

**Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority**  
**LETTER OF INTEREST – No. O-02520**  
**Notice to Contractors / Consultants:**

The Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority (Authority) is soliciting contracting and consulting services for the Design-Build project identified below. The scope of work for this adjusted score Design-Build contract includes all investigations, design, permitting, coordination, construction activities, and the necessary final approved construction documents to complete this project.

**Procurement Number:** O-02520

**Budget Amount:** \$17,000,000

**Estimated Contract Time:** 800 days

**Stipend Amount:** \$40,000 (only for short listed firms not selected for the contract)

**Project Description:** East Selmon Expressway Slip Ramps- The Authority has issued this Letter of Interest (LOI) to solicit competitive bids and proposals from Proposers for the East Selmon Expressway Slip Ramps, from west of the I-4 Connector to east of N. 34<sup>th</sup> Street, and from east of US 301 to I-75, Hillsborough County.

The Authority proposes adding: (1) a new egress ramp ("Ramp 2") onto the westbound Local Lanes from the REL east of the I-4 Connector, ending west of the CSX overpass bridge (#100447), and (2) a new ingress ramp ("Ramp 3") onto the westbound Reversible Elevated Lanes (REL) from the northbound loop ramp of the I-75/Selmon Expressway Interchange. Construct new ramp additions by widening on the existing alignment. Remove existing guardrail and barrier wall. Place new barrier wall to provide separation between slip ramp and local lanes, with appropriate terminal ends. Replace ground-in rumble strips. Remove and reconstruct two (2) overhead sign span assemblies. Use appropriately designed barrier transitions at bridge approaches. Match existing vertical profile grades and horizontal curvature. The minimum cross slope shall be 2.00% or match the existing Superelevation rate. Mill and resurface the existing lanes and ensure to eradicate all conflicting markings within the limits of construction. Install wrong way driving gates and associated infrastructure at Ramp 3. Mill and Resurface to establish an earlier merge from two lanes to one lane at the Southbound I-4 Connector to Westbound Selmon Local Lanes Ramp ("Ramp E"). Maintain and Restore ITS/ATMS connectivity.

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** To be deemed qualified, the proposers must present proof that they are prequalified by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT or Department) under FAC 14.75 for professionals and under FAC 14-22 for contractors for the Work Classes identified below. The Contractor or Joint Venture members collectively, must be qualified in the advertised Construction Contractor Work Classes. The Contractor or Joint Venture cannot utilize subcontractors to meet the qualification requirements for the Construction Work Classes. The design consultant may utilize sub-consultants to meet the advertised Professional Services Work Type requirements. All qualification requirements must be met prior to the Response Deadline. Two or more qualified parties submitting as a Joint Venture must meet the Joint Venture requirements of Rule Chapter 14-22, specifically Rule 14-22.007, Florida Administrative Code. Parties to a Joint Venture must submit a Declaration of Joint Venture, Form No. 375-020-18, and receive approval from the Authority prior to the Response Deadline for Letters of Interest (LOI) or submittal of the Proposal, whichever occurs first.

**Contractor must be qualified under Rule, 14-22, Florida Administrative Code - Work Class(s):**

7 – Drainage

- 10 – Flexible Paving
- 17 – Intermediate Bridges

**Minor Work Classes may be accommodated via use of Subcontractors:**

- 8 – Electrical Work
- 11 – Grading
- 12 – Grassing, Seeding and Sodding
- 13 – Guardrail
- 38 – Roadway Signing
- 39 – Traffic Signal

**Professional Team Member Qualified under Rule 14-75, Florida Administrative Code - Work Class(es):**

- 3.3 - Controlled Access Highway Design
- 4.1.1 - Miscellaneous Structures
- 4.1.2 - Minor Bridge Design
- 6.3 - Intelligent Transportation Systems Analysis, Design, and Implementation
- 7.1 - Signing, Pavement Marking & Channelization
- 7.2 - Lighting
- 8.1 - Control Surveying
- 8.2 - Design, Right of Way, & Const. Surveying
- 9.1 - Soil Exploration
- 9.2 - Geotechnical Classification Lab Testing
- 9.4.1 - Standard Foundation Studies

