

STATE OF TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & CONSERVATION

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR OZONE FALLS TRANSPORTATION STUDY

RFQ # 32701-25-470

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1. INTRODUCTION

The State of Tennessee, Department of Environment and Conservation, hereinafter referred to as "the State," issues this Request for Qualifications ("RFQ") to define mandatory goods or services requirements; solicit responses; detail response requirements; and outline the State's process for evaluating responses.

Through this RFQ or any subsequent solicitation, the State seeks to buy the requested goods or services and to give ALL qualified respondents, including those that are owned by minorities, women, service-disabled veterans, persons with disabilities, and small business enterprises, the opportunity to do business with the state as contractors or subcontractors.

1.1. Statement of Procurement Purpose

The State of Tennessee is soliciting proposals from professional consulting firms to study and provide recommendations for land acquisition, transportation improvements, parking, and trail routing at Ozone Falls State Natural Area, which is part of the Justin P. Wilson Cumberland Trail State Park. The study will provide the necessary data and scenarios to help guide decision-making for future improvements at the site.

These services shall include organizing project team, stakeholder, and public meetings; evaluating existing conditions; analyzing visitor capacity; performing visitor interviews; coordinating with relevant agencies; identifying parking and pedestrian needs; providing options for pedestrian crossing, safety improvements, and signage improvements; analyzing historic, existing, and predictive safety measures; mapping access routes and design elements; examining nearby land parcels for acquisition and feasibility for addressing parking, access, and connectivity needs; providing preliminary designs and engineering needs for proposed improvements; and providing cost estimates and anticipated permit needs. Services may require engineering services by licensed professionals. Services shall be performed at Ozone Falls State Natural Area. Required services are described in the attached report, a Pro Forma contract, as well as various requirements presented in this RFP.

1.1.2. This project has a maximum budget of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00).

1.1. Pre-Response Conference

A Pre-Response Conference will be held at the time and date detailed in the RFQ Schedule of Events, RFQ § 2. Pre-Response Conference attendance is not mandatory, and potential Respondents may be limited to a maximum number of attendees depending upon overall attendance and space limitations. Please contact the Solicitation Coordinator to RSVP for the Pre-Response Conference. The Conference will be held at:

Tuesday, August 5, 2025 @ 11:00 PM CT Microsoft Teams

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: 218 604 480 662 8

Passcode: fJ9d8ky9

Dial in by phone

+1 629-209-4396,,435719636#
Phone conference ID: 435 719 636#
Join on a video conferencing device
Tenant key: stateoftn@m.webex.com

Video ID: 118 295 696 0

1.2. Notice of Intent to Respond

Before the Notice of Intent to Respond Deadline detailed in RFQ § 2, Schedule of Events, potential Respondents should submit to the Solicitation Coordinator a Notice of Intent to Respond in the form of a simple e-mail or other written communication. Such notice should include the following information: the business or individual's name (as appropriate), a contact person's name and title, the contact person's mailing address, telephone number, facsimile, number, and e-mail address. Filing a Notice of Intent to Respond is not a prerequisite for submitting a response; however, it is necessary to ensure receipt of notices and communications relating to this RFQ.

2. RFQ SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The following schedule represents the State's best estimates for this RFQ; however, the State reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to adjust the schedule at any time, or cancel and reissue a similar solicitation. Nothing in this RFQ is intended by the State to create any property rights or expectations of a property right in any Respondent.

	EVENT	TIME (Central Time Zone)	DATE (all dates are State business days)
1.	RFQ Issued		July 29, 2025
2.	Disability Accommodation Request Deadline	2:00 p.m.	August 1, 2025
3.	Pre-Response Conference	11:00 a.m.	August 5, 2025
4.	Notice of Intent to Respond Deadline	2:00 p.m.	August 6, 2025
5.	Written "Questions & Comments" Deadline	2:00 p.m.	August 11, 2025
6.	State response to written "Questions & Comments"		August 26, 2025
7.	RFQ Response Deadline	2:00 p.m.	September 3, 2025
8.	RFQ Cost Proposal Opened (ONLY for the apparent successful Respondents)		September 19, 2025
9.	State Notice of Intent to Award Released and RFQ Files Opened for Public Inspection	3:00 p.m.	September 25, 2025
10.	End of Protest Period	4:30 p.m.	October 2, 2025
11.	State sends contract to Contractor for signature		October 3, 2025
12.	Contractor Signature Deadline	2:00 p.m.	October 8, 2025

3. RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1. **Response Contents**: A response to this RFQ should address the following:
 - 3.1.1. Mandatory Requirements: This section details the mandatory technical, functional, and experience requirements that must be demonstrated in the response to this RFQ in order to be passed on to Phase II of the Technical Response evaluation. A Respondent should duplicate and use RFQ Attachment A as a guide to organize responses for the Mandatory Requirements of the RFQ response. The Respondent should reference the page location of the information within the response in the indicated column of the table. This section is included in the State's evaluation as to whether or not a Respondent meets mandatory qualifications (Phase I).
 - 3.1.2. <u>General Qualifications & Experience</u>: This section is included in the State's evaluation of Phase II of the Technical Response Evaluation and details general information and qualifications that must be demonstrated in the response to this RFQ. A Respondent should duplicate and use RFQ Attachment B as a guide to organize responses for this portion of the RFQ response. The Respondent should reference the page location of the information within the response in the indicated column of the table.
 - 3.1.3. <u>Technical Qualifications, Experience & Approach</u>: This section is also included in the State's evaluation of Phase II of the Technical Response Evaluation and details technical qualifications, experience, and approach items that must be demonstrated in the response to this RFQ. A Respondent should duplicate and use RFQ Attachment C as a guide to organize responses for this portion of the RFQ response. The Respondent should reference the page location of the information within the response in the indicated column of the table.

