

REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST

FOR

Engineering Design Services
Design of the Florida-Alabama TPO
Fiber Optic/Intelligent Transportation Systems Connection



RFP NO.: 03-2025

ADVERTISED: Newspaper and Website, Wednesday, October 8, 2025

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: 4 P.M. (CDT) – Wednesday, October 22, 2025

LETTERS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED TO:

Emerald Coast Regional Council
Atten: Ada Clark
ada.clark@ECRC.org

October 2025

REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST NOTICE TO PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS

The Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) is seeking letters of interest from qualified firms for engineering design services for the design of the Florida- Alabama TPO Fiber Optic/Intelligent Transportation Systems Connection in Escambia County and Santa Rosa County, Florida. The engineering firm shall be responsible for delivery of full engineering design and permitting services for reliable fiber optic network infrastructure that will enhance the regions connectivity capabilities and continue the implementation of the Escambia/Santa Rosa Regional Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) Masterplan. The complete scope of services for the design is attached as Exhibit 1. The intent is to prepare separate plan sets for each County to bid and award.

This project is federally funded with assistance from the FDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). By submitting a proposal, the Consultant certifies that they follow FDOT Procedure No. 375-030-006 (Restriction on Consultants Eligibility to Compete for Department Contracts), and that no principle is presently suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation on this transaction by any Federal Department or Agency. It is imperative that Respondents examine and become familiar with the Local Agency Program established by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Funding for the project may be provided by this grant process and is contingent on strict conformance to the guidelines set forth by FDOT and the Federal Highway Administration. Respondents shall comply with the Local Agency/Federal Aid Contract Requirements.

QUALIFICATIONS

Consideration will be given to only those firms that are qualified pursuant to law and that have been prequalified by FDOT to perform the types of work indicated below.

MAJOR TYPE OF WORK:

- Group 14: Architect

MINOR TYPE OF WORK:

- Group 7: Traffic Operations Design
- Group 8: Survey and Mapping
- Group 9: Soil Exploration, Material Testing & Foundation
- Group 15: Landscape Architect

All professional services to be provided under the awarded contract shall be performed by Professionals licensed to practice in the State of Florida and in strict compliance with the Consultant's Competitive Negotiation Act, 287.055 F.S. (CCNA). Consultants providing services under this contract shall always be knowledgeable of the limiting thresholds of the CCNA statutes and shall ensure that full compliance therewith is maintained at all times.

The ECRC staff shall validate certifications using the Florida Department of Transportation's Procurement Office web site list of prequalified consultants. If the consultant proposes to use in- house forces to do surveying or geotechnical exploration, the consultant must have the FDOT certification in that specialty.

RESPONSE EVALUATION: All respondents will be evaluated in accordance with Section 287.055(4), *Florida Statutes* (FS), and must be determined by the ECRC and the FDOT as qualified to do business in Florida and qualified to perform the advertised work requirements. The above project falls into the selection process so indicated in Chapter 14-75, Florida Administrative Code (FAC) wherein at least three (3) firms will be requested to submit technical proposals. The contract fee will be negotiated in accordance with Section 287.055 (FS).

Lobbying of ECRC Board Members, ECRC Advisory Committee Members and ECRC Staff regarding this Request for Letters of Interest by any member of a Proposer's staff, or those people who are members of, or employed by, any legal entity affiliated with an organization that is responding to the Request for Letters of Interest, is strictly prohibited. Such actions may cause your proposal, or the proposal you are supporting, to be rejected.

SUBCONSULTANT OPPORTUNITY: Subconsultants that are not pre-qualified by FDOT shall be subject to compensation restrictions as specified in Chapter 14-75, FAC. Any such subconsultant utilized must be technically qualified by FDOT before work may commence.

NOTIFICATION OF CRIME CONVICTION: Each applicant shall notify FDOT within 30 days after a conviction of a contract crime applicable to it or any officer, director, executive, shareholder active in management, employee, or agent of its affiliates. "The term 'contract crime' means any violation of state or federal antitrust laws with respect to a public contract or any violation of any state or federal law involving fraud, bribery, collusion, conspiracy, or material misrepresentation with respect to a public contract." (Section 337.165 (1)(c), FS, under Section 337.164 (FS)., the privilege of conducting business with FDOT shall be denied to applicants so convicted until such applicant is properly reinstated pursuant to Section 337.165, F.S., and Chapter 14-75, FAC.

