

0908-12-022, US 87, Howard County

Contractor Questions and TxDOT Responses

Questions and responses from the mandatory pre-bid meeting on August 25, 2016. (The responses in **red** have been revised since the meeting):

1. How many trains cross that area of the railroad per day? **26 trains per day**
2. Are there still houses in the ROW? There are houses still in the ROW. As soon as they are acquired and tested for asbestos they will be demolished. This will take approximately 2 weeks. Demolition is expected to be complete by October 31, 2016.
3. There will be an addendum coming out next week to change the following: The contract will change from a 5 day work week to a standard work week. The days set up in the project may be adjusted accordingly. **680 working days**
4. Since there is no top soil item in the plans will the embankment need to support the seeding? The top soil will be bladed to the edges and used over the seeding to help stabilize. This work will be subsidiary.
5. In the general notes 200 Mb/sec internet connection is required for TxDOT use in the field office. Is that available in this area? The contractor has looked into this and it is expensive to do. The contractor was instructed to bid it like it is because TxDOT isn't sure about the availability at this time. **The Addendum, if approved, will change this connection to 30 Mb/sec.**
6. Is there any crossing at the railroad at all? There is no crossing in our ROW.
7. Will the contractor need to provide a crossing for pipelines that are not lowered? The contractor will need to get with the utility company about that using information in the plans. Some of the utility companies are already putting dirt over the pipelines to allow crossing.
8. After this meeting who will questions need to be submitted to? The AE, Matt Evans, will receive and answer all questions from this meeting on. Matt's email is in the general notes. The questions will then be posted to the website.
9. Can the excavation be used as embankment? **Yes, as long as it meets specifications.**
10. Are there any bore logs that are not in the plans? All known bore logs are located in the plans.
11. Will joint checks be allowed for DBE's? **Yes.**

Questions and responses from email:

1. TxDOT website says there will be a mandatory pre bid meeting for the next phase of the RR, do you know when this will be scheduled or if the time and date are set already? August 25th at 1:30 at the Dora Roberts Community Center.

2. After reviewing the general notes and plans for the subject project, I can't determine what form liner/aesthetic you will require for the mse wall panels for this project. Please determine what you will require and get back to me as soon as possible. No liners/aesthetics are specified. If form liners are used, they must be approved by the Engineer.
3. Would it be possible to obtain copies of the earthwork cross sections in both PDF and XSR format? Our District Office should be sending you a pdf of the cross-sections. This is the format that is currently available. (The XSR files have since been created and released.)
4. Would it be possible to obtain a copy of TxDOT's Time Determination Schedule? Our District Office should be sending out the Contract Time Statement today.
5. If TxDOT has any geotechnical information outside of what is available in the plans, would it be possible to obtain this information? We are not giving this out at this time.
6. Sheet 598D does not show the train speed on the UPRR Toyah Subdivision at the proposed grade separation. Please provide the track speed so that we can obtain an accurate cost for the Railroad Protective Liability Insurance. The best that we can determine is a speed limit of 70 mph.
7. Cross sections provided do not show area or volumes per station. Can TXDOT provide table or sections with this information in order to determine cut and fill haul distances? Currently, we only have the cross sections in a pdf format. (The XSR files have since been created and released.)
8. Would it be possible to the bid tab for the previous project (CSJ 0908-12-019)? The State has released the public bid tabulations for project CSJ: 0908-12-019 (South Portion of US 87 Truck Relief Route in Howard County to all who inquire about the project.)
9. Do you have any information on the mandatory pre-bid meeting for the next piece of 87? August 25th at 1:30 at the Dora Roberts Community Center.
10. The last 74 bid items in the bid item index has a 1X in front of the bid item number. What is the purpose for the 1X? The bid items preceded by a 1X are the items for the add alternate.
11. Would it be possible to obtain all of the questions and answers submitted for this project? Yes.
12. Does TxDOT have any sites available within the State ROW for concrete or asphalt plants and stockpiles? No.
13. The general notes for Item 100 state that removing wire fence shall be subsidiary to Item 100. If other fence types such as game, chain link, etc. are encounter will these fences be considered subsidiary also? Yes.
14. The general notes for Item 132 state windrow topsoil shall be subsidiary to Item 132. The proposed typical sections do not show topsoil. Where is the windrowed topsoil to be placed and at what depth? The previous project had a bid item for furnish and place 4" topsoil. Please clarify this general note. The windrowed topsoil shall be evenly re-distributed upon the locations from where it was collected after soil-disturbing activities have ceased. This is the topsoil that was referred to in the General Note for Item 132 and is considered subsidiary.

