

(March 22, 2007)  
(June 7, 2007)  
March 26, 2009

**STATE OF TENNESSEE**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS**

**BIDS TO BE RECEIVED**

**MAY 8, 2009**

Bids for the construction of the following projects will be received via the Internet until 10:00 A.M. May 8, 2009, opened publicly at the 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, Suite 700, James K. Polk Office Building, Nashville, Tennessee, 37243-0326 and posted to the TDOT Construction Division website ([www.tdot.state.tn.us/construction/bid\\_lettings.htm](http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/construction/bid_lettings.htm)) at that hour.

The proposed construction shall be performed in accordance with the Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction of the Tennessee Department of Transportation, dated March 1, 2006, which are incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof. In addition, only the Special Provisions contained within the applicable Contract Proposal will be considered binding. Any reference to the Standard Specifications dated prior to March 1, 2006 shall be disregarded. In addition, any reference to any Special Provision not contained within the applicable Contract Proposal shall be disregarded. All questions related to the Contract Proposal, Plans, Specifications or Special Provisions shall be directed to the Headquarters Construction Office (615-741-2414). Information received from other offices of the Department is strictly advisory.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO BIDDERS:**

Prospective bidders should read the following instructions carefully before submitting their bids. Special attention is called to the regulations of the Department that total bids, rather than unit prices, will be read. Proposals shall be rejected as being irregular if they fail to contain a unit price for each item listed.

After a bidder has submitted a bid via Internet Bidding, he can withdraw it using the electronic bidding program up until the time set for the opening of bids.

Totals read at the opening of the bids are not guaranteed to be correct and no final award of the contract will be made until bids and extensions have been checked and re-checked.

On all projects which are financed in whole or in part by funds received through Federal agencies and other third parties, the awarding of contracts by the Department will be subject to approval by the party or parties through which funds are received. The Department reserves the right to reject any bid proposal which is not acceptable to any such third party set out above, although such bid proposal would otherwise qualify as the lowest and best bid under the Standard Specifications of the Department. It shall be the responsibility of the bidder to determine which projects are so financed in part by third parties, such information being available upon request from the Department.

The awarding of the contract or rejection of all proposals will be made within 30 days after the bid opening. Upon award, a detailed letter of instructions will be forwarded along with appropriate documents to the low bidder.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation hereby notifies all bidders, that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the basis of age, race, color, religion, national origin, sex or disability in consideration for an award.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation is an equal opportunity affirmative action employer, drug-free, with policies of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or military service. For more information call: (615) 741-5996.

#### **PREQUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS:**

Each prospective bidder and subcontractor will be required to file a document entitled "Prequalification Questionnaire." The foregoing shall be filed on a form provided by the Department. The form must be filled out completely, and the truth and accuracy of the information provided must be certified by a sworn affidavit signed by an officer, partner, owner or other authorized representative of the applicant who has authority to sign contracts or other legal documents on behalf of the applicant. A prospective bidder must be prequalified by and in good standing with the Department prior to being given authorization to bid. A prospective subcontractor must be prequalified by and in good standing with the Department prior to being approved as a subcontractor. Each prospective bidder or subcontractor shall notify the Department if there is any subsequent change in the name, organization or contact information provided.

Prospective bidders' "Prequalification Questionnaire" shall be filed with the Department at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of opening bids on any letting in which the applicant intends to submit a bid to the Department, or at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date on which the applicant requests approval as a subcontractor under a contract awarded by the Department. Bidders intending to submit proposals consistently shall complete and submit the prequalification application annually; however, this document may be changed during such period upon submission of additional favorable reports or upon receipt by the Department of substantiated evidence of unsatisfactory performance. The Department reserves the right to request additional information and documentation to clarify and/or verify any information submitted in an applicant's prequalification application.