**Additional Bridge Design Work Types: Not Applicable**

**CONSULTANT ELIGIBILITY:** It is a basic tenet of the Authority's contracting program that contracts are procured in a fair, open, and competitive manner. The Authority requires that consultants representing the Authority must be free of conflicting professional or personal interests. In order to prevent potential conflicts of interest, the Authority will utilize the Florida Department of Transportation's (Department's) established guidelines to be followed by design consultants. Please familiarize yourself with the requirements of Procedure No. 375-030-006, also known as: "Conflict of Interest Procedure for Department Contracts." By submitting a LOI or Bid/Price Proposal as part of a Design-Build Firm, or Joint Venture, the design consultant certifies that they are in compliance with Procedure No. 375-030-006. This procedure is available at the following link: [Procedure 375-030-006](#)

If a Technical Proposal and a Price Proposal are authorized and submitted a Proposal Guaranty of not less than five percent (5%) of the total actual Bid/Price Proposal in the form of either a certified check, cashier's check, trust company treasurer's check, bank draft of any national or state bank, or a Surety Bid Bond made payable to the Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority must accompany each Bid/Price Proposal in excess of \$150,000. A check or draft in any amount less than five percent (5%) of the actual Bid/Price Proposal will invalidate the Bid/Price Proposal. Bid bonds shall conform to DOT Form No. 375-020-34 furnished with the Bid/Price Proposal.

This project shall be an **ADJUSTED SCORE TYPE**. The Authority will conduct a two-phase design-build procurement process. For Phase I, qualified Design-Build Firms must submit an LOI for each project in which they are interested, to the Authority by the time and date indicated as the Response Deadline. It is the responsibility of the Design-Build firm to insure that the complete LOI is timely received by the Authority. The LOI will be limited to five (5) 8½"x11" pages with a minimum font size of ten (10). In the LOI, please provide the name, address, phone number, and e-mail address for the Design-Build Firm contact person; the qualification status of the contractor

and design consultant as part of the Design-Build Firm, and the key companies and key personnel proposed as participating in the Project.

A one (1) page 11"x17" organization chart shall be provided, and is also excluded from the page count. *Note:* Resumes, Organizational Chart and three (3) pages of Performance History with the Authority are not considered in the ten (10) page count/limitation. Cover sheets, photos, charts, etc. or other documentation not specifically listed as exclusions will be considered in the page count limitation.

**CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING PHASE I SUBMITTALS:** The Authority will judge the relative ability of each submitting company/entity to perform the required services based on qualification information and the LOI. The Authority will select no fewer than three design-build firms as the most qualified based on the qualifications, availability, and past work of the firms, including the partners or members thereof. The criteria for evaluating the Phase I submittals will include:

1. Design-Build Firm Name and prequalifications, including both a Contractor contact name & phone number and a Consultant contact name & phone number (pass/fail)
2. Past Performance Evaluations, Design-Build Project Experience, Organization, and Staffing (10 Total Points):
  - Contractor Grades with the Authority or the Department
  - Professional Consultant Grades with the Authority or the Department
  - Performance History with the Authority, Department and other agencies
  - Design-Build Project experience of the Contractor and Professional Consultant
  - Similar types of work experience
  - Environmental Record with the Authority or the Department
  - Design-Build Firm organization
  - Design-Build Firm staffing plan
  - Design-Build Firm coordination plan
  - Availability
  - SBE Participation
3. Design-Build Project Requirements and Critical Issues (10 Total Points):
  - Understanding of Design-Build Project Requirements
  - Identification of critical issues
  - Outline for addressing critical issues

Resumes may be separately submitted, but are limited to one 8½"x11" page each. Resumes are not counted toward the ten (10) page limitation. Please provide one (1) page resumes for each of the following nine (9) key staff positions, as applicable:

- a. Construction Project Manager
- b. Construction Design-Build Coordinator
- c. Construction Roadway Superintendent
- d. Construction Structures Superintendent
- e. Design Project Manager
- f. Design Roadway Engineer of Record
- g. Design Structures Engineer of Record
- h. Design Engineer of Record - Specialty (Drainage/Permitting)

Please note: If the contractor and/or design consultant do not have performance history working with the Authority or if the performance history is no longer current (older than 5 years), they are permitted to submit evidence of their past performance, including evaluations or grades and letters of reference, or recommendations (provide contact information for verification purposes). The past performance information is limited to three (3) 8½"x11" pages total, and is restricted to

firms without performance history with the Authority and/or to firms whose performance history with the Authority is no longer current (older than 5 years). The additional three pages will not count toward the ten (10) page limitation of the LOI. The Authority will not consider letters of interest not in conformance with response requirements. Read the preamble for LOI requirements.

