

County of Starr Request for Proposals (RFP)

Improvements and Rehabilitation for the Roma-Ciudad Miguel Alemán Suspension Bridge and Starr County International Toll Bridge System

I. Purpose

Starr County ("the County") seeks statements of qualifications from engineering firms to provide comprehensive design and consulting services for:

- **Project 1:** Structural rehabilitation of the Roma-Ciudad Miguel Alemán Suspension Bridge.
- **Project 2:** Repurposing the existing pedestrian lanes on the Starr County International Toll Bridge into a third lane for commercial traffic.

These services will be included in a **Master Service Agreement (MSA)**. Work orders may be initiated for one or both projects based on funding availability.

This procurement follows the **Starr County Professional Services Procurement Plan** and adheres to all **federal and state requirements**, including those set by **TxDOT** and the **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)**. All procurement activities shall comply with **23 CFR Part 172** and the **Brooks Act**.

II. Project Details

Project 1: Structural Rehabilitation of the Suspension Bridge

- **Historic Preservation Coordination:** Ensure compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and Section 106 requirements. Notify and coordinate with the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the National Park Service (NPS) to address potential impacts on the bridge's historical significance.
- **Engagement with Professional Organizations:** Notify the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) regarding planned rehabilitation activities, ensuring alignment with their standards for Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks.
- **Conduct Structural and Environmental Assessments:** The selected firm will evaluate the current condition of the Roma-Ciudad Miguel Alemán Suspension

Bridge, identifying structural deficiencies and environmental considerations. This includes on-site inspections, material testing, and environmental impact studies.

- **Prepare Comprehensive Planning and Design Documents:** Develop detailed plans, including environmental assessments, engineering designs, and specifications for rehabilitation, ensuring compliance with local, state, and federal regulations.
- **Develop Public Involvement Plans:** Create strategies for public engagement, including stakeholder meetings and informational sessions, to ensure community support and address public concerns.
- **Coordinate with Mexican Stakeholders:** Establish communication and coordination with relevant authorities in Mexico to align binational objectives and secure necessary cross-border permits.
- **Permitting and Construction Phase Services:** Manage all required permitting processes and provide oversight during construction phases, including quality assurance and compliance monitoring.

Project 2: Repurposing Pedestrian Lanes on the Starr County International Toll Bridge for Commercial Traffic

- **Feasibility Study for Pedestrian Lane Conversion:** Evaluate the potential for converting existing pedestrian lanes on the Starr County International Toll Bridge into a commercial traffic lane. This involves traffic flow analysis, structural capacity assessment, and cost estimation.
- **Feasibility Study for Conversion:** Evaluate the potential for converting the existing pedestrian lanes on the Starr County International Toll Bridge into a commercial traffic lane. This includes structural capacity assessments, traffic flow analysis, and cost estimations.
- **Comprehensive Studies:** Perform structural, traffic, and environmental studies to assess the impacts of the proposed conversion. Ensure compliance with local, state, and federal regulations.
- **Permit Acquisition and Compliance:** Identify and obtain any necessary permits, including environmental and transportation-related approvals. Coordinate with

relevant regulatory authorities, such as TxDOT and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

- **Bi-National Coordination:** Work with U.S. and Mexican authorities to address binational regulatory requirements, secure necessary approvals, and facilitate seamless cross-border operations.
- **Construction Documentation and Support:** Develop construction-ready plans, including engineering designs, environmental clearance reports, and bid documents. Provide oversight during construction phases to ensure adherence to project objectives and safety standards.
- **Conduct Comprehensive Studies:** Perform structural, traffic, and environmental studies to determine the viability and potential impacts of the conversion.
- **Prepare Necessary Documentation:** Develop construction-ready plans, including environmental clearance reports, engineering designs, and bid documents.
- **Construction Support Services:** Oversee the implementation of the project, providing guidance during the construction phase to ensure adherence to project goals and safety standards.
- **Bi-National Coordination:** Work with U.S. and Mexican authorities to address regulatory requirements, secure approvals, and facilitate seamless project execution across borders.

Additional Consultant Services

The consultant's services shall include, but are not limited to:

- **Architectural and Engineering Services:** Civil, structural, electrical, and mechanical engineering support.
- **Geotechnical Investigations:** Conduct auger borings, soil testing, and subsurface explorations.
- **Environmental Services:** Ensure compliance with NEPA and prepare all necessary environmental documentation.

