially adversely changed from its financial condition and capabilities as evidenced by the financial data submitted in the QS, such that Proposer continues to have the financial capacity to develop, design, construct and maintain a project of the nature and scope of the Project. Factors that will be considered in evaluating Proposer's financial capacity include the following:

- (i) Profitability;
- (ii) Capital structure;
- (iii) Ability to service existing debt; and
- (iii) Other commitments and contingencies.

If TxDOT determines that a Proposer has insufficient financial capacity, it will offer Proposer the opportunity to meet the financial requirement through one or more guarantors acceptable to TxDOT.

### 5.3.4 Price Proposals

Price Proposals will be evaluated based on the following pass/fail criteria:

(a) Proposer has provided a Base Scope D&C Price and PV of Anticipated Draws of Base Scope D&C Price using Forms M-1, M-1.1 and M-1.2 that complies with the requirements of Exhibit C-2, Section 3.1.

(b) Proposer has provided an Option 1 Price and PV of Anticipated Draws of Option 1 Price, as well as Option 2 Price and PV of Anticipated Draws of Option 2 Price using Form M-3 that complies with the requirements of Exhibit C-2, Section 3.3.

(c) Proposer has provided the Developer Draws/Cash Flow Tables for the Base Scope using Form M-2, Option 1 using Form M-4 and Option 2 using Form M-5 that complies with the requirements of Exhibit C-2, Section 3.1 and Exhibit C-2, Section 3.3.

(d) Proposer has provided an Option 2 Price using Forms M-5.1 and M-5.2 that complies with the requirements of Exhibit C-2, Section 3.3.

(e) Proposer has provided an O&M Base Scope Price using Form N-1 that complies with the requirements of Exhibit C-2, Section 3.2.

(f) Proposer has provided an O&M Option 2 Price using Form N-2 that complies with the requirements of Exhibit C-2, Section 3.4.

(g) Proposer has provided an O&M Schedules for Base Scope using Form N-1.1 and Form N-1.2 that complies with the requirements of Exhibit C-2, Section 3.2.

(h) Proposer has provided O&M Schedules for Option 2 Work using Form N-2.1 and Form N-2.2 that complies with the requirements of Exhibit C-2, Section 3.4.

### **5.3.5 TxDOT Right to Exclude Proposals from Consideration or to Waive Mistakes**

Those Proposals not responsive to the RFP, or that do not pass the pass/fail criteria, may be excluded from further consideration, and Proposer will be so advised. TxDOT may also exclude from consideration any Proposer whose Proposal contains a material misrepresentation. TxDOT reserves the right to waive minor informalities, irregularities and apparent clerical mistakes that are unrelated to the substantive content of the Proposals.

## **5.4 Evaluation of Project Development Plan by Subcommittees**

Upon receipt of the Technical Proposals, the Project Development Plan will be evaluated by the Technical Solution Subcommittee and the Project Manager Subcommittee based on the evaluation factors set forth below. In addition, in evaluating the Project Development Plan against the evaluation factors, the subcommittees will consider the extent to which the Proposal meets the objectives stated below and includes any improvements over the requirements of the Contract Documents, such as additional benefits and/or value to TxDOT and the public.

Value-added concepts as described in Exhibit B, Section 4.1(b) shall be reviewed and evaluated based on the Proposer's creativity and innovativeness to create a quality facility that meets or exceeds the requirements and objectives of TxDOT.

### **5.4.1 Project Development Plan Evaluation Factors**

The evaluation factors for the Project Development Plan are as follows:

- (a) Technical Solutions;
- (b) Project Management Plan;
- (c) Maintenance Plan;
- (d) Quality Management Plan; and
- (e) Sustainability Plan.

Note that these evaluation factors are also the components of the Project Development Plan, the submittal requirements for which are described in Exhibit B. The assigned weights for the Project Development Plan evaluation factors identified in clauses (a) through (c) above are set forth in Table 5.2 below. Subfactors and their relative weighting are listed in Sections 5.4.1.1 through 5.4.1.4.

The evaluation factors will be evaluated and rated using the rating guidelines specified in Section 5.4.2, with special attention given to the objectives presented in Sections 5.4.1.1 through 5.4.1.4, which describe the expectations of TxDOT with regard to the work to be performed and the related information to be submitted in the Project Development Plan. Along with the Project goals identified in Section 1.3, these objectives will guide TxDOT's assessment of the evaluation factors and subfactors.

#### **5.4.1.1 Technical Solutions**

**Objectives:** Innovative design, construction and comprehensive maintenance solutions that effectively respond to and address the Project's requirements, including the following:

- the need to remain within the project limits;
- the requirement to plan and coordinate the design, construction and comprehensive maintenance activities with other projects and Stakeholders;
- the efficient and coordinated design and relocation of Utilities;
- the environmental and community sensitivities and commitments;
- the need to minimize traffic impact and disruption to the traveling public, Stakeholders' operations and surrounding communities; and
- schedule.

The Technical Solutions evaluation subfactors are as follows:

(a) Group 1

- New Harbor Bridge and roadway bridges
- Construction staging and sequencing
- Coordination with project stakeholders including enhanced public involvement
- Life cycle cost methodology

(b) Group 2

- Environmental permitting, mitigation and impacts
- Roadway
- Drainage
- Right of way services
- Utilities
- Signing, delineation, pavement markings, signalization and lighting

The groups are listed in descending order of importance; provided, however, that a subfactor within each group may have equal importance with the subfactors listed immediately above it.

See Exhibit B for additional detail regarding the specific information concerning this factor and its subfactors to be submitted as part of the Project Development Plan.

