



Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority

March 10, 2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**Planning, Design, and Construction Phase Services
Mount Hope Bridge Deck Rehabilitation/Replacement**

Contract No. 25-02

INTRODUCTION

The Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority (RITBA) is seeking proposals from qualified engineering consulting firms with capabilities to provide planning, engineering investigation, design, and construction support services for the Mount Hope Bridge Deck Rehabilitation/Replacement. The purpose of this project is to extend the useful life of the bridge deck for 50 or more years.

BACKGROUND

RITBA is a quasi-public agency created by the Rhode Island General Assembly in 1954 as a corporate and body politic, with powers to construct, acquire, maintain, and operate bridge projects as defined by law. The Authority was responsible for the construction of the Claiborne Pell Bridge (formerly the Newport Bridge) which opened to traffic on June 28, 1969. The Authority has been responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Mount Hope Bridge between Bristol, Rhode Island and Portsmouth, Rhode Island and the Claiborne Pell Bridge between Newport, Rhode Island and Jamestown, Rhode Island since 1964 and 1969, respectively. On April 25, 2013, the State transferred custody, control and supervision of the land and improvements for the Jamestown Verrazzano and the Sakonnet River Bridges from the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) to the Authority. Ownership and title of the bridges remains with the State. In addition to the four (4) bridges noted above, RITBA also operates and maintains Route 138 through Jamestown and ten (10) smaller bridges associated with this highway and the approaches to the four (4) major bridges.

The Mount Hope Bridge is a suspension bridge owned and operated by RITBA that spans the Mount Hope Bay in Rhode Island (northeastern United States). It was constructed between 1927 and 1929 and was opened to traffic in 1929. The bridge is part of State Route 114 and connects the Town of Portsmouth on Aquidneck Island and the Town of Bristol on the mainland.

The main span of the Mount Hope Bridge is 1,200 feet long, making it the longest suspension bridge in New England for 40 years until the Claiborne Pell Bridge was constructed. The overall length of the bridge is 4,585 feet. The main towers reach 285 feet above the water surface and the main span has a navigational vertical clearance of 135 feet to mean high water. The bridge is two lanes wide, one in each direction.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

RITBA requires respondents keep the proposals to a maximum of fifteen (15) double sided 8 ½ x 11 pages (no less than 12 font) for each project component a firm is requesting to provide services for RITBA, excluding:

- Cover Letter
- Table of Contents
- Dividers
- Resumes

RITBA will not accept videos, simulations, or other electronic presentations for this submittal. However, such electronic information may be presented during an interview process for the shortlisted proposers if so necessary.

Proposing firms shall submit one electronic (thumb/flash drive only) and three (3) printed copies of the proposal to:

Office of Procurement
Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority
1 East Shore Road
Jamestown, RI 02835

**Attn: Planning, Design, and Construction Phase Services
Mount Hope Bridge Deck Rehabilitation/Replacement**

The proposal must be received no later than **2:00pm EDT April 7, 2025**. Late submissions will **not** be accepted. RITBA accepts deliveries during normal business hours Monday through Friday 8:30am to 4:00pm EDT excluding national and local state holidays. It is the sole responsibility of the responding firm to ensure delivery of its proposal on or before the due date/time, RITBA will not accept any proposals that are received after the due date/time. To control the dissemination of information regarding this RFP, firms interested in submitting proposals shall not make personal contact with any member of RITBA staff and/or Board of Directors. A virtual (Teams) non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting is scheduled for **10:00am EDT March 17, 2025**. Firms may request the Teams invite by email procurement@ritba.org no later than end of day **EDT March 14, 2025**. Questions concerning this RFP should be directed, via email to procurement@ritba.org no later than **2:00pm EDT March 24, 2025**. RITBA will respond to all relevant questions no later than end of day **March 27, 2025**. This addendum will be posted to RITBA's website (www.ritba.org) and the State of Rhode Island's Division of Purchasing website (www.purchasing.ri.gov).

