

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Tarrant County

MINUTE ORDER

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Fort Worth District

Subchapter F, Chapter 223, Transportation Code prescribes the process by which the Texas Department of Transportation (department) may enter into a design-build contract with a private entity that provides for the design, construction, expansion, extension, related capital maintenance, rehabilitation, alteration, or repair of a highway project.

Transportation Code §§ 223.245-223.250 prescribe requirements for a design-build contract procurement. Pursuant to those provisions, the department must issue a request for qualifications that includes, among other things, the criteria that will be used to evaluate any qualification submittals, the relative weight given to the criteria, and a deadline by which qualification submittals must be received. The department is also required to publish a notice advertising the issuance of the request for qualifications in the *Texas Register* and on the department's website.

The Southeast Connector Project consists of non-tolled improvements to I-20 from Forest Hill Drive to Park Springs Boulevard, to I-820 from I-20 to Brentwood Stair Road, and to US 287 from Bishop Street to Sublett Road. The improvements to all three project sections include the construction of additional general purpose lanes and frontage roads, with collector-distributors also constructed on the I-20 section. The improvements also include the reconstruction and realignment of existing general purpose lanes, frontage roads, on and off ramps, and the interchanges of US 287 and I-20, I-20 and I-820, SP 303 and I-820, US 180 and I-820, and US 287 and I-820.

The project is the convergence zone and approaches for three separate highway facilities: I-20, I-820 and US 287. Originally completed in the mid-1960s, the roadway sections have obsolete design characteristics that contribute to significant congestion and inefficient accessibility. Additional complications result at the southern sections of the I-820 loop where multiple highways merge and diverge in short succession creating bottlenecked conditions. The project is a crucial element to providing operational efficiency and long term congestion management, as well as improving safety and mobility in the corridor.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the commission that the department is authorized to issue a request for qualifications to design, construct, and maintain the Southeast Connector Project in Tarrant County, and to publish in the *Texas Register* and on the department's website a notice advertising the issuance of the request for qualifications.

Submitted and reviewed by:

Director, Project Finance
Debt & Strategic Contracts Division

Recommended by:

Executive Director

115607 Oct 31 '19
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