15. The general notes for Item 316 state the open season for application of asphalt is May 15 to September 1. What alternate product will the contractor be allowed to use if the OCST needs to be placed between September 1 and May 15? No alternate products are approved.
16. The previous project used PG70-22 binder in the surface mix. This project is using PG70-28 in the surface. Is there a reason for the stiffer mix on this section? The binder change is in accordance with our pavement design.
17. The previous project included a pay item for backhoe work for erosion and sediment control. No such pay item is included with this project. Will this type of work be paid under Contractor Force Account in accordance with 506.6.5.2? Yes.
18. The previous project included a pay item for full-width mowing. No such pay item is included with this project. Will the contractor be required to provide mowing on this project? If so, how will the contractor be compensated? Mowing is not included in this project.
19. For bid item 0545 6001 all the units on the crash cushion summary sheet (page 283) are marked to be (S)-sacrificial. However, the standard sheets that are provided in the plans are the QUAD, TRACC, CAT which are inconsistent with the categories marked. Can you please verify which category of units will go at each location? Sheet 283 will be revised as part of the Addendum. All units will be reusable (R).
20. On pages 172 and 173, (Ref. location 1 & 2 for crash cushions) the crash cushion is showed to be attached to 38 linear feet of thrie beam. Will this thrie beam required to be nested or will be a single thrie beam attachment with and end shoe? Please clarify. The thrie beam will be nested.
21. Also referencing crash cushion 1 & 2, can you please clarify which type of units will be required to be installed in these location in particular? My assumption is the CAT will go in this location, but the standard provided has it included with a CB (Concrete barrier). See Sheet 304 (Standard Sheet CATCB (1)-16.)
22. For bid item 0545 6001 all the units on the crash cushion summary sheet (page 283) there isn't a Test Level included for the units, can you provide what speeds each unit will need to be or the test level? The Test Level will be included in the revised sheets of the Addendum.
23. On the ADD ALTERNATE portion of the project, Contract Plans Sheet 1091, RW(MSE)DD Table: For Retaining Wall 11, the Design Data are provided from Sta. 10+00.00 through Sta. 13+92.80. However, per Sheets 1081 & 1082, Retaining Wall 11 starts at Sta. 10+00.00 & ends at Sta. 15+58.00. Please provide the Design Data for Wall 11 from Sta. 13+92.80 to 15+58.00. The end station for Retaining Wall 11 is 15+58.00 as per Sheets 1081 and 1082. The end station of Retaining Wall 11 of 13+92.80 as listed on Sheet 1091 (RW(MSE)DD) should be 15+58.00.
24. The proposal shows 501 working days and 33 months of barricades. The general notes state that working days will be charged based on a Five-Day Workweek which equates to approximately 24 months. TxDOT's CPM schedule shows 33.5 months with a 16 day/month calendar. 16 charge days/month is more in line with a Standard Workweek. Please clarify. The Addendum will clarify these issues.
25. Milestone 2 is associated with providing railroad flagmen for the steel spans over the UPRR. The general notes state that this milestone is based on calendar days. If the contractor is only working 5 days/week and the railroad flagmen is only required when the contractor is working,