RITBA accepts no financial responsibility for any costs incurred by a firm in responding to this RFP, participating in oral presentations, or meeting with RITBA prior to being awarded the contract. The proposals in response to this RFP become the property of RITBA and may be used by RITBA in any way it deems appropriate. All information submitted in response to this RFP is deemed public and subject to disclosure unless a separate redacted public copy is submitted, regardless of whether the information is marked confidential/proprietary. Firms may redact in the public copy any trade secrets or commercial or financial information which is of a privileged or confidential nature pursuant to the Access to Public Records Act (R.I. Gen. Laws § 38-2 et. seq.). If Firm does not submit a redacted public copy, RITBA assumes that firm is not seeking confidential treatment for any of its information and thus, all information is subject to public disclosure. By submitting a proposal, the firm certifies that it has fully read and understands the RFP, has full knowledge of the scope of work to be provided, and accepts the terms and conditions under which the services are to be performed. RITBA will be the sole judge in determining as equivalent products (if applicable).

RITBA reserves the right to interview some, all, or none of the firms responding to this RFP based solely on its judgment as to the firm(s) proposals and capabilities. RITBA reserves the right to select firms directly from the proposals received without the use of an interview process. RITBA reserves the right to request and consider additional information from submitters, and to reject any submittals on any basis without disclosing

the reason. No firm may withdraw their submittal for at least one-hundred twenty (120) days after the time and date set for submission.

RITBA reserves the right to waive any irregularities and technical defects. RITBA reserves the right to modify, amend, or waive any provision of this RFP, prior to the issuance of an award for these services.

SCOPE

RITBA is seeking proposals from qualified engineering consulting firms that have demonstrated experience in providing professional services on projects involving bridge deck and expansion joint rehabilitation and complete bridge deck system replacement including steel orthotropic deck.

The Scope of Services for this project may include:

- Perform a feasibility or conceptual study for deck rehabilitation/replacement options.
- Design and technical support services during construction for bridge deck partial and full depth rehabilitation where the bridge deck type is concrete-filled structural steel grid panels.
- Design and technical support services during construction for complete bridge deck system replacement, including steel orthotropic deck, on complex bridges including cable suspension type.
- Design and technical support services during construction for complete bridge joint rehabilitation/replacement, including large finger joints.
- Prepare contract documents to include plans, specifications, estimates, and a construction schedule for the Authority to solicit bids from construction contractors.
- Phasing of work, as well as coordination with other ongoing construction or rehabilitation projects.

Key considerations include experience on similar projects with concrete demolition methods, stay-in-place forms, structural steel grid panels, concrete mix types, structural steel repairs, replacement of bridge deck systems including steel orthotropic, pre-cast panels, light weight concrete and other options, construction phasing, and maintenance and protection of traffic.

SUBMITTAL AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated by a Selection Committee, which will be seeking to distinguish which proposer has, through the appropriate combination of several criteria, the ability to best perform the required services to the satisfaction of RITBA. While some criteria may be ranked higher than others in the selection process, the proposal that achieves the highest overall ranking will be considered top-ranked by the Selection Committee. The proposals for each project type will be evaluated using the following criteria:

A. Experience of Proposed Team – 35%

- a. Provide an organizational chart for the proposed team including any subconsultants.
- b. Provide resumes for each key team member that will have significant involvement in this project.
- c. For each team member, indicate the percentage of dedicated availability for this project.
- d. Articulate experience performing similar projects and the responsible role on each project.
- e. Provide demonstrated experience working with the Coastal Resources Management Program (CRMC) permitting and with the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission (RIHPHC)
- f. Provide contact information (phone number & email address) of the primary contact for this solicitation.

B. Project Understanding and Approach – 35%

- a. Demonstrate an understanding of and familiarity with the project and describe your approach to completion, including a conceptual schedule from design through completion of construction.
- b. Demonstrate how you will manage traffic flow on the bridge while constructing the project and how the phasing could be accomplished to minimize inconvenience to traveling public.
- c. Explain your approach to the successful accomplishment of this project.
- d. Articulate your knowledge of the various components and rough order of magnitude of construction cost by including a high-level, itemized construction cost estimate broken down at least by major components.

C. Experience of Firm – 30%

- a. Include at least two (2) representative projects to be used as relevant experience, and only those for which some or all the project team were involved and include a contact for the respective client.
- b. Provide three (3) general references other than the 2 identified in “a” above.