**RESPONSE PROCEDURE FOR ADJUSTED SCORE TYPE:** The LOI and required attachments shall be submitted electronically in adobe.pdf format (unzipped) and attached to a single email. The size of the email shall not exceed 10 MB. Emails that exceed this 10 MB limit may be rejected by the Authority. It is solely the Design Build Firm's responsibility to ensure that the LOI is received by the Authority by the LOI due date and time. Only (1) LOI per legal entity is acceptable. All LOI files should be sent to the indicated email [Man.Le@tampa-xway.com](mailto:Man.Le@tampa-xway.com), and must be received by the Authority by the Phase I LOI response deadline shown in this advertisement.

**SHORT-LISTED FIRMS:** The Authority intends to Short-List four (4) responsive Design-Build Firms from those that timely and affirmatively declare their intent to continue to Phase II. Relative weightings for all Phase I criteria are specified within the project advertisement. All qualified firms submitting a responsive LOI will be scored on a scale of 20 points (Phase I). The responsive Design-Build Firms will be informed of the Phase I scores. By the deadline specified in the advertisement, Design-Build Firms are required to advise the Authority in writing of their intent to continue to Phase II. Design-Build Firms that do not declare affirmatively in writing by the stated deadline will not be permitted to continue on to Phase II of the Design-Build procurement process. Of the firms declaring their intent to move forward, the Authority intends to select the four (4) firms receiving the highest scores in Phase I. The Authority will post the Short-List (i.e. those responsive Design-Build Firms that have timely and affirmatively declared in writing) to the Authority's website on the date shown below. Design-Build Firms who timely and affirmatively declare their intent in writing to the Authority will be issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) and requested to provide a Technical Proposal and Bid/Price Proposal for the Project. Design-Build Firms will also be provided the Short-List of Design-Build Firms, representing all responsive Phase I Design-Build Firms that have elected to continue on to the Phase II Technical Proposal stage. The requirements for Phase II Technical Proposals will be described in the RFP. The proposals will be evaluated on the basis of design-build proposals or bids, based on price, technical, and design aspects of the project, weighted for the project. Phase II Technical Proposals will be scored on an 80 point scale. The total score from Phase I and Phase II will be added to determine the Design-Build Firm's Total Technical Score. The award of the Project will be determined on a Total Adjusted Score as shown in the RFP based on both the Bid/Price Proposal and Technical Score.

Partners/Teaming Arrangements or proposed key staff of the Design-Build Firm shall not be changed after submittal of the LOI without written consent of the Authority. Failure to receive approval on such a change may result in the Proposal being declared non-responsive.

**COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN DESIGN-BUILD FIRMS AND AUTHORITY:** Respondents to these solicitations or persons acting on their behalf may not contact, between the release of the solicitation and the end of the 72-hour period following the agency posting the notice of intended award, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays, any employee, Board Member, or officers of the Authority concerning any aspect of this solicitation, except in writing to the procurement officer or as provided in the solicitation documents. Violation of this provision may be grounds for rejecting a response. In order to ensure a fair, competitive, and open process, once a project is advertised under Current Advertisements, all communications between interested firms and the Authority must be directed to the Authority's website. It is the responsibility of the Design-Build Firm to review the website and the project advertisement for updates prior to the LOI Response Deadline.

Pursuant to Sections 120.57(3) and 287.042, Florida Statutes, and Rule Chapter 28-110, Florida Administrative Code, any person adversely affected by the agency decision or intended decision shall file with the agency both a notice of protest in writing and bond within 72 hours after the posting of the notice of decision or intended decision, or posting of the solicitation with respect to a protest of the terms, conditions, and specifications contained in a solicitation and will file a formal written protest within ten days after the filing of the notice of protest. The required notice of protest and bond, and formal written protest must each be timely filed with the **Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority, Contracts and Procurement Manager, 1104 East Twiggs Street, Suite 300, Tampa, FL 33602**. Failure to file a notice of protest or formal written protest within the time prescribed in section 120.57(3), Florida Statutes, or failure to post the bond or other security required by law within the time allowed for filing a bond shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under Chapter 120 Florida Statutes.