#### 5.4.1.2 Project Management Plan

**Objective:** An organization that is designed with clear lines of responsibility, quality Key Personnel and well-defined roles that respond to the Project and TxDOT that includes the following:

- integrated specialty subcontractors and subconsultants;
- partnering throughout;
- empowerment of all levels of the organization to make decisions in coordination with their TxDOT counterparts and, if need be, a system to elevate issues to ensure rapid decisions;
- quality through a well-defined and executed quality plan for design, construction and maintenance;
- a disciplined strategy for design, design quality and design review, safety, risk management, public involvement, and securing of third-party approvals; and
- a comprehensive strategy for construction management, logistics, hauling, access, construction sequencing, minimizing public disruptions, safety, subcontracting, DBE participation, and other job training.
- a comprehensive maintenance plan for the D&C Period that provides (i) a well-maintained Project in compliance with all technical provisions; (ii) efficient

and safe responses to the maintenance needs of the Project, the adjacent communities and the traveling public; and (iii) effective interfacing, communication and coordination with separate contractors, Stakeholders and other third parties.

The Project Management Plan evaluation subfactors are as follows:

- (a) General project management;
- (b) Risk management;
- (c) Construction planning, maintenance and traffic management during construction period;
- (d) Schedule and cost control management;
- (e) Public information and communications;
- (f) Environmental management;
- (g) Design management; and
- (h) Mentoring and job training.

The subfactors are listed in descending order of importance; provided, however, that a subfactor may have equal importance with the subfactors listed immediately above it.

See Exhibit B for additional detail regarding the specific information concerning this factor and its subfactors to be submitted as part of the Project Development Plan.

#### **5.4.1.3 Quality Management Plan**

**Objective:** To provide a Quality Management Plan that is ISO compliant, that integrates TxDOT into the quality management system and enables TxDOT to monitor, audit, and measure Developer's performance in the management of design, construction and comprehensive maintenance of the Project.

The Quality Management Plan evaluation subfactors are as follows:

- (a) Quality control and quality acceptance procedures;
- (b) Key Personnel; and
- (c) Organizational structure.

The subfactors are listed in descending order of importance; provided, however, that a subfactor may have equal importance with the subfactors listed immediately above it.

See Exhibit B for details regarding the specific information concerning this factor to be submitted as part of the Project Development Plan.

#### **5.4.1.4 Sustainability Plan**

**Objective:** To provide a Sustainability Plan that describes the Proposer’s approach and commitment to sustainable design, construction, and operational and maintenance practices that optimize and balance the environmental, social and financial performance of the Project.

TxDOT has set the project sustainability performance targets and intends to measure performance against these targets throughout the Term of the CDA, utilizing the FHWA “Infrastructure Voluntary Evaluation Sustainability Tool” (INVEST) program version 1.0.

The Proposer’s Sustainability Plan shall be developed to demonstrate how the following INVEST program version 1.0 performance targets would be achieved:

- INVEST Project Development Module: “Platinum” level.
- INVEST Operations and Maintenance Module: “Silver” level.

Plan evaluation subfactors are as follows:

- (a) Demonstrated ability to achieve the stated INVEST program version 1.0 performance targets for the PD and OM modules;
- (b) Sustainable design and construction practices, with special emphasis on demonstration of sustainable project features and programs; and
- (c) Community engagement and outreach practices, including Environmental Justice commitments and practices.

The subfactors are listed in descending order of importance; provided, however, that a subfactor may have equal importance with the subfactors listed immediately above it.

See Exhibit B for details regarding the specific information concerning this factor to be submitted as part of the Technical Proposal.

#### **5.4.2 Key Personnel; Evaluation Guidelines**

The DPES will review the Project Development Plan with reference to the evaluation factors specified in Section 5.4.1, in accordance with the guidelines provided in this Section 5.4.2 and assign a qualitative rating for each of the evaluation subfactors in accordance with Table 5.1.

**Table 5.1**

<b>ADJECTIVE RATING</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
Excellent	The Proposal greatly exceeds the stated requirements/objectives, offering material benefits and/or added value, and providing assurance that a consistently outstanding level of quality will be achieved. There is very little or no risk that Proposer would fail to satisfy the requirements of the CDA. Weaknesses, if any, are very minor and can be readily corrected. Significant unique and/or innovative characteristics are present.
Very Good	The Proposal significantly exceeds the stated requirements/objectives, offering advantages, benefits and/or added value, and providing assurance that a level of quality will be achieved that is materially better than acceptable. There is little risk that Proposer would fail to satisfy the requirements of the CDA. Weaknesses, if any, are very minor and can be readily corrected. Some unique and/or innovative characteristics are present.
Good	The Proposal materially exceeds the stated requirements/objectives and provides assurance that the level of quality will meet or exceed minimum requirements. There may be a slight probability of risk that Proposer may fail to satisfy the requirements of the CDA. Weaknesses, if any, are minor and can be readily corrected. Few or minimal unique and/or innovative characteristics are present.
Fair	The Proposal marginally exceeds stated requirements/objectives and provides satisfactory assurance that the level of quality will meet or marginally exceed minimum requirements. There may be questions about the likelihood of success and there is risk that Proposer may fail to satisfy the requirements of the CDA. Weaknesses are correctable or acceptable per minimum standards.
Meets Minimum	The Proposal meets stated requirements/objectives and provides satisfactory assurance that the minimum level of quality will be achieved. There may be questions about the likelihood of success and there is some risk that Proposer may fail to satisfy the requirements of the CDA. Weaknesses are correctable or acceptable per minimum standards.

