

**NOTICE TO CONSULTANT ENGINEERS
REGARDING A REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST**

**March 27, 2026
(Project Management Division)**

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) seeks to retain the services of professional engineering consulting firms to provide expertise in **engineering services** as described below. The method of payment shall be lump sum, cost plus fixed fee, cost per unit of work, or specific rates of compensation. Fixed fee is calculated using the following formula: Fixed fee = (Direct salary + Overhead based on the most recently approved field and/or office indirect cost rate) x (fixed fee rate as determined by the Fixed Fee Calculator). Payment of the fixed fee will be based on the actual labor costs rather than the estimated labor costs used for the basis of the agreement.

Items may be withdrawn if anticipated funding does not become available.

Item No. 1

Project Description and Location:

Provide project specific engineering services for I-40 interchange improvements at SR-53 and widening of SR-53 (PIN 133582.00), Modify Interchange; Smith County.

Schedule:

While the completion date has yet to be determined, plans development shall begin immediately after this contract is finalized and will continue into construction. Construction is scheduled for FY 2030.

This project includes federal funding.

Scope of Services:

Shall include, but not be limited to, providing project management, survey, roadway and structural design, environmental, Right-of-Way (ROW), utility, geotechnical, signal and lighting services. ROW services shall include, but not limited to, Right-of-Way Project Management, assistance with ROW Plan Development, Legal Description Preparation, ROW Pre-Acquisition activities, Appraisal Valuation Services, Acquisition, Related Services (including title report preparation, deed preparation/review, negotiating and executing lien releases, review and approval of individual tract files), Negotiation through Closing, Property Management Services, and Relocation Assistance. Appraisal Review will not be part of the scope of services.

When applicable in the scope of services, a consultant may assist in evaluating certain goods and services and making recommendations to the State under the services provided. Under no circumstances may a professional services contract be utilized to procure goods, services, or assets for use by the State that are not project related and/or required for the performance of engineering and design related services, including software and hardware.

When support services are anticipated in the performance of a consultant contract, they may include providing the appropriate level of staff as outlined by disciplines defined in scopes of services generated under this contract. It is expected that the scope of work for these future work

orders may require the selected consultant to make some of their staff available on-site within TDOT Headquarters and/or the regional offices as required.

Technical requirements in applicable standards, specifications, certifications, and policies must be satisfied in the performance of this contract. These include, but are not limited to: TDOT’s [Design Guidelines](#), TDOT’s [Drainage Manual](#), [TDOT’s Instructional Bulletins](#), [TDOT’s Standard Drawings](#), TDOT’s [Design-Build Standard Guidance](#); TDOT [Structural Design Guidelines](#), TDOT’s Environmental Division Guidelines, Handbooks, and Toolkits, the Tennessee Environmental Streamlining Agreement (TESA), TDOT’s [Right-of-Way Manual](#), TDOT’s [Standard Specifications](#), TDOT’s [Construction Circular Letters](#), TDOT’s [Standard Operating Procedures](#), TDOT’s Field Operations Training, [Construction Special Provisions](#), [National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System \(NPDES\) Permit](#), [Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices \(MUTCD\)](#), and [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#).

Firms may request consideration by submitting a letter of interest. All letters of interest must be submitted electronically (PDF format) to TDOT.PSAdvertisements@tn.gov with “**I-40 Smith Co. Turnkey – Firm Name**” in the subject line of the email.

	Deadline
Primary Contact: Natasha Whitfield	TDOT.PSAdvertisements@tn.gov (615) 253-3997
Pre-submittal Meeting*	April 13, 2026 9:00 am – 12: pm (CST) TDOT Region 3 Auditorium 6601 Centennial Blvd. Nashville, TN 37243
Questions	April 23, 2026, 4:00 PM (CST)
Letter of Interest	April 27, 2026, 4:00 PM (CST)
Phase I Selection Results	May 22, 2026(Anticipated)
Requests for Proposals	Determined at Notice of Selection

*The pre-submittal meeting will be mandatory for consultants submitting as the prime on any of the Items. During this meeting, TDOT will provide information regarding the project delivery goals, anticipated scope, and potential risks. There is no limitation on the number of participants. This presentation will be recorded, and participants will be provided with the opportunity to ask questions during the allotted time. Any information provided by TDOT shall be considered as informational only and is subject to change. The presentation and a list of attendees, including contact information, will be posted to the Professional Services webpage following the meeting.

