

US 65/IA 5 Bypass Alternatives Analysis Study RFP

Request For Proposal

Iowa Department of Transportation

Introduction

The Iowa Department of Transportation's (Iowa DOT) Location and Environment Bureau in partnership with the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is interested in entering into a professional services contract with one consultant to provide a Feasibility Study to include alternatives analysis for implements of husbandry currently utilizing the US 65/IA 5 corridor, between US 6 and US 69, to cross the Des Moines River. If your firm is interested in providing the described services, please submit a proposal stating your ability and availability to complete this work.

Project Background

Iowa has long been an agricultural state, including Polk and Warren Counties, necessitating the movement of farm equipment on the surface transportation system. The US 65/IA 5 corridor between US 6 and US 69 has been an important route for farm equipment to cross the Des Moines River, namely for farming operations with a presence on both sides of the river. However, the continued growth of the urbanized area of Greater Des Moines has increased the potential for conflict between farm equipment and general traffic due to the different rates of speed.

There have been a growing number of calls from local jurisdictions and economic development professionals for the US 65 / IA 5 bypass to be designated as an interstate to increase economic development along the corridor. However, a "standard" designation would trigger a state law mandating that vehicles maintain a certain speed, which the farm equipment would not be able to do. In response, the Iowa DOT laid out an action plan in which it would only seek interstate designation for the corridor if an exemption were provided on the corridor for the farm equipment in the event it is designated an interstate. In 2025, the Iowa Legislature passed a law that would provide for a speed exemption for farm equipment in the event the corridor is designated as an interstate. Additionally, the legislation called for the Iowa DOT and the Des Moines Area MPO to conduct an alternatives analysis for farm equipment to cross the river by another means.

The Iowa DOT and Des Moines Area MPO are conducting a Feasibility Study to develop an alternatives analysis for implements of husbandry currently utilizing the US 65/IA 5 corridor, between US 6 and US 69, to cross the Des Moines River.

Project Scope

The work associated with this contract can be summarized as follows, but is not limit to:

- All tasks necessary to complete a Feasibility Study
- Analyze a range of alternatives to accommodate movement of farm equipment
- Establishing an Environmental Resource Survey Area
- Data Collection – i.e. current existing conditions and origin/destination for farm equipment utilizing the corridor
- Traffic Operations and Safety Analysis
- High level cost estimates
- Stakeholder/Steering Committee Engagement
- Public Involvement Support

The Iowa DOT will provide the following:

- Traffic Estimate
- Desktop environmental data
- Safety Data

The Des Moines Area MPO will provide the following:

- Stakeholder engagement support

Contract Information

The Iowa DOT anticipates extending one, Project-Specific, Cost Plus Fixed Fee contract to the selected consultant as soon as the selection process is complete. Contract duration will be through project completion.

General Requirements

The consultant and their subconsultants are required to meet the requirements of specified work categories as defined in the Iowa DOT's Policy and Procedure Manual, Policy No. 300.04, at the time of contract execution, and for the duration of the contract. Work under this contract will require the consultant team to meet the requirements of work categories:

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Failure to meet the requirements during the contract will result in cancellation of any remaining portion of the contract.

It is the policy of the Iowa DOT that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) and Targeted Small Businesses (TSBs) shall have the maximum practicable opportunity to participate in the performance of Iowa DOT contracts. Funding of the work under this contract is expected to involve federal-aid highway funds. The Iowa DOT's DBE goal for this contract is 0%. In the event DBE participation is required on a particular contract, the goal will be established as part of the negotiation. A list of certified DBE firms may be found at

<https://iowadot.gov/civilrights/disadvantaged-business-enterprise-program-dbe/dbe-program>. A list of TSB firms may be found at <https://www.iowa.gov/tsb>.

Selection Information

Emphasis should be placed upon providing information concerning your proposed project approach, similar projects your firm has recently performed and the availability and qualifications of your key staff. The proposal may include additional information, as deemed appropriate, subject to the overall length restriction established in Proposal Requirements.

A selection committee will include staff members from the Iowa DOT and the Des Moines Area MPO. The selection committee will review and evaluate the proposals submitted based on the following criteria and the weighted value assigned to each. Include a detailed statement for each evaluation criteria.

40% - Proposed Project Approach reflecting the firm's understanding of the project and demonstrating familiarity with Iowa DOT feasibility studies.