3.1.4. Cost Proposal:

- 3.1.4.1. If included as part of this solicitation, then the Cost Proposal must be recorded on an exact duplicate of RFQ Attachment D, Cost Proposal. Any response that does not follow the instructions included in RFQ Attachment D may be deemed nonresponsive.
- 3.1.4.2. A Respondent must only record the proposed cost exactly as required by the RFQ Attachment D, Cost Proposal and must NOT record any other rates, amounts, or information.
- 3.1.4.3. The proposed cost shall incorporate <u>ALL</u> costs for services under the contract for the total contract period.
- 3.1.4.4. A Respondent must sign and date the Cost Proposal.
- 3.1.4.5. A Respondent must submit the Cost Proposal to the State in a <u>sealed</u> package separate from the Technical Response.

3.2. Response Delivery Location

A Respondent must ensure that the State receives a Response to this RFQ no later than the Response Deadline time and dates detailed in the RFQ § 2, Schedule of Events. All responses must be delivered to:

Andrew Martin Central Procurement Office 312 Rosa L. Parks Ave. Nashville, TN 37243 (615) 532-7367 Andrew.Martin@tn.gov

3.3. Response Format

- 3.3.1. A Respondent must ensure that the original response meets all form and content requirements detailed within this RFQ.
- 3.3.2. A Respondent must submit their response as specified in one of the two formats below.

3.3.2.1. Technical Response

One (1) original Technical Response in the form of one (1) digital document in "PDF" format properly recorded on its own otherwise blank, USB flash drive clearly labeled:

"RFQ # 32701-25-470 TECHNICAL RESPONSE ORIGINAL"

and one (1) copies of the Technical Response each in the form of one (1) digital document in "PDF" format properly recorded on its own otherwise blank, USB flash drive labeled:

"RFQ # 32701-25-470 TECHNICAL RESPONSE COPY"

If not emailed, then the sealed customer references will be the only paper documents.

3.3.2.2. Cost Proposal:

One (1) Cost Proposal in the form of one (1) digital document in "PDF" or "XLS" format properly recorded on a separate, otherwise blank, USB flash drive clearly labeled:

"RFQ # 32701-25-470 COST PROPOSAL"

An electronic or facsimile signature, as applicable, on the Cost Proposal is acceptable.

- 3.3.3. A Respondent must separate, seal, package, and label the documents and copies for delivery as follows:
 - 3.3.3.1. The Technical Response and copies must be placed in a sealed package that is clearly labeled:

"DO NOT OPEN... RFQ # 32701-25-470 TECHNICAL RESPONSE FROM [RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME]"

3.3.3.2. The Cost Proposal must be placed in a <u>separate</u>, sealed package that is clearly labeled:

"DO NOT OPEN... RFQ # 32701-25-470 COST PROPOSAL FROM [RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME]"

3.3.3.3. The separately, sealed Technical Response and Cost Proposal components may be enclosed in a larger package for mailing or delivery, provided that the outermost package is clearly labeled:

"RFQ # 32701-25-470 SEALED RESPONSE FROM [RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME]"

3.3.3.4. Any Respondent wishing to submit a Response in a format other than digital may do so by contacting the Solicitation Coordinator.

3.3.4. E-mail Submission

3.3.4.1. Technical Response

The Technical Response document should be in the form of one (1) digital document in "PDF" format or other easily accessible digital format attached to an e-mail to the Solicitation Coordinator. Both the subject and file name should be clearly identified as follows:

"RFQ # 32701-25-470 TECHNICAL RESPONSE"

The customer references should be delivered by each reference in accordance with RFQ Attachment F. Reference Questionnaire.

3.3.4.2. Cost Proposal:

The Cost Proposal should be in the form of one (1) digital document in "PDF" or "XLS" format or other easily accessible digital format attached to an e-mail to the Solicitation Coordinator. Both the subject and file name should be clearly identified as follows:

"RFQ # 32701-25-470 COST PROPOSAL"

An electronic or facsimile signature, as applicable, on the Cost Proposal is acceptable.

- 3.3.4.3. For e-mail submissions, the Technical Response and Cost Proposal documents must be dispatched to the Solicitation Coordinator in <u>separate</u> e-mail messages. For digital media submissions, a Respondent must separate, seal, package, and label the documents and copies for delivery as follows:
 - 3.3.4.4. The Technical Response and copies must be placed in a sealed package that is clearly labeled:

"DO NOT OPEN... RFQ # 32701-25-470 TECHNICAL RESPONSE FROM [RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME]"

3.3.4.5. The Cost Proposal must be placed in a <u>separate</u>, sealed package that is clearly labeled:

"DO NOT OPEN... RFQ # 32701-25-470 COST PROPOSAL FROM [RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME]"

3.3.4.6. The separately, sealed Technical Response and Cost Proposal components may be enclosed in a larger package for mailing or delivery, provided that the outermost package is clearly labeled:

"RFQ # 32701-25-470 SEALED TECHNICAL RESPONSE & SEALED COST PROPOSAL FROM [RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME]"

3.3.4.7. Any Respondent wishing to submit a Response in a format other than digital may do so by contacting the Solicitation Coordinator.

3.3.5. A Respondent must ensure that the State receives a response no later than the Response Deadline time and date detailed in the RFQ Section 2, Schedule of Events at the following address:

Andrew Martin Central Procurement Office 312 Rosa L. Parks Ave. Nashville, TN 37243 (615) 532-7367 Andrew.Martin@tn.gov

3.4. **Response Prohibitions:** A response to this RFQ shall not:

- 3.4.1. Restrict the rights of the State or otherwise qualify the response to this RFQ;
- 3.4.2. Include, for consideration in this procurement process or subsequent contract negotiations, incorrect information that the Respondent knew or should have known was materially incorrect;
- 3.4.3. Include more than one response, per Respondent, to this RFQ;
- 3.4.4. Include any information concerning costs (in specific dollars or numbers) associated with the Technical Response;
- 3.4.5. Include the respondent's own contract terms and conditions (unless specifically requested by the RFQ); or
- 3.4.6. Include the respondent as a prime contractor while also permitting one or more other respondents to offer the respondent as a subcontractor in their own responses.

3.5. Response Errors & Revisions

A Respondent is responsible for any and all errors or omissions in its response to this RFQ. A Respondent <u>will not</u> be allowed to alter or revise its response after the Response Deadline time and dates as detailed in RFQ § 2, Schedule of Events, unless such is formally requested in writing by the State (e.g., through a request for clarification, etc.).