All firms must be pre-qualified or have a completed prequalification form filed with the Department by the first submission deadline. **The letter of interest shall not specifically identify sub-consultant(s) but rather indicate the scope of services anticipated to be completed by any sub-consultants.** Any sub-consultant shall be one that is prequalified by TDOT to perform the specific tasks required. Prequalification procedures, example letter of interest, list of prequalified firms and DBE’s, TDOT’s standard procurement policy, and additional information, including the

Prequalification Form (DT-0330, Part I, DT-1742, or CS 100 depending on the proposed work), can be found at: [Consultant Information \(tn.gov\)](http://www.tn.gov). A pending prequalification status will be acceptable. **Please include a valid email address and phone number for the point-of-contact.**

Evaluation Process

Phase I Evaluation

The Department will evaluate the **current prequalification statements** (DT-0330 Part I) on file and the letters of interest and choose firms who would make viable candidates from which to invite proposals. The factors that will be considered in the Phase I evaluation will include:

- a) **Firm Overview:** summary of the firm and its capabilities relevant to this project.
- b) **Project Fit:** A short explanation of what makes the firm uniquely qualified for this work, **specifically interchange design experience.**
- c) **Qualification Type:** Unlimited

Phase II Evaluation

For firms submitting proposals (Part II of the DT-0330 form) during Phase II evaluation, the criteria that will be considered are:

Criteria and Relative Weights	
i. Team Capability and Work Experience (Sections C, D, & E).	20 %
ii. Relevant Project Experience (Sections F & G).	35 %
iii. Approach to identify and mitigate risks for interchange improvement projects (as explained in Section I).	35%
iv. Workload capacity: Amount of work under contract with TDOT, if any.	5 %
v. Past performance evaluations on Preconstruction Projects, if available.	5%

Section E shall be no more than **20** pages. Section F shall include no more than **10** projects. The proposal package shall contain no more than **40** pages including front and back cover. Section H will not count toward the **40** -page limit.

Following Phase II evaluation, a number of firms no less than two* greater than the number of contracts being awarded, and that are deemed most qualified by the Consultant Evaluation Committee (CEC) will be recommended to the Commissioner for each Item listed above in alphabetical order for Phase III evaluation.

* In instances where less than the minimum required number of qualified consultants respond with proposals, or where the evaluated proposals do not result in a sufficient number of qualified firms, the Department may proceed with evaluation and selection if it is determined that the solicitation did not contain conditions or requirements that arbitrarily limited competition.

Phase III Evaluation

From the list of firms determined by the CEC to be the most highly qualified firms to perform the solicited services, the Commissioner will rank the firms in order of preference for each item .

Post Selection

TDOT will then negotiate with the firm(s) deemed to be most highly qualified in rank order. Before the invitation of a cost proposal is made, a mutual understanding of the scope of work and all

technical and administrative requirements of the proposed undertaking will be established with the prospective consultant. This may be done by conference, phone, or correspondence as determined appropriate by TDOT. Instructions will be given regarding the method of compensation and the documentation needed to justify the proposed compensation.

Evaluation proceedings will be conducted within the established guidelines regarding equal employment opportunity and nondiscriminatory action based upon the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, creed, age, and disability. Interested certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms are encouraged to respond to all advertisements by TDOT. For more information on DBE certification, please contact the Civil Rights Office Small Business Development Program at (615) 741-3681 or the following website:

<https://www.tn.gov/tdot/civil-rights/small-business-development-program.html>.

Will Reid, P.E.
Commissioner

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