25% - Staff Qualifications and Firm's Experience managing multi-stakeholder projects, working with DOTs, Iowa Local Public Agencies, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and Federal Agencies including FHWA.

25% - Staff & Firm's knowledge of Department's development process, standards & specification, and demonstrated ability to meet schedules

10% - Proximity and availability of key staff

The selection committee does not anticipate the need for oral interviews.

Contacting any selection team member other than the RFP contact person is inappropriate. Marketing meetings with the Iowa DOT or the Des Moines Area MPO while this RFP is active is also considered inappropriate.

Proposal Requirements

Please provide the following information in the order listed:

1. All responders must provide adequate information on the response's cover page to clearly identify the submittal is for the US 65/IA Bypass Alternatives Analysis Study RFP, along with the replying firm and an email for the point of contact for the firm.
2. Include your firm's approach to addressing the identified tasks, your eligibility to meet the requirements of the "Required Work Categories" for the work you intend to perform, your understanding of the project's scope, key issues and relevancy to Iowa's transportation system. Briefly discuss similar projects the members on your team have completed in the past five years. This listing should be limited to the three most applicable projects.
3. Include the name, qualifications, experience, office address and availability of the contract manager as well as the manager in charge of each major work task. This information should include the identification of similar projects managed or participated in by these

individuals. The selection of a contract manager and work task managers by a firm will constitute a commitment by that firm and NO substitute managers will be allowed without prior written approval by the Iowa DOT.

4. Include experience and qualifications as related to the “Required Work Categories” for any sub-consultants to be used and work they will perform.
5. Include a detailed resume, summary of current workload and a time commitment for each professional or technical person to be assigned to the project. Identify the principal or manager who will serve as the project manager.
6. A project schedule outlining the timeline and estimated completion date of each major task identified in your scope of work. This should include a schedule with a description of all deliverable products throughout the period. A graphical representation of the proposed schedule should be included.
7. The location of the office where the majority of work will be performed.
8. A disclosure of all work for other clients that may be affected by work on the proposed contract to avoid a potential conflict of interest.
9. Inclusion of promotional literature of a general nature will not be considered in the selection process.
10. If applicable, include a statement that the consultant will meet the DBE goal. If the consultant cannot meet the minimum goal, include a commitment statement for the percentage of participation that they can meet.

The proposal may include additional information, as deemed appropriate, subject to the overall length restriction established in Proposal Requirements.

Cost information should not be submitted as part of the proposal, and if submitted, will not be considered. Inclusion of promotional literature of a general nature will also not be considered in the selection process.

The proposal must be submitted as a single electronic PDF and be formatted to print on 8.5” x 11” pages. The proposal must be limited to twenty-five (25) single-sided pages. All pages will be counted including: proposal covers, cover letter, dividers, appendices, etc. The maximum size limit of a **proposal is 7.5 megabytes**.

The electronic proposal must be submitted via email to DOT.ConsultantProposals@iowadot.us. An email will be sent confirming receipt of the proposal within 30 minutes or by 3:00 p.m. on the submittal deadline date, whichever is later.

Proposals are due by 3:00 pm on 8/27/2025.

Any technical questions or questions regarding this RFP shall be submitted via email to DOT.ConsultantProposals@iowadot.us. Any questions about this RFP must be received by noon on 8/20/2025. Questions and answers regarding this RFP will be posted with the RFP on the Consultant Utilization website, <https://apps.iowadot.gov/rfp>.

Any proposal not complying with all requirements stated in the RFP may not be accepted.

Public Records Law

The Iowa DOT will treat all information submitted by a consultant as open records following the conclusion of the selection process. Open records are public records that are open for public examination and copying. The Iowa DOT's release of records is governed by Iowa Code Chapter 22 and 761 IAC Chapter 4. Consultants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these laws before submitting a proposal.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Federal and state laws prohibit employment and/or public accommodation discrimination. If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 800-457-4416 or Iowa DOT's affirmative action officer at 800-262-0003. If you need accommodations because of a disability to access the Iowa DOT's services, contact the agency's civil rights/ADA coordinator at 515-239-1427. TTY/TDD: 515-239-1514

References

PPM 300.04 – Prequalification of Architectural, Engineering and Related Professional and Technical Firms (<https://iowadot.gov/projectdev/300.04.PDF>)

PPM 300.12 – Negotiated Contracts for Architectural, Engineering, and Related Professional and Technical Services (<https://iowadot.gov/projectdev/300.12.pdf>)