3.6. Response Withdrawal

A Respondent may withdraw a response at any time before the Response Deadline time and date as detailed in RFQ § 2, Schedule of Events, by submitting a written signed request by an authorized representative of the Respondent. After withdrawing a response, a Respondent may submit another Response at any time before the Response Deadline time and date as detailed in RFQ § 2, Schedule of Events.

3.7. Response Preparation Costs

The State <u>will not</u> pay any costs associated with the preparation, submittal, or presentation of any response. Each Respondent is solely responsible for the costs it incurs in responding to this RFQ.

4. GENERAL INFORMATION & REQUIREMENTS

4.1. Communications

4.1.1. Respondents shall reference RFQ # 32701-25-470 in all communications relating to this solicitation, and direct any such communications to the following person designated as the Solicitation Coordinator:

Andrew Martin Central Procurement Office 312 Rosa L. Parks Ave. Nashville, TN 37243 (615) 532-7367 Andrew.Martin@tn.gov

The State will convey all official responses and communications related to this RFQ to the potential respondents from whom the State has received a Notice of Intent to Respond (refer to RFQ Section 1.3.).

- 4.1.2. Potential respondents with a handicap or disability may receive accommodation relating to the communication of this RFQ and participating in the RFQ process. Potential respondents may contact the RFQ Coordinator to request such reasonable accommodation no later than the Disability Accommodation Request Deadline detailed in RFQ § 2, Schedule of Events.
- 4.1.3. Unauthorized contact about this RFQ with other employees or officials of the State of Tennessee may result in disqualification from contract award consideration.
- 4.1.4. Notwithstanding the foregoing, potential Respondents may also contact the following as appropriate:
 - 4.1.4.1. Staff of the Governor's Office of Diversity Business Enterprise may be contacted for assistance with respect to available minority-owned, woman-owned, service-disabled veteran-owned, businesses owned by persons with disabilities and small business enterprises as well as general public information relating to this request; or
 - 4.1.4.2. The following individual designated by the State to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of the State of Tennessee, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and associated federal regulations:

Helen Crowley
Department of General Services, CPO
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue
Tennessee Tower, 3rd Floor
Nashville, TN 37243
615-741-1035
Helen.Crowley@TN.gov

4.2. Nondiscrimination

No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the performance of a contract pursuant to this solicitation or in the employment practices of the Contractor on the grounds of handicap or disability, age, race, creed, color, religion (subject to Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 4-21-401 and 405), sex, national origin, or any other classification protected by federal, Tennessee state constitutional, or statutory law. The Contractor pursuant to this solicitation shall post in conspicuous places, available to all employees and applicants, notices of nondiscrimination.

4.3. Conflict of Interest

- 4.3.1. The State may not consider a proposal from an individual who is, or within the past six (6) months has been, a State employee. For these purposes,
 - 4.3.1.1. An individual shall be deemed a State employee until such time as all compensation for salary, termination pay, and annual leave has been paid;
 - 4.3.1.2. A contract with or a proposal from a company, corporation, or any other contracting entity in which a controlling interest is held by any State employee shall be considered to be a contract with or proposal from the employee; and
 - 4.3.1.3. A contract with or a proposal from a company, corporation, or any other contracting entity that employs an individual who is, or within the past six months has been, a State employee shall not be considered a contract with or a proposal from the employee and shall not constitute a prohibited conflict of interest.
- 4.3.2. This RFQ is also subject to Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-4-101—105.

4.4. Respondent Required Review & Waiver of Objections

- 4.4.1. Each potential respondent must carefully review this RFQ, including but not limited to, attachments, the RFQ Attachment G, *pro forma* Contract, and any amendments for questions, comments, defects, objections, or any other matter requiring clarification or correction (collectively called "questions and comments").
- 4.4.2. Any potential respondent having questions and comments concerning this RFQ must provide such in writing to the State no later than the written "Questions & Comments Deadline" detailed in RFQ § 2, Schedule of Events.
- 4.4.3. Protests based on any objection shall be considered waived and invalid if the objection has not been brought to the attention of the State, in writing, by the written "Questions & Comments Deadline."

4.5. Disclosure of Response Contents

- 4.5.1. All materials submitted to the State in response to this solicitation become property of the State of Tennessee. Respondents are cautioned not to provide any materials in response to this RFP that are trade secrets, as defined under Tenn. Code Ann. § 47-25-1702 and applicable law. By submitting a response to this RFP, the respondent acknowledges and agrees that the State shall have no liability whatsoever for disclosure of a trade secret under the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, as provided at Tenn. Code Ann. § 47-25-1701-1709, or under any other applicable law. Selection for award does not affect this right. By submitting a response, a Respondent acknowledges and accepts that the full contents and associated documents submitted in response to this request will become open to public inspection in accordance with the laws of the State of Tennessee. Refer to RFQ § 2, Schedule of Events.
- 4.5.2. The RFQ responses will be available for public inspection only after the completion of evaluation of the RFQ or any resulting solicitation which this RFQ becomes a part of, whichever is later.

4.6. Notice of Professional Licensure, Insurance, and Department of Revenue Registration Requirements

4.6.1. All persons, agencies, firms or other entities that provide legal or financial opinions, which a Respondent provides for consideration and evaluation by the State as part of a response to this RFQ, shall be properly licensed to render such opinions.