The term “weakness,” as used herein, means any flaw in the Proposal that increases the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

### 5.4.3 Technical Score

During the evaluation, each subfactor as described in Section 5.4.1 above will be assigned a consensus rating by TxDOT, which will be converted to points. The points for each subfactor will be added to determine the Proposal’s score for each of the corresponding evaluation factors. The score of each of the evaluation factors will then be added to arrive at the total evaluation score for the Project Development Plan, with 100 maximum possible points. The Technical Score will be calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Technical Score} = \text{total evaluation score (maximum 100)} * (0.15)$$

**Table 5.2**

<b>Project Development Plan</b>	<b>Maximum Qualitative Rating (100 Points)</b>
Technical Solutions	45 Points
Project Management Plan	20 Points
Maintenance Plan	20 Points
Quality Management Plan	10 Points
Sustainability	5 Points

### 5.5 Evaluation of Price Proposal by PPES

After completion of the pass/fail and responsiveness review, the Price Proposal will be evaluated by the PPES. The PPES will conduct “blind” reviews and evaluations of the Price Proposals to determine the Price Score of the Proposal in accordance with Section 5.2.1. The Price Value will be:

$$\text{Price Value} = (A+B+C) + D + (E+F+G)$$

Where:



A = PV of Anticipated Draws of Base Scope D&C Price per Form M-1

B = Adjusted Operations and Maintenance Value for the Base Scope per Form N-1

C = Total Base Scope D&C Price ATC Cost Adjustment per Form M-1.2

D = PV of Anticipated Draws of Option 1 per Form M-3

E = PV of Anticipated Draws of Option 2 per Form M-3

F = Adjusted Operations and Maintenance Value for Option 2 per Form N-2

G = Total Option 2 Price ATC Cost Adjustment per Form M-5.2

## 5.6 Evaluation of New Harbor Bridge Aesthetics by the Aesthetics Subcommittee

Upon receipt of the Proposals, Aesthetics Subcommittee will conduct “blind” reviews and evaluations of the Aesthetics Plan to determine the Aesthetics Score in accordance with Section 5.2.3. The Aesthetics Plan will be evaluated by the Aesthetics Subcommittee based on the evaluation factors set forth below. In addition, in evaluating the Aesthetics Plan against the evaluation factors, the subcommittee will consider the extent to which the Proposal meets the objectives stated below and includes any improvements over the requirements of the Contract Documents, such as additional benefits and/or value to TxDOT and the public.

**Objective:** To provide a comprehensive Aesthetics Plan and renderings to show the architectural and aesthetics of the Project and how the aesthetics of the New Harbor Bridge incorporate the Aesthetics Guidelines (Attachment 15-1).

The Aesthetics evaluation subfactors are as follows:

- (a) New Harbor Bridge;
- (b) Approach bridges and roadway bridges;
- (c) Widened and/or rehabilitated bridges;
- (d) Lighting concept;
- (e) Shared Use Path;
- (f) New Harbor Bridge main span overlook.

The subfactors are listed in descending order of importance; provided, however, that a subfactor may have equal importance with the subfactors listed immediately above it.

## **5.7 ESRC Evaluation of Proposals**

Before reviewing the Price Proposal and PPES evaluation results, the ESRC will review the Technical Proposals and the ratings and points recommendations provided by the DPES with respect to each Project Development Plan and provided by the Aesthetics Subcommittee with respect to the Project aesthetics submitted with the Proposal. The ESRC may accept the recommendations provided by the DPES and Aesthetics Subcommittee, may request the DPES to reconsider its recommendations, or may develop its own recommendations.

After determining each Proposal's Technical Score and Aesthetics Score, the ESRC will review the Price Proposal and PPES evaluation results and determine each Proposal's Price Score. The ESRC may accept the evaluation results provided by the PPES, may request the PPES to re-perform the evaluation, or may perform the evaluation itself.

Finally, the ESRC will determine the Total Proposal Score for each Proposal based on the formula set forth in Section 5.2 and determine the rankings and the apparent best value.

## **5.8 Requests for Clarification**

TxDOT may at any time issue one or more requests for clarification to the individual Proposers, requesting additional information or clarification from a Proposer, or may request a Proposer to verify or certify any aspect of its Proposal. Any requests for clarification shall be in writing to the Proposer's designated representative. Proposers shall respond to any such requests within two Business Days (or such other time as is specified by TxDOT) from receipt of the request. The scope, length and topics to be addressed in clarifications shall be prescribed by, and subject to the discretion of, TxDOT.

Upon receipt of requested clarifications and additional information as described above, if any, the Proposals may be re-evaluated to factor in the clarifications and additional information.

## **5.9 Requests for Proposal Revisions**

Depending on the quality of the Proposals, TxDOT may, at any time after receipt of Proposals and prior to final award of the CDA or the disclosure of a Proposer's ATCs to another Proposer, whichever is earlier, determine that it is appropriate to request changes to the Proposals ("Proposal Revisions"). Before requesting any such Proposal Revisions TxDOT will engage in separate discussions (either in writing or in person through one-on-one meetings) with each Proposer and in accordance with the procedures for proposal revisions described in 23 CFR Part 636.501 *et seq.* The request for Proposal Revisions will identify any revisions to the RFP and will specify terms and conditions applicable to the Proposal Revisions, including identifying a time and date for delivery. In the event that Proposal Revisions are requested, the term

“Proposal,” as used in the RFP, shall mean the original Proposal, as modified by the Proposal Revision.

Upon receipt of Proposal Revisions, the ESRC, with assistance from the appropriate subcommittees, will re-evaluate the Proposals as revised, and will revise ratings and value estimates as appropriate following the process described above.

### **5.10 Identification of Apparent Best Value Proposal**

Once the ESRC has determined a Total Proposal Score for each Proposal, assigned rankings to the Proposals based on the Total Proposal Scores (whether based on the original Proposals or Proposal Revisions), and determined the apparent best value, the ESRC will present its recommended rankings to a Steering Committee comprised of the Chief Planning and Project Officer, Director, Strategic Projects Division, Innovative Financing/Debt Management Officer, and Corpus Christi District Engineer (the “Steering Committee”).