- **Traffic Engineering:** Perform traffic analysis and studies related to project impacts.
- **Surveying Services:** Provide accurate field surveys for planning and construction.
- **Construction Engineering and Inspection:** Oversee construction activities, perform inspections, and ensure compliance with approved plans.
- **Cost Estimation and Value Engineering:** Provide detailed cost estimates and propose cost-effective solutions.
- **Construction Staking and Control:** Establish benchmarks and provide staking services for construction.
- **Bi-National Consulting:** Facilitate communication and coordination with relevant authorities in Mexico and the United States.
- **Operations and Maintenance Manuals:** Develop comprehensive manuals for long-term maintenance and operation of the structures.

The selected firm must possess expertise in structural engineering, environmental planning, and bi-national projects, including coordination with U.S. and Mexican authorities.

III. Proposal Requirements

Submittal Format

The proposal must include the following:

- Firm name, address, and contact details.
- Names and positions of principals and key personnel.
- Professional liability insurance coverage.
- Resumes of assigned staff.
- Summary of relevant experience, including references.
- Detailed project approach and management philosophy.
- **SAM.gov Registration:** Must be registered and free of debarment or suspension.

Submission Details

- **Pre-Bid Conference:** 05/14 /2025 , 03:00 pm
- **Submission Deadline:** 05 / 21 / 2025 3 :00 pm
- **Delivery Address:** 100 N. FM 3167, Rio Grande City, Texas 78582
- **Contact Person:** Reyna Guerra, 956-716-4800, r Guerra@co.starr.tx.us
- **Required Copies:** Four physical copies and one digital copy (USB drive)

Late submissions **will not be accepted**. Proposed shall be limited to ten (10) pages.

The Engineering Firm shall submit four (4) copies of the Request for Proposals (RFP) Package. No faxes will be accepted. The RFP Package should be in sealed envelopes which are clearly labeled and addressed as follows:

CONFIDENTIAL:
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL ENCLOSED ENGINEERING SERVICES
ATTENTION:
REYNA GUERRA
STARR COUNTY, TEXAS
100 N. FM 3167
RIO GRANDE CITY, TEXAS 78582

Starr County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability in employment or provision of services, programs, or activities. Small Minority and Women's Business Enterprises are encouraged to submit RFPs. Starr County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Regardless of the submission method, the submission deadline for this RFP is no later than 3 :00 pm local time, 05 / 21 / 2025. Late proposals **WILL NOT** be accepted for review under any circumstances.

IV. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following weighted criteria:

- **Experience and Qualifications (30 points):** Demonstrated expertise and relevant project experience.

- **Project Approach and Methodology (25 points):** Understanding of project objectives and proposed execution strategy.
- **Staffing and Capacity (15 points):** Availability of key personnel and resource capacity to meet project demands.
- **Project Management Plan: (30 points):** Outlines how the project will be executed, monitored, and controlled ensuring all tasks, goals, and deliverables are clearly defined and achieved. Proposes an approach to the project that is compatible with Starr County and TXDOT policies and best practices.

V. Evaluation Process

A committee appointed by Starr County will oversee the evaluation process, ensuring compliance with the County's **procurement policies**. The County may call upon subject matter experts or additional personnel as needed to assist in the evaluation. The County may also obtain information from references and prior project performance records.

Selection Committee Composition and Responsibilities

The **Selection Committee** will be comprised of at least three members, including:

- **County Procurement Official:** Ensures compliance with procurement policies and oversees the process.
- **Technical Expert (Engineering or Subject Matter Specialist):** Evaluates the technical aspects of proposals based on expertise.
- **County Administrative Official:** Provides oversight to ensure the selection aligns with County objectives.

The Selection Committee will independently review and score each proposal, participate in consensus meetings, and make recommendations for contract award based on evaluation criteria. Committee members are required to maintain confidentiality and adhere to conflict-of-interest policies. Committee members may not be contacted by any Engineering firm pursuing the contract.

1. **Proposal Review:** The evaluation committee will review all submissions based on the criteria outlined in Section V and verify compliance with the RFP requirements. Proposals that do not meet the submission criteria may be disqualified.
2. **Shortlisting:** Based on the initial evaluation, shortlisted firms may be required to submit supplemental information, clarifications, or make presentations to demonstrate their qualifications and approach.

3. **Ranking & Selection:** The committee will score and rank firms based on the evaluation criteria. The top-ranked firm will be recommended for contract negotiations.
4. **Notification & Negotiation:** The County will notify the most qualified Engineering Firm in writing and proceed with detailed scope and contract negotiations.
5. **Contingency Plan:** If negotiations fail with the most qualified firm the County will formally terminate negotiations and proceed to the next-ranked firm until a satisfactory agreement is reached.

