

The Texas Department of Transportation (department) will hold a public hearing on Friday, September 7, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at 150 East Riverside Drive, Room 1B-1, in Austin, Texas to receive public comments on the August 2012 Quarterly Revisions to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for FY 2011-2014.

The STIP reflects the federally funded transportation projects in the FY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) for each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in the state. The STIP includes both state and federally funded projects for the nonattainment areas of Beaumont, Dallas-Fort Worth, El Paso, and Houston. The STIP also contains information on federally funded projects in rural areas that are not included in any MPO area, and other statewide programs as listed.

Title 23, United States Code, §134 and §135 require each designated MPO and the state, respectively, to develop a TIP and STIP as a condition to securing federal funds for transportation projects under Title 23 or the Federal Transit Act (49 USC §5301, et seq.). Section 134(j) requires an MPO to develop its TIP in cooperation with the state and affected public transit operators and to provide an opportunity for interested parties to participate in the development of the program. Section 135(g) requires the state to develop a STIP for all areas of the state in cooperation with the designated MPOs and, with respect to non-metropolitan areas, in consultation with affected local officials, and further requires an opportunity for participation by interested parties as well as approval by the Governor or the Governor's designee.

A copy of the proposed August 2012 Quarterly Revisions to the FY 2011-2014 STIP will be available for review, at the time the notice of hearing is published, at each of the department's district offices, at the department's Transportation Planning and Programming Division offices located in Building 118, Second Floor, 118 East Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas, or (512) 486-5033, and on the department's website at: <http://www.txdot.gov/business/governments/stips.htm>.

Persons wishing to speak at the hearing may register in advance by notifying Lori Morel, Transportation Planning and Programming Division, at (512) 486-5033 not later than Thursday, September 6, 2012, or they may register at the hearing location beginning at 9:00 a.m. on the day of the hearing. Speakers will be taken in the order registered. Any interested person may appear and offer comments or testimony, either orally or in writing; however, questioning of witnesses will be reserved exclusively to the presiding authority as may be necessary to ensure a complete record. While any persons with pertinent comments or testimony will be granted an opportunity to present them during the course of the hearing, the presiding authority reserves the right to restrict testimony in terms of time or repetitive content. Groups, organizations, or associations should be represented by only one speaker. Speakers are requested to refrain from repeating previously presented testimony. Persons with disabilities who have special communication or accommodation needs or who plan to attend the hearing may contact the Transportation Planning and Programming Division, at 118 East Riverside Drive Austin, Texas 78704-1205, (512) 486-5038. Requests should be made no later than three days prior to the hearing. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate the needs.

Interested parties who are unable to attend the hearing may submit comments regarding the proposed August 2012 Quarterly Revisions to the FY 2011-2014 STIP to Marc Williams, P.E., Director of Planning, P.O. Box 149217, Austin, Texas 78714-9217. In order to be considered, all written comments must be received at the Transportation Planning and Programming office by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, September 10, 2012.

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Joanne Wright
Deputy General Counsel
Texas Department of Transportation
Filed: August 1, 2012

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Request for Qualifications

Pursuant to the authority granted under Transportation Code, Chapter 223 (enabling legislation), the Texas Department of Transportation (department) may enter into public-private partnership agreements, also known as comprehensive development agreements, for the design, development, construction, financing, maintenance, and operation of a toll project on the state highway system. The enabling legislation authorizes private involvement in toll projects and provides a process for the department to solicit proposals for such projects. Transportation Code, §223.203 prescribes requirements for issuance of a request for qualifications and requires the department to publish a notice in the *Texas Register* if the department decides to issue a request for qualifications for a project. The Texas Transportation Commission (commission) has promulgated rules located in Texas Administrative Code, Title 43, §§27.1 - 27.10 (the rules), governing the submission and processing of qualifications submittals, and providing for publication of notice that the department is requesting qualifications submittals, and setting forth the basic criteria for professional experience, technical competence, and capability to complete a proposed project, and such other information the department considers relevant or necessary in the request for qualifications. The commission has authorized the issuance of a request for qualifications to develop, design, construct, finance, operate, and maintain tolled managed lanes, general purpose lanes, and associated facilities along an approximately nine mile portion of State Highway 183 from State Highway 161 to Interstate Highway 35E/Trinity Parkway in Dallas County (project), through a public-private partnership agreement (P3A).

On March 29, 2012, in Minute Order 113045, the commission authorized the department to commence the procurement process for the project under the enabling legislation. This notice represents the next step in the process.

Through this notice, the department is seeking qualifications submittals (QS) from teams interested in entering into a toll concession P3A in response to a request for qualifications (RFQ). The department intends to evaluate any QS received and may request submission of detailed proposals, potentially leading to negotiation, award, and execution of a P3A. The department will accept for consideration any QS received in accordance with the rules and the RFQ on or before the deadline in this notice. The department anticipates issuing the RFQ, receiving and analyzing the QSs, developing a shortlist of proposing entities or consortia, and issuing a request for detailed proposals (RFP) to the shortlisted entities. After review and a best value evaluation of the responses to the RFP, the department may negotiate and enter into a P3A for the project.

RFQ Evaluation Criteria. QSs will be evaluated by the department for shortlisting purposes using the following general criteria: technical qualifications and capability, statement of technical approach, project finance qualifications and capability, and conceptual project financing discussion. The specific criteria under the foregoing categories will be identified in the RFQ, as will the relative weighting of the criteria.

Release of RFQ and Due Date. The department currently anticipates that the RFQ will be available on August 10, 2012. Copies of the RFQ will be available at the department's Dallas District office located at 4777 E. Highway 80, Mesquite, Texas 75150-6643 and on the following website: www.txdot.gov/project_information/projects/dal