- shouldn't this milestone be based upon working days? The Milestones are in accordance with Special Provision 008020. The intent is to provide the contractor with a reasonable timeframe to complete these Milestones with the inclusion of incentives and disincentives.
26. The Traffic Control Narrative on Sheet 54 reflects (3) different durations for each milestone: Shall be Completed; Incentive and Disincentive. The number of calendar days for the Shall be Completed durations is 5 to 10 days less than the number of calendar days for the disincentive to begin. Please clarify. The intent is to provide the contractor with a reasonable timeframe to complete these Milestones with the inclusion of incentives and disincentives.
 27. The raised median detail at IH 20 on Sheet 281 shows 6" HMAC Type B under the proposed curb and gutter. There is no pay item for HMAC Type B. Is the 6" HMAC Type B subsidiary to the curb and gutter? This HMAC is not subsidiary. This HMAC will be changed to Type C in the Addendum.
 28. The bridge layouts for the US 87 mainlane bridges over SH 176 and CR 21 have a note stating all reinforcing except drilled shafts shall be epoxy coated. All of the other bridges have notes stating the abutment cap/backwall, bent cap and deck rebar shall be epoxy coated. Is the column and approach slab rebar at the SH 176 and CR 21 bridges to be epoxy coated but not epoxy coated at all of the other bridges? Please clarify. Bid this item as per the plans.
 29. Sheet 1055 has a note on the Ramp "P" typical sections to See Note 5. I couldn't find Note 5 in the Add Alternate Typical Sections. Please clarify. Disregard the reference to Note 5 on Sheet 1055.
 30. Would it be possible to obtain a copy of the current ROW map which shows the parcels that are left to acquire? The current right of way map will be provided to the contractor that is awarded the bid.
 31. Is there a Geotechnical Report and Pavement Report available for this project? We are not giving this out at this time. The geotechnical report and pavement report will be provided to the contractor that is awarded the bid.
 32. The contract time for this project is listed as 501 working days, based on a 5 day work week. That comes out to be 100 weeks or 23.14 months. The Pay Item 502 Barricades has a quantity of 33 months. Which is correct? The Addendum will clarify these issues.
 33. What is the expected start date for this project? The start date will be in accordance with the plans and special provisions.
 34. Pay Item 168 Vegetative Watering (in Base Bid) has a quantity of 1,000 MG for over 1.3 million square yards of seeding. Pay Item 168 Vegetative Watering (in Additive Alternate Bid) also has a quantity of 1,000 MG but for 90,000 square yards of seeding. The quantity do not seem to match the area to be seeded. Can this be reviewed? Bid this item as per the plans.
 35. Does all millings from this project become property of the contractor? Yes.
 36. Can detail sheets be provided for the concrete sidewalk or does the detail on Plan Sheet #281, Raised Median Detail apply to the sidewalk also? The details will be provided in the Addendum.
 37. Is there a detail for the reinforcement for the concrete curb and gutter? Yes, see Sheet 308 (Standard Sheet CCCG-12.)

38. We notice that there is no special finish required for the surface of the wall panels. Does TxDOT plan to add one? No liners/aesthetics are intended to be specified for the MSE wall panels. If form liners are used, they must be approved by the Engineer.
39. Per CCA Summary Sheet # 283, all CCA's are listed as Sacrificial under the TCP phase, however, the only standards provided in plans are for the QUAD, TRACC, and CATCB. None of which are categorized as Sacrificial systems. If sacrificial are required, can the ABSORB 350 (per attached standard) to the plans? If they are to be reusable, can the TAU II (per attached standard) be added to the plans? Sheet 283 will be revised as part of the Addendum. All units will be reusable (R). The TAU II will not be added to the plans.
40. We are currently looking at the subject project and would like to request a copy of the full geotechnical report or reports. We are not giving this out at this time. The geotechnical report and pavement report will be provided to the contractor that is awarded the bid.
41. Will be the asphalt removed under Item 105 - Removing stab base & asph pav be allowed for use as RAP. Yes, as long as it meets all requirements.
42. If this material is allowed for use as RAP, are there existing typical sections for SH 207, CR 21 and FM 700 available. Existing typical sections for SH 176, CR 21 and FM 700 are located on Sheets 20-22.
43. The general notes for Item 344 are requiring an elevated VMA that is not typical. It is our opinion, that due to this requirement, it will be very difficult to meet the hamburg wheel testing requirements without the use of RAP in the SPC & SPD hot mixes. Is there any TxDOT owned RAP available for use on this project? If so what is the location of this RAP? Approximately 5,600 CY of TxDOT-owned RAP will be available for use on this project. The stockpile is located along FM 700 near the east side of Big Spring about one mile north of the intersection of IH 20 and FM 700.
44. Item 585 - Ride quality: Are frontage roads & ramps to be tested using surface test type B? Yes, Surface Test Type B.
45. According to the general notes for Item 504 requires the contractor to furnish a Type D structure for the asphalt mix control lab for the engineer. Item 344 general note requires samples to be delivered to the Abilene district lab. This appears to be a conflict could you please clarify. The Engineer's samples should be delivered to the Field Laboratory (Type D.)
46. Removal of vegetation is going to generate a large amount of material that needs to be disposed of. Does TxDOT have a location or know of a location to dispose of this material? No.
47. I wanted to check on the status of the Q&A for the Howard County project. I've been checking the project page but I don't see anything. Below is the link I am using. Is this the correct site? <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/projects/studies/abilene/us87.html> Yes, this is the correct site. The questions and responses will be posted to this website by Thursday, September 1, 2016, at the earliest.
48. Can you advise if the addendum has been issued and the information referenced at the pre-bid meeting has been posted to the internet yet? The questions and responses will be posted to this website by Thursday, September 1, 2016, at the earliest. The Addendum will hopefully be issued by the end of the week (Friday September 2, 2016) at the earliest.