The prequalification form can be found at the web address  
<http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/construction>

#### **ISSUANCE OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS**

This Department is on a cash basis for sales of Plans, bid authorization, Standard Specifications, Standard Drawings, Standard Drawing Books and Tabulations of Bids. Requests for documents must be accompanied by cash, check, or they may be mailed to the buyer C.O.D.

TDOT no longer issues hard copy Proposal Contracts and will only accept Internet bids and bid bonds. The Internet bid and electronic bid bond executed by the Contractor and their Surety will be considered as a complete bid and will be printed at the time of the letting. All requests for authorization to bid via the Internet using Bid Express must be submitted on the Bidding Authorization Form. This form is available at the web address <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/construction>. Adobe Reader 8.0 or newer is needed to use this form. This form must be complete before authorization to bid is given. Bidding authorization will be obtainable until 4:00 P.M. the day before the letting. A charge of \$25.00 will be made for each authorized Proposal. Any bid submitted via the Internet that is not authorized will not be considered.

Addenda to the Proposal and amendments to the electronic bidding file will be posted on the Bid Express website. Addenda will be acknowledged by all bidders through the electronic bidding program. It is the bidder's responsibility to monitor the Bid Express website for Addenda until 4:00 P.M. the day before the letting. The bidder will not be notified by the Department unless Addenda are issued after 4:00 P.M. the day before the letting. Failure to acknowledge receipt of Addendum Letters or to apply any applicable amendments to the electronic bidding file is grounds for rejection.

Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, dated March 1, 2006, will be furnished at \$12.00 per book. The charge for Plans and/or Cross-sections will be as specified in the Notice to Contractors and this charge will be applicable before the letting and for three months after the letting. Plans ordered after the three month period will be furnished at \$2.00 per sheet. Individual Plan sheets and individual Standard Drawings will be furnished at \$2.00 per sheet. Tabulations of bids will be furnished at \$0.50 per sheet. Standard Drawing Books will be furnished at \$100.00 per book.

A sales tax of 9.25% will be added to the above charges when there is in-state delivery. There will be a minimum charge of \$2.00 on any purchase. All documents will be furnished without refund and transmitted at your risk.

When two or more contractors wish to bid together in a joint venture, each contractor will be required to make a written request for such a proposal to the Construction Division. This request shall be signed by an authorized signatory of each firm.

Requests for joint venture proposals may be made in person or by telephone. However, the proposal for said joint venture will not be issued until the request in writing, as set forth above, is received by the Construction Division.

#### **ALTERNATE BID ITEMS**

There will be projects that will have numerous alternates. The Contractor will be required to bid on only one alternate for each construction item. The proper procedure for entering alternate bids is to enter prices for the intended alternate item(s) of construction and leave the undesired alternate item(s) of construction blank.

#### **BID GUARANTY**

Each bid must be accompanied by an electronic bid bond or a Cashier's or Certified Check made payable to the Department of Transportation in an amount equaling not less than five percent (5%) of the amount bid.

If the bidder's bond is offered as guaranty, the bond must be submitted electronically via Internet Bidding, must be made by a surety company qualified and authorized to transact business in the State of Tennessee and must be acceptable to the Department.

If a check is offered as guaranty, the check must be in the Department's possession by 10:00 A.M. the day of the bid opening and must be attached to the signed Proposal Guarantee Form, which is available at the web address <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/construction>. The check of the successful bidder will be cashable at the discretion of the Commissioner, pending the satisfactory execution and acceptance of the contract and the contract bond.

Gerald F. Nicely  
Commissioner

The following information applies to Federal-Aid construction projects:

**NOTICE TO ALL BIDDERS**

To report bid rigging activities call:

**1-800-424-9071**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) operates the above toll-free "hotline" Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. eastern time. Anyone with knowledge of possible bid rigging, bidder collusion, or other fraudulent activities should use the "hotline" to report such activities.

The "hotline" is part of the DOT's continuing effort to identify and investigate highway construction contract fraud and abuse and is operated under the direction of the DOT Inspector General. All information will be treated confidentially and caller anonymity will be respected.