- 4.6.2. Before the Contract resulting from this RFQ is signed, the apparent successful Respondent (and Respondent employees and subcontractors, as applicable) must hold all necessary, appropriate business and professional licenses to provide service as required. The State may require any Respondent to submit evidence of proper licensure.
- 4.6.3. Before the Contract resulting from this RFQ is signed, the apparent successful Respondent must provide a valid, Certificate of Insurance indicating current insurance coverage meeting minimum requirements as may be specified by the RFQ.
- 4.6.4. Before the Contract resulting from this RFQ is signed, the apparent successful Respondent must be registered with the Department of Revenue for the collection of Tennessee sales and use tax. The State shall not approve a contract unless the Respondent provides proof of such registration or provides documentation from the Department of Revenue that the Contractor is exempt from this registration requirement. The foregoing is a mandatory requirement of an award of a contract pursuant to this solicitation. To register, please visit the Department of Revenue's Tennessee Taxpayer Access Point (TNTAP) website for Online Registration and the Vendor Contract Questionnaire. These resources are available at the following: https://tntap.tn.gov/eservices/ /#1

4.7. RFQ Amendments & Cancellation

- 4.7.1. The State reserves the right to amend this RFQ at any time, provided that it is amended in writing. However, prior to any such amendment, the State will consider whether it would negatively impact the ability of potential respondents to meet the deadlines and revise the RFQ Schedule of Events if deemed appropriate. If a RFQ amendment is issued, the State will convey it to potential respondents who submitted a Notice of Intent to Respond (refer to RFQ § 1.3). A response must address the final RFQ (including its attachments) as may be amended.
- 4.7.2. The State reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to cancel or to cancel and reissue this RFQ in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

4.8. State Right of Rejection

- 4.8.1. Subject to applicable laws and regulations, the State reserves the right to reject, at its sole discretion, any and all proposals.
- 4.8.2. The State may deem as nonresponsive and reject any proposal that does not comply with all terms, conditions, and performance requirements of this RFQ. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the State reserves the right to seek clarifications or to waive, at its sole discretion, a response's minor variances from full compliance with this RFQ. If the State waives variances in a response, such waiver shall not modify the RFQ requirements or excuse the Respondent from full compliance with such, and the State may hold any resulting vendor to strict compliance with this RFQ.
- 4.8.3. The State will review the response evaluation record and any other available information pertinent to whether or not each respondent is responsive and responsible. If the Solicitation Coordinator identifies any respondent that appears not to meet the responsive and responsible thresholds such that the team would not recommend the respondent for potential contract award, this determination will be fully documented for the record. ("Responsive" is defined as submitting a response that conforms in all material respects to the RFQ. "Responsible" is defined as having the capacity in all respects to perform fully the contract requirements, and the integrity and reliability which will assure good faith performance.)

4.9. Assignment & Subcontracting

- 4.9.1. The vendor may not subcontract, transfer, or assign any portion of the Contract awarded as a result of this RFQ without prior approval of the State. The State reserves the right to refuse approval, at its sole discretion, of any subcontract, transfer, or assignment.
- 4.9.2. If a Respondent intends to use subcontractors, the response to this RFQ must specifically identify the scope and portions of the work each subcontractor will perform (refer to RFQ Attachment B, Item B.14.).
- 4.9.3. Subcontractors identified within a response to this RFQ will be deemed as approved by the State unless the State expressly disapproves one or more of the proposed subcontractors prior to signing the Contract.
- 4.9.4. The Contractor resulting from this RFQ may only substitute another subcontractor for a proposed subcontractor at the discretion of the State and with the State's prior, written approval.
- 4.9.5. Notwithstanding any State approval relating to subcontracts, the Contractor resulting from this RFQ will be the prime contractor and will be responsible for all work under the Contract.

4.10. Next Ranked Respondent

The State reserves the right to initiate negotiations with the next ranked respondent should the State cease doing business with any respondent selected via this RFQ process.

5. PROCUREMENT PROCESS & CONTRACT AWARD

Phase II:

- 5.1. The complete vendor selection will be a two-part process: (1) Qualification of Technical Responses; and (2) Review of Cost Proposals.
- 5.2. Qualification of Technical Responses: Technical Responses will be short-listed for further evaluation, analysis or negotiation if they are apparently responsive, responsible, and within the competitive range ("Competitive Range"). A Technical Response will be deemed within the Competitive Range based on the following criterion:

The Respondent's Technical Response score must attain a minimum threshold score 70.

<u>Phase I</u>: The State will evaluate the Mandatory Requirements set forth in RFQ Attachment A on a pass/fail basis.

Following the Phase I evaluation, the State will apply a standard equitable evaluation model, which will represent a qualitative assessment of each response. Each response will be scored by Evaluation Team members according to the Technical Response & Evaluation Guides (See RFQ Attachments B & C).

The Solicitation Coordinator will total the average score from the evaluation team for each responsive and responsible Respondent's Technical Response Points for RFQ Attachments B & C to determine which of the Respondents are considered Qualified and within the Competitive Range.

- 5.3. Cost Proposals: If cost is included for this solicitation, then Cost Proposals will be opened for the highest evaluated Respondent. If the Cost Proposal is not acceptable to the State and the Respondent, then the State will open the Cost Proposal for the next apparent highest evaluated Respondent. See RFQ Attachment D, Cost Proposal.
- 5.4. <u>Clarifications and Negotiations</u>: The State reserves the right to award a contract on the basis of initial responses received; therefore, each response should contain the respondent's best terms from a technical and cost standpoint. However, the State reserves the right to conduct clarifications or negotiations with respondents. All communications, clarifications, and negotiations shall be conducted in a manner that supports fairness in response improvement.
 - 5.4.1. <u>Clarifications</u>: The State may identify areas of a response that may require further clarification or areas in which it is apparent that there may have been miscommunications or <u>misunderstandings</u> as to the State's specifications or requirements. The State may seek to clarify those issues identified during one or multiple clarification round(s). Each clarification sought by the State may be unique to an individual respondent.
 - 5.4.2. <u>Negotiations</u>: The State may elect to negotiate with Qualified Respondents, within the competitive range, by requesting revised responses, negotiating costs, or finalizing contract terms and conditions. The State reserves the right to conduct multiple negotiation rounds.
 - 5.4.2.1. <u>Cost Negotiations</u>: All responsive respondents within the competitive range will be given equivalent information with respect to cost negotiations. All cost negotiations will be documented for the procurement file. Additionally, the State may conduct target pricing and other goods or services level negotiations. Target pricing may be based on considerations such as current pricing, market considerations, benchmarks, budget availability, or other methods that do not reveal individual respondent pricing. During target price negotiations, respondents are not obligated to meet or beat target prices, but will not be allowed to increase prices.