49. For the Add Alternate portion of the project, Sheet 1085, the Bottom of wall elevation is shown as 1 ft below the proposed ground elevation for wall 13. However, proposed ground elevations are not provided on the Elevation View of the plans – only Existing Ground elevations. We would have to approximate the bottom of wall elevations by scaling to calculate quantities for wall 13. Please provide the appropriate elevations for this portion of Wall 13 – either bottom of wall or proposed ground. No additional information will be provided at this time. Bid the project as per the plans.
50. Will there be something on the aesthetics for the mse wall panels anytime soon (8/31/16?) No liners/aesthetics are intended to be specified for the MSE wall panels.
51. Will there be an addendum? Yes, the Addendum will hopefully be issued by the end of the week (Friday September 2, 2016) at the earliest.
52. Retainage pond A is showing an excavation of 73,884 cy and an embankment of 78,076 cy on sheet 39. The cross sections do not seem to indicate this much embankment, could you clarify if the quantities are correct. Bid the project as per the plans.
53. I know that top soil was discussed in the pre bid meeting and since there is not a top soil item in the bid we were instructed to windrow topsoil and roll it back in after earthwork operations. This is fine for the embankment areas but in the cut areas are we to over excavate to account for the thickness of topsoil that is to be rolled back in? If so what thickness of topsoil is required? The intent is that enough topsoil is windrowed to serve as a natural seed source. The thickness of topsoil to be windrowed will not be specified but is frequently accepted as four inches.
54. Under the General Notes for Concrete Riprap it states that fiber reinforcing may be used for mow strips if Class A concrete is used. Will that also apply to the other Concrete Riprap items? Yes.
55. For bid item 1X 0545 6001 all the units on the crash cushion summary sheet (page 283) are marked as sacrificial units. Do you intend the CAT to be used in these 4 locations? This is the only standard provided as sacrificial. Please also confirm that these for units are intended for the alternate bid item not the designated one. The CAT is intended for 2 locations in the base bid and for all 4 locations on the ADD/ALT bid. It is the only cushion specified for these locations, as it is the only one that meets all the requirements. The Base Bid also includes 4 locations for either QUAD or TRACC.
56. If a water filled barrier is intended for use, we request that the SLED be added as a standard for these locations. Water filled barriers are not intended to be used anywhere on this project.
57. Near the start of the project (where the previous project ended) there are 2 large stockpiles of material that looks like it came off I20. Are these stockpiles the property of TxDOT or the landowner? If they belong to TxDOT are they available for use on this project. TxDOT owns the material stockpiled immediately north of IH20 between the two existing frontage road bridges. This material is available for use by the contractor for the US87 North Reliever Route project (CSJ: 0908-12-022.) The ownership of any other stockpiles at this specific location is unknown.

58. Will the contractor be allowed to move material in trucks across I20 using the new frontage road bridges? Yes, however, these bridges will be open to traffic, so all vehicles are subject to pertinent traffic laws.
59. The typical detail 'A' on the typical section sheets show the underseal going between the base courses and the surface course of the hot mix layers. The sequence of placement and placement of sealcoat is also not shown on the information schedule provided. Please clarify if detail 'A' is the correct order of placement desired by the Department and if placement of the sealcoat was accounted for in the Departments time determination. Bid the project as per the plans.
60. If we choose Precast Safety End Treatments for the pipe work, will we be required to pour a connecting Riprap apron or just set the SETs in place? Bid this item as per the plans which includes the applicable SETP and PSET Standards.
61. The proposal states that there is a \$285/hour lane rental fee for I-20. If I am shutting down Eastbound traffic on I-20 and detouring it to the frontage roads for hanging beams, will I be charged \$570/hour since both of the Eastbound lanes are closed or just the \$285. Please clarify. Yes, each lane is charged the rental rate of \$285/hr.
62. The plans call for 4", 3.5" and 10" SP-C mix thicknesses. The standard spec limits SP-C compacted lift thickness to 1.5" minimum and 3.0" maximum. Will we be allowed to place 3.5" mat and 4" mats in one lift? I know that it will have to meet density requirements which is normally not an issue at 3.5"-4.0". Conversely, we have experienced density problems on mats thinner than 2 inches. This item is to be built per the specifications.
63. Can we obtain a copy of the pre-bid sign in sheet? Yes, it will be included on the project website.
64. Will the Contractor be allowed to work 7 days / week? Work conducted as part of the Milestones may be performed as a seven days per week work schedule. The approval of any other work on this project will be subject to the Specification for the Standard Workweek as outlined under Item 3.1.4.
65. Will the contractor be allowed to work Night shifts, or both? Work conducted as part of the Milestones may be performed at night. The approval of any other nighttime work on this project will be subject to the Specification for Nighttime Work as outlined under Item 3.3.