

US 20 Mississippi River Crossing Study RFP

Request For Proposal

Iowa Department of Transportation

Introduction

The Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) is interested in entering into a professional services contract with one consultant team to conduct a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) study for the US 20 Mississippi River crossing between Dubuque, Iowa, and East Dubuque, Illinois. The preliminary study limits currently extend from just west of the Locust Street Intersection in Dubuque to the Timmerman Drive Intersection in East Dubuque; however, these limits may be adjusted as alternatives are developed.

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

The Iowa DOT, in partnership with the Illinois DOT, is initiating a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) study for the US 20 Mississippi River crossing between Iowa and Illinois. The existing US 20 Mississippi River crossing between Iowa and Illinois includes a historic bridge constructed in 1943.

The purpose of this study is to identify a technically feasible, environmentally permissible, and generally publicly acceptable recommended alternative for crossing improvements. A full range of alternatives will be evaluated.

In order to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and potential Section 4(f) use determinations, at a minimum the following will be evaluated:

- Do nothing.
- Build a new structure at a different location without affecting the historic integrity of the old bridge, as determined by procedures implementing the NHPA.
- Rehabilitate the historic bridge without affecting the historic integrity of the structure, as determined by procedures implementing the NHPA.

Project Scope

The work associated with this contract includes, but is not limited to:

- Completing all tasks necessary for a PEL/NEPA study
- Performing preliminary engineering and layout of alternatives to achieve project goals
- Preparing TS&L of all structures and roadway plans to identify right-of-way impacts

- Preparing drawings and documents for Railroad coordination
- Preparing a Bridge Condition Report
- Completing CADD tasks using 3D modeling with Bentley software
- Conducting topographic, photogrammetric, and/or field surveys, as necessary
- Performing bathymetric surveys, as necessary
- Completing utility surveys, including Subsurface Utility Engineering (S.U.E.), as necessary
- Completing preliminary geotechnical investigations and design, as appropriate. Geotechnical work will require the use of a barge and/or means necessary to obtain structure boring information.
- Performing preliminary hydraulic and hydrologic investigations, engineering, and design, as appropriate
- Preparing preliminary cost estimates
- Conducting traffic operations and safety analysis
- Traffic capacity analysis
- Initial construction staging analysis
- Collecting data on existing conditions
- Completing a navigation study, as necessary
- Establishing an Environmental Survey Area
- Preparing a Historic Bridge Review Technical Memorandum
- Conducting Section (4f) evaluations
- Preparing a Community Impact Assessment
- Conducting Noise studies, as appropriate
- Performing field reviews and database research for presence of regulated material
- Develop a detailed public engagement plan outlining the tools, methods, and strategies necessary to ensure inclusive and effective stakeholder participation.
- Supporting DOT-led public involvement activities such as preparing outreach materials, managing meeting logistics, and providing event assistance as requested.
- Supporting DOT-led coordination with appropriate federal and state agencies including Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iowa DNR, Illinois DNR, Illinois EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, etc.
- Providing materials for NEPA/404 Concurrence Point process
- Preparing and delivering technical memorandums and project documents that are in compliance with website accessibility standard of Iowa that meet Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended.

The Iowa DOT will provide:

- Traffic estimates
- Desktop environmental data (including T&E, Water Resources, and Cultural Resources shapefiles)
- Safety data
- As-builts/existing plans
- Wetlands identification and/or delineations
- Cultural resource surveys and testing

- Threatened & Endangered Species surveys
- Public Engagement – the Iowa DOT will lead and oversee all public engagement activities and external communications. The consultant is expected to provide support for these efforts as requested by the DOT.
- Vessel Collision Study
- Railroad coordination

The Illinois DOT will provide:

- Cultural resource surveys and testing
- Threatened & Endangered Species surveys
- As-builts/existing plans
- Safety data
- Wetlands identification and/or delineations
- Desktop environmental data

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. The contract will begin on or after July 1, 2026. 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. Prequalification assessment will occur in the initial phase of proposal review. No prior submission for prequalification will be required. Work under this contract will require the consultant team to meet the requirements of the following work categories.

- 123 – Location Studies
- 216 – Non-Standard, Non-Steel Bridge Design
- 217 – Steel Bridge Design
- 351 – Environmental Impact Studies
- 214 – Highway Design – Major Facility – Urban
- 215 – Culvert and Standard Bridge Design
- 218 – Traffic Operations Design
- 236 – Traffic Operations Studies
- 311 – Land Surveying
- 312 – Engineering Surveying
- 315 – Photogrammetry
- 319 – Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE)
- 321 – Geological and Geophysical Studies
- 322 – Complex Hydraulic and Hydrologic Studies
- 323 – Hydraulic and Hydrologic Studies

- 325 – Bridge Inspection and Analysis
- 353 – Environmental Specialty Services
- 355 – Regulated Materials Investigation and Remediation Services
- 356 – Hydrogeology, Geomorphology & Other Geological Disciplines

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 this work is expected to involve federal-aid highway funds. No DBE goal (0%) is established at this time. 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 Illinois DOT. 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 PEL/NEPA studies.

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

25% - Staff & Firm's knowledge of Iowa DOT's and Illinois DOT's development process, standards & specifications, and demonstrated ability to meet schedules.

10% - Proximity and availability of key staff.

The selection committee does anticipate the need for oral interviews. Interviews are anticipated to be held June 2, 2026, in Dubuque, IA. Invitations for interviews are expected to be sent during the first week of May 2026.

Contacting any selection team member other than the RFP contact person is inappropriate. Discussions of this RFP with any DOT staff during the solicitation period is also 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 20 Mississippi River Crossing Study** 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 25 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 2:00 p.m. on the submittal deadline date, whichever is later.

Proposals are due by 3:00 pm on April 20, 2026.

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 April 13, 2026. 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>)