RITBA will select a firm based upon recommendations of the Selection Committee, and subsequent approval of the Executive Director and the RITBA Board of Directors.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Evidence of the following minimum insurance coverage must be provided:

- a. General Liability limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence.
- b. Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance with limits of \$1,000,000.
- c. Worker’s Compensation coverage to Rhode Island statutory limits or documentation evidencing an approved self-insurance program.
- d. Umbrella Liability limits of \$5,000,000 excess of \$1,000,000 primary layer.
- e. Errors and Omissions Coverage with minimum limits of \$1,000,000.
- f. Professional liability coverage in effect in an amount not less than \$1,000,000.

RITBA and the State of Rhode Island shall be named as additional insured on all policies of insurance except for the Errors and Omission (Professional Liability) and Worker’s Compensation insurance.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

RITBA's standard Professional Services Agreement (PSA) is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference. RITBA expects the successful firm to execute this Agreement with no changes to the Agreement. Task Orders will be issued for any work assigned under this Agreement.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Minority Business Enterprise Participation

In accordance with RI Gen. Law § 37-14.1-1, it is the policy of the State of Rhode Island to support the fullest possible participation of firms owned and controlled by minorities (MBEs) and women (WBEs). Pursuant to §§ 37-14.1-2 and 37-14.1-6, MBEs and WBEs shall be included in all State purchasing, including, but not limited to, the procurement of goods, services, construction projects, or contracts funded in whole or in part with State funds, or funds which, in accordance with a federal grant or otherwise, the State expends or administers. MBEs and WBEs shall be awarded a minimum of fifteen percent (15%) of the dollar value of the entire procurement or project (MBE's – 7.5%; WBE's 7.5%). Vendors should be aware that each time a task order is issued under this solicitation and subsequent PSA, an MBE Utilization Plan shall be submitted to the Division of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion for review and approval. A copy of the Plan should be provided to RITBA in advance. Please note that MBE participation credit shall only be granted for firms duly certified as MBEs and WBEs by the State of Rhode Island, Department of Administration, Division of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, MBE Compliance Office (MBECO). The current directory of firms certified as MBEs or WBEs may be accessed at <https://dedi.ri.gov/divisions-units/minority-business-enterprise-compliance-office/minority-business-enterprise-mbe> or by contacting Kate Brody at the MBECO at 401-574-8670 or via email at kate.brody@doa.ri.gov.

Campaign Finance Compliance

Every person or business entity providing goods or services at a cost of \$5,000 cumulated value is required to file an affidavit regarding political campaign contributions with the RI State Board of Elections even if no reportable contributions have been made. R.I.G.L. § 17-27 Forms may be obtained at Board of Elections, Campaign Finance Division, website at <https://elections.ri.gov/finance/index.php>. Please call (401) 222-2345 or e-mail campaign.finance@elections.ri.gov with any questions or concerns. For the purposes of this RFP RITBA asks that firm's commit to properly file all appropriate documentation prior to any contract being signed.

Major State Decision-Maker

Does any Rhode Island "Major State Decision-Maker", as defined below, or the spouse or dependent child of such person, hold (i) a ten percent or greater equity interest, or (ii) a \$5,000 or greater cash interest in this business?

For purposes of this question, "Major State Decision-Maker" means:

- (a) All general officers; and all executive or administrative head or heads of any state executive agency enumerated in R.I.G.L § 42-6-1 as well as the executive or administrative head or heads of state quasi-public corporations, whether appointed or serving as an employee. The phrase "executive or administrative head or heads" shall include anyone serving in the positions of president, senior vice president, general counsel, director, executive director, deputy director, assistant director, executive counsel or chief of staff;
- (ii) All members of the general assembly and the executive or administrative head or heads of a state legislative agency, whether appointed or serving as an employee. The phrase "executive or administrative head or heads" shall include anyone serving in the positions of director, executive director, deputy director, assistant director, executive counsel, or chief of staff; and
- (iii) All members of the state judiciary and all state magistrates and the executive or administrative head or heads of a state judicial agency, whether appointed or serving as an employee. The phrase "executive or administrative head or heads" shall include anyone serving in the positions of director, executive director, deputy director, assistant director, executive counsel, chief of staff or state court administrator.

If your answer is "Yes", please identify the Major State Decision-Maker, specify the nature of their ownership interest, and provide a copy of the annual financial disclosure required to be filed with the Rhode Island Ethics Commission pursuant to R.I.G.L. §36-14-16, 17 and 18.

Title VI Solicitation Notice

RITBA, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises or airport concession disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

- END OF RFP