### **5.11 Recommendation to Commission**

The Steering Committee will review the Proposals and the recommendations and supporting information provided by the ESRC, and may accept the recommendation or reject the recommendation and cancel the procurement. If the Steering Committee accepts the ESRC’s recommendation, the Steering Committee will provide the recommendation to the TxDOT Executive Director or his designee regarding which Proposal provides the best overall value. In completing its review, TxDOT will compare the Proposals with a reference case based on TxDOT’s internal cost estimate for the Project.

Upon receipt of recommendations from the Steering Committee, the TxDOT Executive Director or his designee will review the recommendations and may accept the recommendation or reject the recommendation and cancel the procurement. If the Executive Director accepts the Steering Committee’s recommendation, the Executive Director will make a recommendation to the Commission regarding the rankings of Proposers and designation of the best value. The Commission will evaluate the recommendations and will determine whether to proceed with award of a CDA to the apparent best value Proposer or take any other action. The Commission’s decision of conditional award of the CDA to the apparent best value Proposer will be made in a public hearing and will be considered a public announcement of intent to award the CDA by the Commission.

The Commission’s decision regarding award of the CDA shall be final.

## **5.12 Finalization of the CDA; Post-Selection Process**

### **5.12.1 Negotiation of Contract Documents**

If authorized by the Commission, TxDOT will proceed with the apparent best value Proposer to finalize the Contract Documents. TxDOT may elect to include the Option 2 Work in the Contract Documents. TxDOT may agree to limited negotiations with the apparent best value Proposer to clarify any remaining issues regarding scope, schedule, financing or any other information provided by that Proposer. In addition, limited negotiations may be conducted as necessary to incorporate into the Contract Documents the ideas and concepts of the work product of unsuccessful Proposers that elected to submit a Payment for Work Product Agreement. Any decision to commence limited negotiations is at TxDOT's sole discretion. By submitting its Proposal, each Proposer commits to enter into the form of CDA included in the RFP, without negotiation or variation, except to fill in blanks and include information that the form of CDA indicates is required from the Proposal.

If a CDA satisfactory to TxDOT cannot be negotiated with the apparent best value Proposer, TxDOT will formally end negotiations with that Proposer and take action consistent with the direction provided by the Commission. Such action may include (a) requiring the best value Proposer to enter into the CDA in the form included in the RFP, without variation except to fill in blanks and include information that the form of the CDA indicates is required from the Proposal, (b) rejection of all Proposals, (c) issuance of a request for Proposal Revisions to Proposers, but only if the ATCs of one or more Proposers have not been revealed to the original successful Proposer, or (d) proceeding to the next most highly ranked Proposal to attempt to negotiate a CDA with that Proposer in accordance with this Section 5.12. If option (d) is selected, the Proposer that submitted the next most highly ranked Proposal will be considered the apparent best value Proposer.

In the event TxDOT elects to commence negotiations with a Proposer, such Proposer will be deemed to have failed to engage in good faith negotiations with TxDOT and shall forfeit its Proposal Security as set forth in Section 4.7 if Proposer fails to attend and actively participate in reasonably scheduled negotiation meetings with TxDOT or insists upon terms or conditions for any documents to be negotiated or provided by Developer hereunder that are inconsistent with the Contract Documents.

### **5.12.2 Market Interest Rate Adjustment and Adjustment for Change in Financial Plan; Proposal Financial Model**

Each Proposer will have the option to utilize the market interest rate adjustment to the Base Scope D&C Price or Option 2 Price (as applicable) under the terms set forth herein and in the Agreement. Upon election by the Proposer, TxDOT will bear the risk and have the benefit of changes in market interest rates (either positive or negative) for the period beginning at 10:00 a.m. on February 20, 2015 and ending on the date that is 30 days after the Effective Date; provided, that in the event Developer fails to execute

its Funding Agreement and Security Documents on or before the end of the interest rate adjustment period, the Base Scope D&C Price or Option 2 Price (as applicable) will be decreased on such date to reflect a net decrease in market interest rates, but the Base Scope D&C Price or Option 2 Price (as applicable) will not be increased to reflect a net increase in market interest rates.

As part of the Financial Proposal, each Proposer must identify its election whether to utilize the market interest rate adjustment by completing and submitting Part I of Form U. Any Proposer that elects to utilize the market interest rate adjustment to the Base Scope D&C Price or Option 2 Price (as applicable) also shall complete Part II of Form U and shall submit a Proposal Financial Model consistent with Form U and in the form required in Exhibit C-1, Section 3.0.

The interest rate adjustment will be based on the movement, if any, in the benchmark bonds or swap rates underlying the financing contained in the Proposal Financial Model submitted by the successful Proposer prior to the Price Proposal Due Date (the "Benchmark Rate"). The Benchmark Rate must be independently verifiable by TxDOT using Bloomberg, treasurydirect.gov (State and Local Government Securities), or Thompson Municap Monitor (Municipal Market Data) U.S. based screens. The Benchmark Rate's information source must be submitted to TxDOT for approval not later than the applicable last date specified in Section 1.5 and must be approved by TxDOT not later than the applicable last date specified in Section 1.5.

The Benchmark Rate will be recorded by TxDOT, or its designee, at 10:00 a.m. on the first and last day of the market interest rate adjustment period. The reading will be taken on the Bloomberg, treasurydirect.gov (State and Local Government Securities), or Thompson Municap Monitor (Municipal Market Data) U.S. based screen at 10:00 a.m. Readings will be sent to the selected Proposer immediately and Proposer will have up to one hour to dispute each reading. If no objection is made within the hour, the reading as taken by TxDOT from the Bloomberg, treasurydirect.gov (State and Local Government Securities), or Thompson Municap Monitor (Municipal Market Data) U.S. based screen shall be used for the purpose of determining the market interest rate adjustment. In the event of a dispute, TxDOT may elect to reexamine the 10:00 a.m. reading provided there is sufficient evidence to support the claim.