VI. Award Process:

1. **Commissioners Court Approval:** Starr County **Commissioners Court** will review and approve the final contract award based on the evaluation committee's recommendation.
2. **Contract Execution:** Upon approval, the County will finalize the contract with the selected firm. The awarded firm will receive a **Notice to Proceed**, marking the start of contract execution and project implementation.
3. **Procurement Compliance:** The County will ensure that all award decisions adhere to **federal, state, and local procurement policies**, including conflict-of-interest disclosures and record retention policies.
4. **Contract Oversight:** The County's designated **Responsible Person in Charge (RPIC)** will oversee contract administration to ensure compliance with procurement standards and project deliverables.

If negotiations fail with the initially selected firm, the County will proceed with the next-most qualified firm in accordance with the established procurement guidelines.

VII. Inquiries

If any Engineering Firms have questions or need clarification regarding the RFP, they must submit their inquiries in writing or via email to:

**ATTENTION:
REYNA GUERRA
STARR COUNTY, TEXAS
100 N. FM 3167
RIO GRANDE CITY, TEXAS 78582
EMAIL: rguerra@co.starr.tx.us**

Requests for clarifications will be received in writing or via email up to 96 hours before the submission deadline. The County will provide written responses to all RFQ holders

no later than 48 hours before the deadline. Verbal explanations or instructions will not be binding.

VIII. Terms and Conditions:

Starr County reserves the right to reject any or all responses, waive technicalities, and award contracts in the best interest of the County.

Note: Respondents must acknowledge compliance with all requirements by signing below.

Authorized Signature: _____

Date: _____

Company Name: _____

Acknowledgment of Compliance and Certification

Starr County reserves the right to refuse and reject any or all responses received as a result of this solicitation, to waive any or all formalities or technicalities, and to make such awards to contract as may be deemed to be the best and most advantageous to the county.

The Respondent shall attest to the fact that they have read, understood, and are in compliance with all the requirements as stated in all the aforementioned, by affixing their original signature below. All exceptions made shall be noted by the engineering firm.

Date

Legal Company Name

Signature

Print/Type Name

Title

END OF SECTION

Disclosure Statement Form

This Disclosure Statement outlines potential conflicts of interest as a result of a previous or current business relationship between the undersigned individual (and/or firm for which the individual works) and an individual or firm submitting a proposal or otherwise under consideration for a contract associated with Roma-Ciudad Miguel Aleman Suspension Bridge. Section I of this Disclosure Statement Form describes the potential conflicts of interest. Section II of this Disclosure Statement Form describes the proposer's management plan for dealing with potential conflicts of interest as described in Section I of this form. This Disclosure Form is being submitted with Starr County Conflict of Interest Policy for Consultants. The undersigned acknowledges that approval of the proposed management plan is within the sole discretion of the county.

Section I. Description of Potential Conflicts of Interest.

Section II. Management Plan for Dealing with Potential Conflicts of Interest.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Name and Title: _____

Representing: _____

APPROVED BY STARR COUNTY:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Name and Title: _____

Confidential

NON-COLLUSION AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF _____

COUNTY OF _____

_____, of lawful age, being first duly sworn, on oath states that (s)he is the agent authorized by the bidder to submit the attached bid. Affiant further states that the respondent/bidder has not been a party to any collusion among bidders in restraint of freedom of competition by agreement to propose at a fixed price or to refrain from proposing; or with any state official, county employee, board trustee, or benefit consultant as to quantity, quality, or price in the prospective contract, or any other terms of said prospective contract; or in any discussions or actions between bidders, county employee, board trustee, or benefit consultant concerning the exchange of money or other things of value for special consideration in the letting of this contract.

SIGNATURE

Subscribed and sworn
to before me this _____ day of _____, 20____.

NOTARY PUBLIC

State of _____

My Commission Expires: _____

**Prime Consultant
Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary
Exclusion – First Tier Participant**

- a. The prospective first-tier participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principles:
- (1) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participating in covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;
 - (2) Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or Local) transaction or contract 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;
 - (3) Are presently not indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph a.(2) of this certification; and
 - (4) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State, or local) terminated for cause or default.
- b. Where the prospective participant is unable to certify any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Signature of participant

Date

Printed name of individual

Name of Proposer/Firm

Taxpayer Number / EIN of Proposer

DUNS#

Unique Entity ID (UEI#)

**Sub-Consultant
Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary
Exclusion – Lower Tier Participant**

- (1) The prospective lower-tier participant certifies by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participating in covered transactions by any Federal department or agency.
- (2) Where the prospective lower tier is unable to certify any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Signature of participant

Date

Printed name of individual

Name of Proposer/Firm

Taxpayer Number / EIN of Proposer

DUNS#

Unique Entity ID (UEI#)