5.4.2.2. If the State determines costs and contract finalization discussions and negotiations are not productive, the State reserves the right to bypass the apparent best evaluated Respondent and enter into contract negotiations with the next apparent best evaluated Respondent.

5.5. Evaluation Guide

The State will consider qualifications, experience, technical approach, and cost (if applicable) in the evaluation of responses and award points in each of the categories detailed below. The maximum evaluation points possible for each category are detailed below.

Evaluation Category	Maximum Points Possible
Mandatory Requirements (refer to RFQ	Pass/Fail
Attachment A)	
General Qualifications, Experience, Technical	40
Qualifications, Experience & Approach (refer to	
RFQ Attachment B)	
Technical Qualifications, Experience &	60
Approach (refer to RFQ Attachment C)	

5.6. Contract Award

- 5.6.1. The Solicitation Coordinator, will determine the apparent best-evaluated response using the scoring provided by the Proposal Evaluation Team. (To effect a contract award to a Respondent other than the one receiving the highest evaluation score, the Solicitation Coordinator must provide written justification and obtain written approval of the Chief Procurement Officer and the Comptroller of the Treasury.)
- 5.6.2. The State reserves the right to make an award without further discussion of any response.
- 5.6.3. The State will issue an Evaluation Notice and make the RFQ files available for public inspection at the time and date specified in the RFQ §2, Schedule of Events.

NOTICE: The Evaluation Notice shall not create rights, interests, or claims of entitlement in either the Respondent identified as the apparent best evaluated or any other Respondent.

- 5.6.4. The Respondent identified as offering the apparent best-evaluated must sign a contract drawn by the State pursuant to this RFQ. The contract shall be substantially the same as the RFQ Attachment G, pro forma contract. The Respondent must sign said contract no later than the Respondent Contract Signature Deadline detailed in RFQ § 2, Schedule of Events. If the Respondent fails to provide the signed contract by the deadline, the State may determine the Respondent is non-responsive to this RFQ and reject the response.
- 5.6.5. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the State may, at its sole discretion, entertain limited negotiation prior to contract signing and, as a result, revise the *pro forma* contract terms and conditions or performance requirements in the State's best interests, PROVIDED THAT such revision of terms and conditions or performance requirements shall <u>NOT</u> materially affect the basis of response evaluation or negatively impact the competitive nature of the RFQ and contractor selection process.
- 5.6.6. If the State determines that a response is nonresponsive and rejects it, the Solicitation Coordinator will re-calculate scores to determine (or re-determine) the apparent best-evaluated response.

TECHNICAL RESPONSE & EVALUATION GUIDE

All Respondents must address all items detailed below and provide, in sequence, the information and documentation as required (referenced with the associated item references). All Respondents must also detail the response page number for each item in the appropriate space below.

The Solicitation Coordinator will review all responses to determine if the Mandatory Requirement Items are addressed as required and mark each with pass or fail. For each item that is not addressed as required, the Solicitation Coordinator must review the responses and attach a written determination. In addition to the Mandatory Requirement Items, the Solicitation Coordinator will review each response for compliance with <u>all</u> RFQ requirements.

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:		L ENTITY				
Response Page # (Responden t completes)	Item Ref.	Section	Pass/Fail			
		The Technical Res the Technical Res of Events.				
		The Technical Resof any type.	The Technical Response must not contain cost or pricing information of any type.			
		The Technical Rerights of the State				
		A Respondent mu	A Respondent must not submit alternate responses.			
		A Respondent mu (as a prime and a				
	A.1.	Provide the Stater Attachment E) cor bind the Respond contract. The doc qualification.				
	A.2.	Provide a statement, based upon reasonable inquiry, of whether the Respondent or any individual who shall perform work under the contract has a possible conflict of interest (e.g., employment by the State of Tennessee) and, if so, the nature of that conflict.				
			NOTE: Any questions of conflict of interest shall be solely within the discretion of the State, and the State reserves the right to cancel any award.			
	A.3.	Provide a current maintains a satisfa institution. Such r business letter, sig				

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:					
Response Page # (Responden t completes)	Item Ref.	Section	Section A— Mandatory Requirement Items		
State Use – RFQ Coordinator Signature, Printed Name & Date:					

TECHNICAL RESPONSE & EVALUATION GUIDE

SECTION B: GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE. The Respondent must address all items detailed below and provide, in sequence, the information and documentation as required (referenced with the associated item references). The Respondent must also detail the response page number for each item in the appropriate space below. Evaluation Team members will independently evaluate and assign one score for all responses to Section B— General Qualifications & Experience Items.

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:		
Response Page # Item (Respondent completes)		Section B— General Qualifications & Experience Items
	B.1.	Detail the name, e-mail address, mailing address, telephone number, and facsimile number, if applicable, of the person the State should contact regarding the response.
	B.2.	Describe the Respondent's form of business (<i>i.e.</i> , individual, sole proprietor, corporation, non-profit corporation, partnership, limited liability company) and business location (physical location or domicile).
	B.3.	Detail the number of years the Respondent has been in business.
	B.4.	Briefly describe how long the Respondent has been performing the goods or services required by this RFQ.
	B.5.	Describe the Respondent's number of employees, client base, and location of offices.
	B.6.	Provide a statement of whether there have been any mergers, acquisitions, or sales of the Respondent within the last ten (10) years. If so, include an explanation providing relevant details.
	B.7.	Provide a statement of whether the Respondent or, to the Respondent's knowledge, any of the Respondent's employees, agents, independent contractors, or subcontractors, proposed to provide work on a contract pursuant to this RFQ, have been convicted of, pled guilty to, or pled <i>nolo contendere</i> to any felony. If so, include an explanation providing relevant details.
	B.8.	Provide a statement of whether, in the last ten (10) years, the Respondent has filed (or had filed against it) any bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding, whether voluntary or involuntary, or undergone the appointment of a receiver, trustee, or assignee for the benefit of creditors. If so, include an explanation providing relevant details.