On the date set forth in Section 11.1.3 of the Agreement, the selected Proposer and TxDOT shall jointly adjust the Base Scope D&C Price or Option 2 Price (as applicable) to reflect the change in the Benchmark Rate in accordance with Section 11.1.3 of the Agreement.

The Agreement sets forth the process, mechanics and constraints on any applicable market interest rate adjustment. Proposers should be aware that in the event any increase to the Base Scope D&C Price or Option 2 Price (as applicable) due to the adjustment set forth in Section 11.1.3 of the Agreement would exceed [\$TBD] million, TxDOT intends to consider terminating the Agreement.

If Developer elected to utilize the market interest rate adjustment to the Base Scope D&C Price or Option 2 Price (as applicable) and closes financing on or before the Interest Rate Adjustment Expiration Date under a financial plan that uses different financing instruments, guarantees or parties from those assumed in the financial plan included in its Proposal and such revised financial plan results in a reduction in the documented and verifiable costs due to Lenders under the Funding Agreements, TxDOT shall be entitled to 60% of the benefit of such reduced costs, which benefit shall be reflected in a reduction to the Base Scope D&C Price or Option 2 Price (as applicable). The specific process and mechanics for such adjustment is set forth in Section 11.1.3(b) and Exhibit 28 to the Agreement.

### **5.12.3 Proposal Financial Model Audit**

For any Proposer required to submit a Proposal Financial Model as set forth in Section 5.12.2, the Proposer shall cause an independent audit of such Proposal Financial Model (“Proposal Financial Model Audit”) to be conducted by an independent firm engaged by the Proposer and qualified to perform the work described herein (the “Model Auditor”). Such independent audit shall be at the Proposer’s sole cost and expense. The audit report for the Proposal Financial Model shall state that the Proposal Financial Model is:

- i. free of mechanical error;
- ii. suitable for use in connection with the interest rate adjustment to the Base Scope D&C Price and Option 2 Price; and
- iii. consistent with the requirements in Exhibit C-1, Section 3.0.

The Proposer assumes the risk of errors, omissions, defects, and deficiencies in its Proposal Financial Model. If any changes to the Proposal Financial Model required due to errors, omissions, defects, and deficiencies results in an increase in the Base Scope D&C Price or Option 2 Price (as applicable) set forth in the Proposal Financial Model as compared to the Base Scope D&C Price or Option 2 Price (as applicable) set forth in Form M-1, then the Base Scope D&C Price or Option 2 Price (as applicable) set forth in Form M-1 shall be the Base Scope D&C Price or Option 2 Price (as applicable) . If any changes to the Proposal Financial Model required due to errors, omissions, defects, and deficiencies results in a decrease in the Base Scope D&C Price or Option 2 Price (as applicable) set forth in the Proposal Financial Model as compared to the Base Scope D&C Price or Option 2 Price (as applicable) set forth in Form M-1 or Form M-3, then the Base Scope D&C Price or Option 2 Price (as applicable) set forth in the Proposal Financial Model shall be the Base Scope D&C Price or Option 2 Price (as applicable).

Copies of the audit report(s) and opinion(s) shall be delivered with the Financial Proposal in accordance with Exhibit C-1, Section 3.0.

## 5.13 Post-Selection Deliverables

### 5.13.1 Project Management Plan

During the period between conditional award and final award of the CDA, the selected Proposer may, but is not required to, submit all or portions of the Project Management Plan for review, comment and possible pre-approval. TxDOT encourages such early submittal(s), and will attempt to provide comments to any such submittals generally in accordance with the process and timelines set forth in the CDA, but cannot guaranty that it will in fact undertake such review or provide comments or approval.

### 5.13.2 Documents To Be Submitted Following Conditional Award

As a condition precedent to final award of the CDA, the successful Proposer shall deliver the following to TxDOT within seven days after notification of conditional award:

(a) Evidence of authority to transact business in the State of Texas for all members of Proposer's team that will transact business in the State, dated no earlier than 30 days prior to the Technical Proposal Due Date. Depending on the form of organization, such evidence may be in the form of (i) a certificate of authority to transact business in Texas along with a certificate of good standing from the state of organization of the member; (ii) a certificate of good standing from the Texas Comptroller; or (iii) other evidence acceptable to TxDOT.

(b) If not previously submitted, a copy of the final organizational documents for Developer and, if Developer is a limited liability company, partnership or joint venture, for each member or partner of Developer. The final form of the organizational documents may not differ materially from the draft organizational documents included with the Proposal. If the Developer is a joint venture, attach a letter from each joint venturer stating that the joint venturer agrees to be held jointly and severally liable for any and all of the duties and obligations of the Developer under the Proposal and under any contract arising therefrom.

(c) If security for Proposer's obligations under the CDA is required by TxDOT pursuant to Exhibit C-1, Section 2.0, a draft of the proposed guarantees, which shall be in the form included in Exhibits 13-1 or 13-2 of the CDA, as applicable.

(d) Escrowed proposal documents as required by Section 5.13.4.

During the negotiation period, as a condition to final award, Proposer shall deliver drafts of the deliverables identified in Section 6.1.1, for pre-approval by TxDOT.

### 5.13.3 TxDOT Comments On Post-Selection Deliverables

TxDOT shall provide comments on any Post-Selection Deliverables required to be delivered to TxDOT hereunder within 14 days of the date of TxDOT's receipt of such

deliverable. TxDOT shall have five Business Days to review and respond to subsequent submittals of the deliverable.

#### **5.13.4 Escrowed Proposal Documents**

(a) Within the timeframe stated in Section 5.13.2, Developer shall deliver to TxDOT escrowed proposal documents (“EPDs”) containing information regarding Proposer’s assumptions made in determining the scope of work and calculating the Proposal prices and meeting all requirements of Section 20.1 of the CDA. The EPDs shall include detailed information from all subcontractors identified in the Proposal and any other potential subcontractors who provided data upon which the Proposal is based. The format and content of the pricing information shall allow TxDOT to verify the accuracy and completeness of the lump sum prices provided on the pricing forms. The documents shall be in sealed containers labeled “[Proposer Name]: Escrowed Proposal Materials for the US 181 Harbor Bridge Replacement Project.” TxDOT shall have the right to review the EPDs for completeness and consistency with the Proposal.