FEDERAL DEBARMENT: By signing and submitting a Letter of Interest, the consultant certifies that no principal (which includes officers, directors, and executives) is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from participation in this engagement by any federal department or agency.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM STATEMENT: The ECRC does not discriminate on any basis, as required by 49 USC 5332 (which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age in employment or business opportunity), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, 42 USC 2000d to 2000d-4, and Title 49 CFR, Part 21. The ECRC ensures, in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26, that certified FDOT Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program (DBE) participants have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in FDOT assisted contracts.

TO RESPOND: Firms, pre-qualified to conduct business in the State of Florida by the FDOT, are asked to submit one electronic copy of the Letter of Interest to the ECRC office via email to ada.clark@ECRC.org by **4 p.m. (CT), Wednesday, October 22, 2025**. Letters of Interest should not contain links to Web Pages and must, at a minimum, include the following information:

- a. Project Name
- b. Consultant's name and address
- c. Proposed responsible office for consultant
- d. Contact person, phone number, and Internet Email Address
- e. Statement regarding prequalification of consultant or proposed subconsultants in advertised type of work
- f. Proposed key personnel and their proposed roles (do not include resumes)
- g. Subconsultant(s) that may be used for the project not listed in item 'e' above
- h. A Bid Opportunity List (FDOT Form No. 375-040-62) should be included as a separate attached file. This will not be counted as one of the five pages of the Letter of Interest.

The "Letter of Interest" must be no more than five (5) one-sided pages in length and shall describe related experience, training, and qualifications to complete the work.

Letters are to remain in effect for 90 calendar days from the date of submission. The ECRC reserves

the right to reject any and all proposals.

Requests for clarification of the requirements or inquiries about information contained in this request must be submitted to Ada Clark at ada.clark@ECRC.org by **3 p.m. (CT), Tuesday, October 14, 2025**. Responses to all questions will be posted at one time by **4 p.m. (CT), Thursday, October 16, 2025**, on the ECRC webpage at https://www.ecrc.org/services_we_offer/requests_for_proposals.

SELECTION PROCESS: After the ECRC's receipt of Letters of Interest, a Selection Committee shall shortlist a minimum of three firms. Shortlisted firms will be notified by e-mail. The Selection Committee will invite shortlisted firms to submit a technical proposal and reserves the right to ask for an oral presentation from shortlisted firms. Firms will be ranked based upon their understanding of requested services, project approach, technical strength, unique concepts, experience, and quality control methods. ECRC staff will present the Selection Committee's determination to the FDOT and ECRC for their approval.

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE: Below is anticipated schedule for this Request for Letter of Interest and RFP. This schedule may be altered solely at the ECRC's discretion.

LOI Advertised & Posted on Website	October 8, 2025
Deadline for Questions	October 14, 2025
LOI Submittal Due Date	October 22, 2025
Shortlisted Firms Announcement	October 24, 2025
RFP Documents to the Shortlisted Firms	October 24, 2025
RFP Questions Deadline	October 30, 2025
RFP Submittal Due Date	November 6, 2025
Shortlisted Firms Oral Presentations	November 7, 2025
Ranking by the Selection Committee	November 10, 2025
Approval of Ranking by the FDOT & ECRC & Begin Staff Hours Negotiation	November 13, 2025
Complete Staff Hours Negotiation & Review and Approval by FDOT	December 12, 2025
Contract Execution and Issue Notice to Proceed	January 2026
Total Calendar Days for Design Completion = 180 days	January 2026

Exhibit 1
Scope of Services for Design of
Regional ITS Fiber Optic Network Deployment
in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties

Purpose

The Emerald Coast Regional Council (ECRC) is seeking an engineering firm to deliver full engineering design and permitting services for reliable fiber optic network infrastructure that will enhance the region's connectivity capabilities and continue the implementation of the Escambia/Santa Rosa Regional Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) Masterplan. The intent is to prepare separate plan sets for each County to bid and award. The design and permitting effort shall be for construction documents to install two - 2" HDPE conduits with a single direct buried tracer wire with splice boxes as needed and eight Arterial Dynamic Message Signs. One conduit shall include a 144-ct. single-mode fiber optic cable backbone, and the other conduit shall be a spare. The system goal is a 10GB fiber optic cable backbone that meets or exceeds upload and download speeds up to 10 Gbps. System resilience and its role in disaster recovery shall be considered in the design of the fiber optic cable backbone and ADMS's. These facilities shall be dedicated to the ATMS network to be owned, maintained, and operated by the local maintaining agencies and/or FDOT after installation.