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:				
Response Page # (Respondent completes)	Item Ref.	Section B— General Qualifications & Experience Items		
B.9.		Provide a statement of whether there is any material, pending litigation against the Respondent that the Respondent should reasonably believe could adversely affect its ability to meet contract requirements pursuant to this RFQ or is likely to have a material adverse effect on the Respondent's financial condition. If such exists, list each separately, explain the relevant details, and attach the opinion of counsel addressing whether and to what extent it would impair the Respondent's performance in a contract pursuant to this RFQ.		
		NOTE: All persons, agencies, firms, or other entities that provide legal opinions regarding the Respondent must be properly licensed to render such opinions. The State may require the Respondent to submit proof of such licensure detailing the state of licensure and licensure number for each person or entity that renders such opinions.		
	B.10.	Provide a statement of whether there is any pending or in progress Securities Exchange Commission investigations involving the Respondent. If such exists, list each separately, explain the relevant details, and attach the opinion of counsel addressing whether and to what extent it will impair the Respondent's performance in a contract pursuant to this RFQ.		
		NOTE: All persons, agencies, firms, or other entities that provide legal opinions regarding the Respondent must be properly licensed to render such opinions. The State may require the Respondent to submit proof of such licensure detailing the state of licensure and licensure number for each person or entity that renders such opinions.		
	B.11.	Provide a brief, descriptive statement detailing evidence of the Respondent's ability to deliver the goods or services sought under this RFQ (e.g., prior experience, training, certifications, resources, program and quality management systems, etc.).		
	B.12.	Provide a narrative description of the proposed contract team, its members, and organizational structure along with an organizational chart identifying the key people who will be assigned to provide the goods or services required by this RFQ, illustrating the lines of authority, and designating the individual responsible for the completion of each task and deliverable of the RFQ.		
	B.13.	Provide a personnel roster listing the names of key people who the Respondent will assign to perform tasks required by this RFQ along with the estimated number of hours that each individual will devote to the required tasks. Follow the personnel roster with a resume for each of the people listed. The resumes must detail the individual's title, education, current position with the Respondent, and employment history.		

Provide a statement of whether the Respondent intends to use subcontractors to accomplish the work required by this RFQ, and if so, detail: (a) the names of the subcontractors along with the contact person, mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address for each; (b) a description of the scope and portions of the work each subcontractor will perform; and (c) a statement specifying that each proposed subcontractor has expressly assented to being proposed as a subcontractor in the Respondent's response to this RFQ. Provide a statement of whether or not the Respondent has any current contracts with the State of Tennessee or has completed any contracts with the State of Tennessee within the previous five-year period. If so, provide the following information for all current and completed contracts: (a) the name, title, telephone number and e-mail address of the State contact
accomplish the work required by this RFQ, and if so, detail: (a) the names of the subcontractors along with the contact person, mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address for each; (b) a description of the scope and portions of the work each subcontractor will perform; and (c) a statement specifying that each proposed subcontractor has expressly assented to being proposed as a subcontractor in the Respondent's response to this RFQ. Provide a statement of whether or not the Respondent has any current contracts with the State of Tennessee or has completed any contracts with the State of Tennessee within the previous five-year period. If so, provide the following information for all current and completed contracts:
with the State of Tennessee or has completed any contracts with the State of Tennessee within the previous five-year period. If so, provide the following information for all current and completed contracts:
responsible for the contract at issue; (b) the name of the procuring State agency; (c) a brief description of the contract's specification for goods or scope of services; (d) the contract term; and (e) the contract number.
Provide a statement and any relevant details addressing whether the Respondent is any of the following: (a) is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal or state department or agency; (b) has within the past three (3) years, been convicted of, or had a civil judgment rendered against the contracting party from commission of fraud, or a criminal offence in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or grant under a public transaction; violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property; (c) is presently indicted or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity (federal, state, or local) with commission of any of the offenses detailed above; and • has within a three (3) year period preceding the contract had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated for cause or default. Provide three references from three different persons, in accordance with the instructions in Attachment F.

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:		
Response Page # (Respondent completes)	Item Ref.	Section B— General Qualifications & Experience Items
SCORE (for <u>all</u> Section B— Qualifications & Experience Items above): (maximum possible score = 40)		
State Use – Evaluat	tor Identific	ration:

TECHNICAL RESPONSE & EVALUATION GUIDE

SECTION C: TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE & APPROACH. The Respondent should explain its approach to providing goods or services to the State. The items listed below represent specific questions the State would request you answer in your response. For ease of review, please annotate your explanation so that it contains references to the items listed below where they are addressed. Respondent should not feel constrained to answer only the specific questions listed below in its explanation and should feel free to provide attachments if necessary in an effort to provide a more thorough response.

The Evaluation Team, made up of three (3) or more State employees, will independently evaluate and score the response to each item. Each evaluator will use the following whole number, raw point scale for scoring each item:

0 = little value 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = satisfactory 4 = good 5 = excellent

The Solicitation Coordinator will multiply the Item Score by the associated Evaluation Factor (indicating the relative emphasis of the item in the overall evaluation). The resulting product will be the item's raw, weighted score for purposes of calculating the section scores as indicated.

RESPONDEN NAME:	T LEGA	L ENTITY				
Response Page # (Respondent completes)	Item Ref.	Section C— Technical Qualifications, Experience & Approach Items		Item Score	Evaluation Factor	Raw Weighted Score
	C.1.	Provide a narrative that illustrates the Respondent's understanding of the State's requirements and project schedule.			5	
	C.2.	Provide a narrative that illustrates how the Respondent will complete the delivery of goods or scope of services, accomplish required objectives, and meet the State's project schedule.			5	
	C.3.	Provide a narrative that illustrates how the Respondent will manage the project, ensure delivery of specified goods or completion of the scope of services, and accomplish required objectives within the State's project schedule.			10	
	C.4.	produced by example pla	Demonstrate the level of expertise and execution produced by the Respondent by providing an example plan including renderings and photographs from another project similar in size and scope to this		10	
	C.5.	experience a	arrative that illustrates the Respondent's and capabilities within all areas of land asportation planning and preliminary		5	
	C.6.	other releval	mples of land use, transportation, and nt planning studies and recommendations ope and style to this RFP via website link		5	