(b) Representatives of TxDOT (and/or its consultants) and the successful Proposer shall review the EPDs prior to execution of the CDA to determine whether they are complete. Such representatives shall also organize the EPDs, labeling each page so that it is obvious that each page is a part of the EPDs, and to enable a person reviewing the page out of context to determine where it can be found within the EPDs. Such representatives shall compile an index that lists each document included in the EPDs, and briefly describes the document and its location in the EPDs. TxDOT will have the right to retain a copy of the index. After the joint review, the EPDs shall be kept in a locked cabinet at TxDOT’s offices.

(c) If, following the initial review and organization, TxDOT determines that the EPDs are incomplete, TxDOT may, as a condition to final award, require the selected Proposer to supply data to make the EPDs complete.

(d) Following execution of the CDA, the EPDs will be available for joint review only as specified in CDA Section 20.1.1.



## **SECTION 6.0 FINAL AWARD AND EXECUTION; POST-EXECUTION ACTIONS**

### **6.1 Final Award, Execution and Delivery of CDA**

The following are conditions precedent to final award of the CDA: (a) successful completion of negotiations (if held), (b) concurrence in award by FHWA, (c) receipt by TxDOT of all of the documents required to be provided prior to execution of the CDA under Section 6.1.1, (d) execution of the CDA by the Executive Director of TxDOT or his designee, and (e) any other conditions required by the Commission.

Upon satisfaction of the conditions set forth in Section 6.1.1(a), (b), (c), and (e), TxDOT will deliver execution copies of the Contract Documents to the selected Proposer, along with a number of sets of execution copies as reasonably requested by Proposer. The selected Proposer shall obtain all required signatures and deliver all of the execution sets to TxDOT within seven Business Days of receipt, together with the required documents described in Section 6.1.1 below. If Developer is a joint venture or a partnership, the CDA must be executed by all joint venture members or general partners, as applicable. Within 15 Business Days of TxDOT's receipt of all required and compliant documents from Proposer, TxDOT will execute the agreements, retain TxDOT's sets of the agreements and deliver the other executed sets to Proposer. Final award shall be deemed to have occurred upon delivery of the fully executed sets to Proposer.

#### **6.1.1 Documents To Be Delivered By Proposer With Executed CDA**

Proposer shall deliver the documents listed below to TxDOT concurrently with the executed CDA as a condition to execution of the CDA by TxDOT. On or before the date that TxDOT delivers the execution sets of the CDA to Proposer, TxDOT shall notify Proposer regarding the number of originals and copies required to be delivered.

(a) Evidence of authority to transact business in the State of Texas for the Proposer, its general partners and joint venture members, and each other Major Participant, dated no earlier than 30 days prior to the Technical Proposal Due Date. Depending on the form of organization, such evidence may be in the form of (i) a Certificate of Registration with the Texas Secretary of State along with a Certificate of Good Standing from the state of organization of the member; (ii) evidence from the Texas Comptroller establishing that the Proposer is current with its franchise tax payments; or (iii) other evidence acceptable to TxDOT.

(b) For entities formed after submission of the Proposal, a copy of the entity's final organizational documents. The final form of the organizational documents may not differ materially from the draft organizational documents included with the Proposal.

(c) If security for Proposer's obligations under the CDA is required by TxDOT pursuant to Exhibit C-1, Section 2.0, Proposer shall submit one or more guarantees

from guarantor(s) acceptable to TxDOT, in its sole discretion, in the form of Exhibits 13-1 and 13-2 of the CDA, as applicable.

(d) Evidence of approval of the final form, and of due authorization, execution, delivery and performance, of the CDA by Developer and, if Developer is a joint venture, by its joint venture members. Such evidence shall be in a form and substance satisfactory to TxDOT. If Developer is a corporation, such evidence shall be in the form of a resolution of its governing body certified by an appropriate officer of the corporation. If Developer is a partnership, such evidence shall be in the form of a resolution signed by the general partners and appropriate evidence of authorization for each of the general partners, in each case, certified by an appropriate officer of the general partner. If Developer is a limited liability company, such evidence shall be in the form of: (i) a resolution of the governing body of the limited liability company, certified by an appropriate officer of the company, (ii) a managing member(s) resolution, certified by an appropriate officer of the managing member(s), or (iii) if there is no managing member, a resolution from each member, certified by an appropriate officer of such member. If Developer is a joint venture, such evidence shall be in the form of a resolution of each joint venture member, certified by an appropriate officer of such joint venture member.

(e) A written opinion from counsel for Developer, which counsel shall be approved by TxDOT (which may be in-house or outside counsel, provided that the organization/authorization/execution opinion shall be provided by an attorney licensed in the State of the formation/organization of the entity for which the opinion is rendered (i.e., Developer, joint venture member, etc.) and the qualification to do business in Texas and the enforceability opinion shall be provided by an attorney licensed in the State of Texas), in substantially the form attached hereto as Form L (with such changes as agreed to by TxDOT in its sole discretion); provided, however, that the organization/authorization/execution opinion for an entity formed or organized under the laws of the State of Delaware may be issued by an in-house or outside counsel not licensed in Delaware.

