

**SH 99 / Grand Parkway Project
Texas Register Notice
November 18, 2011**

Request for Qualifications

Pursuant to the authority granted under Texas 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, or 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 a proposal 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 at Texas Administrative Code, Title 43, §§27.1 - 27.10 (the rules), governing the submission and processing of qualification 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 main lanes and associated facilities along SH 99 in Harris and Montgomery Counties (project), through a public-private partnership agreement (P3A).

On March 31, 2011 in Minute Order 112629, 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 design-build and/or a full 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 for a design-build delivery model will be evaluated by the department for shortlisting purposes using the following general criteria: project experience and statement of technical approach. QSs for a full toll concession delivery model 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 November 18, 2011. The RFQ will include a conceptual project concept. Copies of the RFQ will be available at the department's Major Projects Office located at 7721 Washington Ave., Houston, Texas 77007, or on the following website: www.txdot.gov/grandparkway.htm. QSs will be due on January 18, 2012 at the address specified in the RFQ.

TRD-201104887

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