**Stipend:** Only the Short-listed Design-Build firms will be eligible for a stipend based on the following guidelines and the RFP terms:

- The Design-Build Firm must submit responsive Technical and Price Proposal in Phase II in order to be eligible for a stipend.
- The Design-Build Firm who is ultimately awarded the Contract is not eligible for a stipend.
- The Design-Build Firm must execute with original signatures and have delivered to THEA within one (1) week after the Short-List protest period, four (4) originals of the THEA Design-Build Stipend Agreement. Terms of said agreement are non-negotiable. A fully executed copy of the Design-Build Stipend Agreement will be returned to the Design-Build Firm.

**Technical Questions Should Be Addressed To:**

TECHNICAL QUESTIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: [man.le@tampa-xway.com](mailto:man.le@tampa-xway.com)

Please reference procurement number O-02520. Design-Build Firms are responsible for monitoring the THEA website throughout the entire contract acquisition process.

**SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE ASPIRATION GOAL:** THEA's Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Policy requires nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, and gender in its employment and contracting practices and encourages the solicitation and utilization of SBE's. It is the policy of the Authority to encourage the participation of small businesses and disadvantaged business enterprises ("SBE") in all facets of the business activities of the Authority, consistent with applicable laws and regulations. Firms proposing for this Project shall aspire to have design and construction contract costs performed by SBEs. Although not a contract requirement, the Authority believes that the aspiration goal can realistically be achieved based on current availability of SBEs. The Authority further believes that the goal can be achieved through race neutral means, using standard competitive procurement processes. Firms agree to apply their best efforts to utilize qualified SBE's as vendors, contractors, subcontractors, and consultants for the Project.

**COMPLIANCE WITH NONDISCRIMINATION STATUTES AND AUTHORITIES:** Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., 78 stat. 252), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin); and 49 CFR Part 21; The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, (42 U.S.C. § 4601), (prohibits unfair treatment of persons displaced or whose property has been acquired because of Federal or Federal-aid programs and projects); Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973, (23 U.S.C. § 324 et seq.), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, (29 U.S.C. § 794 et seq.), as amended, (prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability); and 49 CFR Part 27; The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, (42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq.), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of age); Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982, (49 USC § 471,



Section 47123), as amended, (prohibits discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, or sex); The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, (PL 100-209), (Broadened the scope, coverage and applicability of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, by expanding the definition of the terms “programs or activities” to include all of the programs or activities of the Federal-aid recipients, sub-recipients and contractors, whether such programs or activities are Federally funded or not); Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in the operation of public entities, public and private transportation systems, places of public accommodation, and certain testing entities (42 U.S.C. §§ 12131 -- 12189) as implemented by Department of Transportation regulations at 49 C.F.R. parts 37 and 38; The Federal Aviation Administration’s Non-discrimination statute (49 U.S.C. § 47123) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, and sex); Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, which ensures non-discrimination against minority populations by discouraging programs, policies, and activities with disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations; Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency, and resulting agency guidance, national origin discrimination includes discrimination because of limited English proficiency (LEP). To ensure compliance with Title VI, you must take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to your programs (70 Fed. Reg. at 74087 to 74100); Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, which prohibits you from discriminating because of sex in education programs or activities (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq).

**INSPECTOR GENERAL:** The contractor/consultant/vendor agrees to comply with section 20.055(5), Florida Statutes, and to incorporate in all subcontracts the obligation to comply with section 20.055(5), Florida Statutes.

The following Firms participated in the development of the conceptual plans or Request for Proposal for this Project and are restricted from participating on a Design-Build Firm without approval from the Authority. The Firms identified below may not represent a comprehensive list. Firms not listed below who performed services or who are later retained to perform services on this Project are subject to restriction unless an exception is obtained from the Authority:

HNTB Corp.  
 Omni Communications, LLC  
 Tierra, Inc.  
 Element Engineering Group, LLC  
 Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

**Schedule:**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
Advertisement Date	December 3, 2020
Deadline for Questions/Request for clarification	December 18, 2020
Addendum release (if required)	December 29, 2020
Phase 1 LOI Response Deadline	<b>January 7, 2021</b>
Evaluation Committee meets to evaluate LOI	January 12, 2021
Posting of Shortlist	January 25, 2021
Board approval of Shortlist	January 25, 2021
Posting of Notice of Board approval	January 25, 2021
Shortlist firms declare intent to proceed	January 27, 2021 by 5 p.m.

**Respond To:**

Letters of Interest shall be submitted to: [Man.Le@tampa-xway.com](mailto:Man.Le@tampa-xway.com).