(f) Evidence of insurance required to be provided by Developer under the Contract Documents;

(g) Evidence that Developer and its Major Participants hold all licenses required for performance of the work under the CDA;

(h) TxDOT approved DBE Performance Plan in accordance with the requirements of Section 1.8.2;

(i) A letter from a licensed Surety, rated in the top two categories by two nationally recognized rating agencies or at least A minus (A-) or better and Class VIII or better by A.M. Best and Company, signed by an authorized representative as evidenced by a current certified power of attorney, committing to provide a Performance Bond and Payment Bond, each in the amount specified and in the forms attached as Exhibits 9 and 10 of the CDA, and a Retainage Bond in the form attached as Exhibit 11 of the

CDA. If multiple Surety letters are provided, the Proposal shall identify which Surety will be the lead Surety. The commitment letter may include no conditions, qualifications or reservations for underwriting or otherwise, other than a statement that the commitment is subject to award and execution of the CDA and issuance of NTP1; provided, however, that the Surety may reserve in its letter the right to reasonably approve any material adverse changes made to the CDA, but excluding any changes or information reflected in the Proposal, such as ATCs and Proposer commitments;

(j) If required by TxDOT pursuant to Exhibit B, Section 3.2.12, a guaranty in the form of Exhibits 13-1 13-2 of the CDA, as applicable.

(k) A Job Training and Small Business Opportunity Plan as described in Section 7.9 of the CDA.

(l) Any other requirements identified by TxDOT during pre-award negotiations.

## **6.2 Debriefings**

All Proposers submitting Proposals will be notified in writing of the results of the evaluation process. Proposers not selected for award may request a debriefing. Debriefings shall be provided at the earliest feasible time after execution of the CDA. The debriefing shall be conducted by a procurement official familiar with the rationale for the selection decision and CDA award.

Debriefings shall:

(a) Be limited to discussion of the unsuccessful Proposer's Proposal and may not include specific discussion of a competing Proposal;

(b) Be factual and consistent with the evaluation of the unsuccessful Proposer's Proposal; and

(c) Provide information on areas in which the unsuccessful Proposer's Technical Proposal had weaknesses or deficiencies.

Debriefing may not include discussion or dissemination of the thoughts, notes, or rankings of individual members of the ESRC, but may include a summary of the rationale for the selection decision and CDA award.

## **6.3 Payment to Unsuccessful Proposers**

Each Proposer that submits a responsive, but unsuccessful, Proposal and that has timely executed and delivered the Payment for Work Product Agreement (Exhibit H) to TxDOT, shall be entitled to receive payment from TxDOT for work product that is not returned to Proposer, on the terms and conditions described herein and in the Minute Order issued by the Commission, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit G. No

Proposer shall be entitled to reimbursement for any of its costs in connection with the RFP except as specified in this Section 6.3. Furthermore, no Proposer will be required by TxDOT to accept a payment for work product.

The amount of the payment may not exceed the value of the work product provided in the Proposal that can, as determined by TxDOT, be used by TxDOT in the performance of its functions, up to the maximum stipulated amount per Proposer. The maximum stipulated payment for work product per Proposer for this procurement is \$1,500,000. The invoice may be submitted no earlier than 45 days after notice of final award, including execution of the CDA, is posted on TxDOT's Website, or, if final award is not made, not earlier than 30 days after cancellation of the procurement or expiration of the time period for award stated in the RFP (as such time period may be extended by mutual agreement of the apparent best value Proposer and TxDOT), as applicable. All Proposers eligible to receive a payment for work product shall be required to submit an invoice to TxDOT in a form acceptable to TxDOT in order to receive such payment. Payments will be made within 30 days of receipt of an invoice therefor.

In submitting an executed Payment for Work Product Agreement, each Proposer agrees that it will accept the stipulated payment for work product and that each Proposer agrees that TxDOT shall be entitled to use all work product that is not returned to Proposer (including ATCs, concepts, ideas, technology, techniques, methods, processes, drawings, reports, plans and specifications) contained in its Proposal or generated by or on behalf of Proposer for the purpose of developing its Proposal, in consideration for TxDOT's agreement to make payment as provided herein, including Exhibit H, without any further compensation or consideration to Proposer.

Each Proposer that has timely executed and delivered the Payment for Work Product Agreement (Exhibit H) to TxDOT acknowledges that TxDOT will have the right to inform the successful Proposer regarding the contents of the other Proposals after conditional award of the CDA, and that the Contract Documents may incorporate the above-described work product or concepts based thereon. Upon Proposer's receipt of payment hereunder, this right shall extend to allow TxDOT to use such work product in the performance of its functions. As provided in Section 223.203(m) of the Code, the use of any of the work product by TxDOT is at the sole risk and discretion of TxDOT, and shall in no way be deemed to confer liability on the unsuccessful Proposer.

In no event shall any Proposer that is selected for award but fails to satisfy the award conditions set forth in Section 6.1 or that fails to timely execute and deliver the Payment for Work Product Agreement (Exhibit H) be entitled to receive a payment for work product under this Section 6.3.

## **SECTION 7.0 PROTESTS**

### **7.1 Applicability**

This Section 7.0 and Section 27.6 of Title 43 of the Rules set forth the exclusive protest remedies available with respect to the RFP and prescribe exclusive procedures for protests regarding:

- (a) allegations that the terms of the RFP are wholly ambiguous, contrary to legal requirements applicable to the procurement, or exceed TxDOT's authority;
- (b) a determination as to whether a Proposal is responsive to the requirements of the Request for Proposals, as applicable; and
- (c) award of the CDA.

### **7.2 Required Early Communication for Certain Protests**

Protests concerning the issues described in Section 7.1(a) may be filed only after Proposer has informally discussed the nature and basis of the protest with TxDOT, following the procedures for those discussions prescribed in the RFP.

### **7.3 Deadlines for Protests**

**7.3.1** Protests concerning the issues described in Section 7.1(a) must be filed as soon as the basis for the protest is known, but no later than 20 days prior to the Technical Proposal Due Date, unless the protest relates to an Addendum to the RFP, in which case the protest must be filed no later than five Business Days after the Addendum is issued (but in any event, prior to the Technical Proposal Due Date).