Project limits are as follows:

- SR 291/Davis Hwy from SR 296/Brent Ln northward to I-10 EB Off Ramp (FPID 451524-2) – Approximate length 2.0 miles
- SR 291/Davis Hwy from I-10 WB Off Ramp to US 90/SR 10A/Scenic Hwy (FPID 451524-2) – Approximate length 3.0 miles
- US 98/SR 30/Gulf Breeze Pkwy from the south approach of the Pensacola Bay Bridge eastward to Gondolier Blvd/Kelton Blvd (FPID 451524-3) – Approximate length 4.4 miles
- US 98/SR 30/Gulf Breeze Pkwy from Tiger Point Blvd eastward to East Bay Blvd (FPID 451524-3) – Approximate length 3.4 miles
- US 90/SR 10 from Woodbine Rd eastward to Pea Ridge Connector (FPID 451524-3) – Approximate length 4.4 miles
- US 90/SR 10 from SR 281/Avalon Blvd eastward to Ward Basin Rd (FPID 451524-3) – Approximate length 3.9 miles

Total Project Length – 21.1 miles

Background

In 2017, the Escambia/Santa Rosa Regional ATMS Feasibility Study and Implementation Plan was developed to provide the future plan for ATMS deployment in the region. Acting as an umbrella agency for the five local agencies in Escambia and Santa Rosa County, the ECRC has agreed to facilitate the design and operations of the ATMS for the region while the local agencies will facilitate the construction and maintenance. This project will extend the ATMS infrastructure

by connecting to the existing ATMS located at the locations identified in the section above and provide technology identified in the ATMS Masterplan.

Provisions for connection to each existing traffic signal and ITS device along the route shall be included in the design including splice diagrams into the signal/ITS cabinets. If there is no fiber optic cable backbone to connect to at the project limits, all fibers will terminate in a splice vault at the end of the project limits where a future ATMS expansion project will splice into.

Ultimately, the installation consisting of fiber optic cable backbone, conduit, splice boxes, the network, and ADMS's, upon final acceptance, shall be immediately dedicated to the appropriate local maintaining agencies and/or FDOT to be owned, maintained, and operated. These facilities are to be owned, operated, and maintained by the local maintaining agencies and/or FDOT are to meet the latest version of the FDOT Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, the FDOT Standard Plans for Road and Bridge Construction and the Florida Department of Transportation Design Manual. The Engineer shall be responsible for final design and permitting of all aspects of this ATMS facility installation. As-built plans for the ATMS installation shall be in accordance with FDOT Specifications 611. The engineer will also be responsible for procurement support and post-design services associated with each County's construction contract.

Design Services Include:

- Design of two - 2" HDPE conduits with a single direct buried tracer wire
- One conduit will contain 144-ct single mode fiber optic backbone
- One conduit will be a spare
- Connection to adjacent regional ATMS fiber optic network. Connection locations are as follows:
 - SR 291/Davis Hwy at SR 296/Brent Ln
 - SR 291/Davis Hwy at I-10 Off Ramps
 - US 98/SR 30/Gulf Breeze Pkwy at south end of Pensacola Bay Bridge
 - US 98/SR 30/Gulf Breeze Pkwy at Gondolier Blvd/Kelton Blvd
 - US 98/SR 30/Gulf Breeze Pkwy at Tiger Point Blvd
 - US 90/SR 10 at Pea Ridge Connector
 - SR 281/Avalon Blvd at Carroll Rd
- Arterial Dynamic Message Sign (ADMS) panel design and foundation structural design. Final locations are to be coordinated with Escambia and Santa Rosa County, FDOT, and ECRC. The ADMS must be viewable from a nearby CCTV camera for verification. The approximate locations are as follows:
 - 1) SR 291/Davis Hwy south of I-10 EB Off Ramp facing northbound traffic
 - 2) SR 291/Davis Hwy north of I-10 WB Off Ramp facing southbound traffic
 - 3) SR 291/Davis Hwy north of SR 296 Brent Ln facing southbound traffic
 - 4) SR 291/Davis Hwy south of Campus Dr/Rockwood Rd facing southbound traffic

- 5) US 98/SR 30/Gulf Breeze Pkwy west of CR 399/Pensacola Beach Blvd facing eastbound traffic
 - 6) US 98/SR 30/Gulf Breeze Pkwy east of CR 399/Pensacola Beach Blvd facing westbound traffic
 - 7) US 90/SR 10 east of Woodbine Rd facing westbound traffic
 - 8) US 90/SR 10 east of SR 281/Avalon Blvd facing westbound traffic
- Design of Master Communication Hubs as needed to be determined by data loss calculations in design
 - Permitting (as required)
 - Limited Construction Phase Services
 - Subsurface Utility Exploration (SUE) (as needed)
 - Geotechnical Boring and Reports (as needed)
 - Utility Coordination (as needed)
 - Coordination meetings with Escambia and Santa Rosa County, FDOT, ECRC, and contractor (post design) as necessary

Description of Work Activities:

Deliverables include (for each County's project):

- Sketches & Legal Descriptions (as needed)
- Right of way needs determination (if any).
- 60% Design Construction Documents
- 90% Design Construction Documents.
- FINAL Design Construction Documents
- Cost Estimating/Bid Tabulation (at each submittal stage)
- Construction Specifications (100% Submittal)
- As-Built Certification/Drawings
- Bid assistance and post-design support (for each County's project)

A team should be formed to deliver a complete project to meet the intent of the goals listed above within 6 months from Notice to Proceed.