RESPONDEN NAME:	IT LEGA	L ENTITY					
Response Page # (Respondent completes)	Item Ref.		Section C— Technical Qualifications, Experience & Approach Items			Evaluation Factor	Raw Weighted Score
	C.7.	experience value recreation father projects, and any sub	Provide examples that illustrate the Respondent's experience with transportation planning and/or ecreation facility planning. Include a description of the projects, the process used to manage the project and any subcontractors, and examples of the ompleted plans.			5	
	C.8.	experience versions of	arrative that details the Rowith land acquisition plan how the Respondent will scenarios for acquisition	ning. Provide I study and		5	
	C.9.	Respondent meetings an examples of	arrative that demonstrate is experience with hostin dengaging with stakeho how the Respondent wilkeholders and members addy.	g public Iders. Provide I engage with		5	
	C.10.	Respondent into a final p and timeline	arrative that illustrates ho will tie together componional anning report. Include the for the final report and hould be addressed.	ents of the study le review cycle		5	
to calculate the	section s	core. All calcula	sum and the formula below ations will use and result in e right of the decimal point.			ghted Score: ghted Scores above)	
	To	tal Raw Weig	hted Score	X 60			
	Maximum Possible Raw Weighted Score (i.e., 5 x the sum of item weights above) (maximum possible score)						
State Use – Evaluator Identification:							
State Use – S	Colicitatio	n Coordinator	Signature, Printed Name	e & Date:			

Cost Proposal

NOTICE: THIS COST PROPOSAL MUST BE COMPLETED EXACTLY AS REQUIRED

COST PROPOSAL SCHEDULE— The Cost Proposal, detailed below, shall indicate the proposed price for the delivery of specified goods for the entire scope of services including all services defined in the Scope of Services of the RFQ Attachment G. pro forma Contract and for the entire contract period. The Cost Proposal shall remain valid for at least 120 days subsequent to the date of the Cost Proposal opening and thereafter in accordance with any contract resulting from this RFQ. All monetary amounts shall be in U.S. currency and limited to two (2) places to the right of the decimal point. The State will open the Cost Proposal for the highest evaluated Respondent.

NOTICE: Notwithstanding the line item of costs herein, pursuant to the second paragraph of the pro forma contract section C.1. (refer to RFQ Attachment G), "The State is under no obligation to request work from the Contractor in any specific dollar amounts or to request any work at all from the Contractor during any period of this Contract."

> This Cost Proposal must be signed, in the space below, by an individual empowered to bind the entity responding to the provisions of this RFQ and any contract awarded pursuant thereto. If said individual is not responding in an individual capacity or is the President or Chief Executive Officer, this document must attach evidence showing the individual's authority to legally bind the entity responding to this RFQ.

RESPONDENT SIGNATURE:			
PRINTED NAME & TITLE:			
DATE:			
RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:			
		State	Use Only
		9	c osc only
Line item of cost Description	Proposed Cost	Evaluation Factor	Evaluation Cost (cost x factor)
Existing Conditions and Visitor Capacity Analysis	\$ / one-time payment upon completion	Evaluation	Evaluation Cost
Existing Conditions and Visitor	\$ / one-time payment upon	Evaluation Factor	Evaluation Cost

RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:			
		State	e Use Only
Line item of cost Description	Proposed Cost	Evaluation Factor	Evaluation Cost (cost x factor)
Trail Connectivity Analysis	\$		
	/ one-time payment upon completion	1	
Public and Stakeholder Engagement	\$ / meeting	1	
Final Plan Report, Implementation Scoping, and Implementation Strategy	\$ / one-time payment upon completion	1	

Total Cost

State Use – RFQ Coordinator Signature, Printed Name & Date:

ATTACHMENT E

STATEMENT OF CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES

An individual responding in his or her individual capacity or legally empowered to contractually bind the Respondent must complete and sign the Statement of Certifications and Assurances below as required, and this signed statement must be included with the response as required by the Request for Qualifications.

The Respondent does, hereby, expressly affirm, declare, confirm, certify, and assure ALL of the following:

- 1. The Respondent will comply with all of the provisions and requirements of the RFQ.
- 2. The Respondent will provide all specified goods or services as required by the contract awarded pursuant to this RFQ.
- 3. The Respondent accepts and agrees to all terms and conditions set out in the contract awarded pursuant to this RFQ.
- 4. The Respondent acknowledges and agrees that a contract resulting from the RFQ shall incorporate, by reference, all Response responses as a part of the contract.
- 5. The Respondent will comply, as applicable, with:
 - (a) the laws of the State of Tennessee:
 - (b) Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964;
 - (c) Title IX of the federal Education Amendments Act of 1972;
 - (d) the Equal Employment Opportunity Act and the regulations issued there under by the federal government; and,
 - (e) the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the regulations issued there under by the federal government.
- 6. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, information or belief, the information detailed within the Response to the RFQ is accurate.
- 7. The Response submitted to the RFQ was independently prepared, without collusion, and under penalty of perjury.
- 8. No amount shall be paid directly or indirectly to an employee or official of the State of Tennessee as wages, compensation, or gifts in exchange for acting as an officer, agent, employee, subcontractor, or consultant to the Respondent in connection with the request or any potential resulting contract.
- 9. The Response submitted in response to the RFQ shall remain valid for at least 120 days subsequent to the date of the Response opening and thereafter in accordance with any contract pursuant to the RFQ.
- 10. The Respondent affirms the following statement, as required by the Iran Divestment Act Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-12-111: "By submission of this bid, each bidder and each person signing on behalf of any bidder certifies, and in the case of a joint bid each party thereto certifies as to its own organization, under penalty of perjury, that to the best of its knowledge and belief that each bidder is not on the list created pursuant to § 12-12-106." For reference purposes, the list is currently available online at: https://www.tn.gov/generalservices/procurement/central-procurement-office--cpo-/library-/public-information-library.html.

By signature below, the signatory certifies legal authority to bind the responding entity to the provisions of this request and any contract awarded pursuant to it. The State may, at its sole discretion and at any time, require evidence documenting the signatory's authority to be personally bound or to legally bind the responding entity.