**7.3.2** Protests concerning the issues described in Section 7.1(b) must be filed no later than five Business Days after receipt of the notification of non-responsiveness.

**7.3.3** Protests concerning the issues described in Section 7.1(c) must be filed no later than 10 Business Days after the earliest of the notification of intent to award, and the public announcement of the apparent best value Proposer.

### **7.4 Content of Protest**

Protests shall completely and succinctly state the grounds for protest, its legal authority, and its factual basis, and shall include all factual and legal documentation in sufficient detail to establish the merits of the protest. Statements shall be sworn and submitted under penalty of perjury.

## **7.5 Filing of Protest**

Protests shall be filed by hand delivery on or before the applicable deadline to the address specified in Section 2.2.1, with a copy to the Office of General Counsel, Texas Department of Transportation, 125 E. 11th Street, Suite 702, Austin, TX 78701-2483, as soon as the basis for protest is known to Proposer. Proposer filing the protest shall concurrently submit a copy of the protest to the other Proposers whose addresses may be obtained from the RFP Website.

## **7.6 Comments from other Proposers**

Other Proposers may file statements in support of or in opposition to the protest within seven days of the filing of the protest. TxDOT shall promptly forward copies of all such statements to the protestant. Any statements shall be sworn and submitted under penalty of perjury.

## **7.7 Burden of Proof**

The protestant shall have the burden of proving its protest. TxDOT may, in its sole discretion, discuss the protest with the protestant and other Proposers. No hearing will be held on the protest. The protest shall be decided on the basis of written submissions.

## **7.8 Decision on Protest**

The Chief Planning and Projects Officer or his designee shall issue a written decision regarding the protest within 30 days after the filing of the detailed statement of protest. If necessary to address the issues raised in a protest, TxDOT may, in its sole discretion, make appropriate revisions to the RFP by issuing Addenda.

## **7.9 Protestant's Payment of Costs**

If a protest is denied, Proposer filing the protest shall be liable for TxDOT's costs reasonably incurred to defend against or resolve the protest, including legal and consultant fees and costs, and any unavoidable damages sustained by TxDOT as a consequence of the protest.

## **7.10 Rights and Obligations of Proposers**

Each Proposer, by submitting its Proposal, expressly recognizes the limitation on its rights to protest provided in this Section 7, and expressly waives all other rights and remedies and agrees that the decision on the protest is final and conclusive. If a Proposer disregards, disputes, or does not follow the exclusive protest remedies provided in this Section 7, it shall indemnify and hold TxDOT and its officers, employees, agents, and consultants harmless from and against all liabilities, fees and costs, including legal and consultant fees and costs, and damages incurred or suffered

as a result of such Proposer's actions. Each Proposer, by submitting a Proposal, shall be deemed to have irrevocably and unconditionally agreed to this indemnity obligation.

## **SECTION 8.0 TXDOT RIGHTS AND DISCLAIMERS**

### **8.1 TxDOT Rights**

TxDOT may investigate the qualifications and Proposal of any Proposer under consideration, may require confirmation of information furnished by a Proposer and may require additional evidence of qualifications to perform Developer's obligations under the Contract Documents. TxDOT reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to:

- (a) Develop the Project in any manner that it, in its sole discretion, deems necessary;
- (b) Reject any or all of the Proposals;
- (c) Modify any dates set or projected in the RFP;
- (d) Cancel, modify or withdraw the RFP in whole or in part;
- (e) Terminate this procurement and commence a new procurement for part or all of the Project;
- (f) Terminate evaluations of Proposals received at any time;
- (g) Suspend, discontinue or terminate negotiations at any time, elect not to commence negotiations with any responding Proposer and engage in negotiations with other than the highest ranked Proposer;
- (h) Modify the procurement process (with appropriate notice to Proposers);
- (i) Waive or permit corrections to data submitted with any response to the RFP until such time as TxDOT declares in writing that a particular stage or phase of its review of the responses to the RFP has been completed and closed;
- (j) Permit submittal of addenda and supplements to data previously provided in a Proposal pursuant to a request for clarification issued by TxDOT until such time as TxDOT declares that a particular stage or phase of its review of the responses to the RFP has been completed and closed;
- (k) Appoint evaluation committees to review Proposals, make recommendations and seek the assistance of outside technical experts and consultants in Proposal evaluation;
- (l) Disclose information contained in a Proposal to the public as described herein;
- (m) Approve or disapprove changes in the Key Personnel identified in the QS;
- (n) Approve or disapprove changes in Proposer's organization;



(o) Accept a Proposal other than that which requests the lowest public funds from TxDOT;

(p) Waive deficiencies, informalities and irregularities in Proposals; accept and review a non-conforming Proposal or seek clarifications or modifications to a Proposal;

(q) Not issue a notice to proceed after execution of the Contract Documents;

(r) Disqualify any Proposer that violates the terms of the RFP;

(s) Request or obtain additional information about any Proposal from any source;

(t) Exercise any other right reserved or afforded to TxDOT under the RFP and applicable Law.

## **8.2 TxDOT Disclaimers**

The RFP does not commit TxDOT to enter into any contract. Except as expressly set forth in Section 6.3, TxDOT and the State of Texas assume no obligations, responsibilities, or liabilities, fiscal or otherwise, to reimburse all or part of the costs incurred or alleged to have been incurred by parties considering a response to and/or responding to the RFP. All of such costs shall be borne solely by each Proposer and Proposer team.

**In no event shall TxDOT be bound by, or liable for, any obligations with respect to the Project until such time (if at all) as the Contract Documents, in form and substance satisfactory to TxDOT, has been authorized and executed by TxDOT and, then, only to the extent set forth therein. In submitting a Proposal in response to the RFP, Proposer is specifically acknowledging these disclaimers.**