Data Collection, Site Visits, & Meetings

The CONSULTANT shall collect and review available geotechnical data, existing hydraulic modeling data, geologic and hydro-geologic data and reports, GIS data, damage assessment data, correspondence, reports, topographic, and survey data. Data sources, information, and reports shall be reviewed to evaluate the technical merit and adequacy of the information as it relates to supporting the analysis. The proposed project elements will likely be confined to public rights of way and public lands, but the consultant shall analyze the proposed project elements for any needed environmental assessments and considerations for avoidance and minimization if needed.

Task 1 – Surveying and Geotechnical Engineering Services:

- It is anticipated the design will utilize aerial photography.
- Subsurface Utility Excavation and Geotechnical borings as necessary for the proposed ADMS foundation design

Task 2 - Plan Preparation and Permitting:

- Meet with Escambia and Santa Rosa County, FDOT, and ECRC staff for input on location, conflicts, and constructability issues.
- Provide 60%, 90%, and final plans for each project phase for review by Escambia and Santa Rosa County, FDOT, and ECRC.
- Provide all required regulatory permitting, including permit fee allowances.
- Provide plans that are reproducible to 40 scale on 11"x17" and 20 scale on 24" X 36" sheets size plans.
- Provide Utility Coordination and Plans-in-hand walk through with Utility companies at all phase submittals and perform subsurface Utility Explorations (SUE) services as needed.
- Submit cost estimates (preliminary at 60%, final draft at 90%, and Final Bid Tab Sheet using FDOT Pay Items at 100%).

Task 3 - Bidding Estimates:

- Prepare all bid documents through bidding process.
- Attend pre-bid meeting with Escambia and Santa Rosa County Engineering and Purchasing Departments.
- Respond to all Request for Information and issue any necessary addendums.
- Tabulate bids.

Task 4 - Post Design Services (Limited Allowance):

- Attending a Preconstruction Conference.
- Prepare as-built certification based upon contractor mark-ups & post construction meetings and inspections. Certify project complete to applicable regulatory agencies.
- Be available on an as-needed basis during construction to address issues with design or any unforeseen construction issues and as needed to monitor construction and prepare as-built drawings. Escambia and Santa Rosa County, FDOT, and ECRC, or the Construction Inspection (CEI) consultant, will inspect all construction improvements. All post services provided by the CONSULTANT shall be established as an allowance.

Project Design Schedule

The project design shall begin upon written Notice to Proceed by the ECRC and shall have 180

calendar days to complete the project. A project design schedule shall be created for the project and shall contain, but not be limited to, the following tasks:

Task	# Days	Date
Notice to Proceed Date		January 14, 2026
Begin Design		January 14, 2026
60% Plans Development & Agencies' Review	90	April 10, 2026
Permitting (Concurrent)		
90% Plans Submittal & Agencies' Review	60	June 10, 2026
Final Plans and Supporting Documents Submittal	30	July 13, 2026
Total Calendar Days	180	

The finished product will result in ECRC and FDOT approved plans and specifications and bid documents in both hard copy and electronic versions ready for project bidding and construction. Services provided by the Consultant shall comply with all aspects of the ECRC's Local Agency Program Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation.

Escambia-Santa Rosa ATMS FOC Network

Existing ATMS FOC Network

-  ATMS Phase 1
-  ATMS Phase 1
-  Nine Mile Rd
-  SR 95/US 29
-  Cervantes St
-  Escambia County TSOC
-  City of Pensacola TSOC
-  9th Ave
-  US 98
-  I-10 to Okaloosa Co.
-  I-10 to AL Line
-  I-10 to I-110 to PBB
- 
- Avalon from Milton Ops to I-10

Proposed FL-AL TPO Fiber Deployment in Escambia County

-  Davis Hwy

Proposed FL-AL TPO Fiber Deployment in Santa Rosa County

-  US 98/Gulf Breeze Pkwy
-  US 98/Gulf Breeze Pkwy
-  US 90
-  US 90