DO NOT SIGN THIS DOCUMENT IF YOU ARE NOT LEGALLY AUTHORIZED TO DO SO BY THE ENTITY RESPONDING TO THIS RFQ.

SIGNATURE & DATE:	
PRINTED NAME & TITLE:	
LEGAL ENTITY NAME:	

ATTACHMENT F

REFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRE

The standard reference questionnaire provided on the following pages of this attachment MUST be completed by all individuals offering a reference for the Respondent.

The Respondent will be responsible for obtaining completed reference questionnaires as detailed below.

Provide references from individuals who are <u>not</u> current State employees of the procuring State Agency for projects similar to the goods or services sought under this RFQ and which represent:

- two (2) contracts Respondent currently services that are similar in size and scope to the services required by this RFQ; and
- three (3) completed contracts that are similar in size and scope to the services required by this RFQ.

References from at least three (3) different individuals are required to satisfy the requirements above, e.g., an individual may provide a reference about a completed project and another reference about a currently serviced account. The individual contact reference provided for each contract or project shall <u>not</u> be a current State employee of the procuring State agency. Procuring State agencies that accept references from another State agency shall document, in writing, a plan to ensure that no contact is made between the procuring State agency and a referring State agency. The standard reference questionnaire, should be used and completed, and is provided on the next page at RFQ Attachment F.

In order to obtain and submit the completed reference questionnaires following one of the two processes below.

Written:

- (a) Add the Respondent's name to the standard reference questionnaire at RFQ Attachment F and make a copy for each reference.
- (b) Send a reference questionnaire and new, standard #10 envelope to each reference.
- (c) Instruct the reference to:
 - (i) complete the reference questionnaire;
 - (ii) sign and date the completed reference questionnaire;
 - (iii) seal the completed, signed, and dated reference questionnaire within the envelope provided;
 - (iv) sign his or her name in ink across the sealed portion of the envelope; and
 - (v) return the sealed envelope directly to the Respondent (the Respondent may wish to give each reference a deadline, such that the Respondent will be able to collect all required references in time to include them within the sealed Technical Response).
- (d) Do NOT open the sealed references upon receipt.
- (e) Enclose all <u>sealed</u> reference envelopes within a larger, labeled envelope for inclusion in the Technical Response as required.

Email:

- (a) Add the Respondent's name to the standard reference questionnaire at RFQ Attachment F and make a copy for each reference.
- (b) E-mail a reference questionnaire to each reference.
- (c) Instruct the reference to:
 - (i) complete the reference questionnaire;
 - (ii) sign and date the completed reference questionnaire;
 - (iii) E-mail the reference directly to the Solicitation Coordinator by the RFQ Technical Response Deadline with the Subject line of the e-mail as "[Respondent's Name] Reference for RFQ # 32701-25-470".

NOTES:

- The State will not accept late references or references submitted by any means other than the two
 which are described above, and each reference questionnaire submitted must be completed as
 required.
- The State will not review more than the number of required references indicated above.
- While the State will base its reference check on the contents of the reference e-mails or sealed reference envelopes included in the Technical Response package, the State reserves the right to confirm and clarify information detailed in the completed reference questionnaires, and may consider clarification responses in the evaluation of references.
- The State is under <u>no</u> obligation to clarify any reference information.

RFQ # 32701-25-470 REFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRE

RESPONDENT NAME: RESPONDENT NAME (completed by respondent before reference is requested)

The "respondent name" specified above, intends to submit a response to the State of Tennessee in response to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) indicated. As a part of such response, the respondent must include a number of completed and sealed reference questionnaires (using this form).

Each individual responding to this reference questionnaire is asked to follow these instructions:

- complete this questionnaire (either using the form provided or an exact duplicate of this document);
- sign and date the completed questionnaire;
- seal the completed, signed, and dated questionnaire in a new standard #10 envelope;
- sign in ink across the sealed portion of the envelope; and
- return the sealed envelope containing the completed questionnaire directly to the respondent.
- (1) What is the name of the individual, company, organization, or entity responding to this reference questionnaire?
- (2) Please provide the following information about the individual completing this reference questionnaire on behalf of the above-named individual, company, organization, or entity.

NAME:	
TITLE:	
TELEPHONE #	
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	

(3) What goods or services do/did the vendor provide to your company or organization?

(4) If the goods or services that the vendor provided to your company or organization are completed, were the goods or services completed in compliance with the terms of the contract, on time, and within budget? If not, please explain.

(5)		goods or services to your company or organization, are g provided in compliance with the terms of the contract, on ot, please explain.
(6)	How satisfied are you with the according to the contractual a	e vendor's ability to perform based on your expectations and arrangements?
RE	EFERENCE SIGNATURE: (by the individual completing this request for reference information)	
		(must be the same as the signature across the envelope seal)
	DATE:	

ATTACHMENT G

RFQ # 32701-25-470 PRO FORMA CONTRACT

The *pro forma* contract detailed in following pages of this exhibit contains some "blanks" (signified by descriptions in capital letters) that will be completed with appropriate information in the final contract resulting from the RFQ.

Pro Forma ATTACHMENT 1

(Fill out only by selected Contractor)

ATTESTATION RE PERSONNEL USED IN CONTRACT PERFORMANCE

SUBJECT CONTRACT NUMBER:		
CONTRACTOR LEGAL ENTITY NAME:		
EDISON SUPPLIER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER		
The Contractor, identified above, does hereby attest, certify, warrant, and assure that Contractor shall not knowingly utilize the services of an illegal immigrant in the performance of this Contract and shall not knowingly utilize the services of any subcontractor who will utilize the services of an illegal immigrant in the performance of this Contract.		
CONTRACTOR SIGNATURE		
NOTICE: This attestation MUST be signed by an individual empowered to contractually bind Contractor. If said individual is not the chief executive or president, this document shall attach evidence showing the individual's authority to contractually bind Contractor.		
PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF SIGNATORY		

RFQ # 32701-25-470 31

DATE OF ATTESTATION