

## RFP 2020-02 Questions and Answers – Document 2

Posted 5/20/2020

*This document answers questions received from 5/15/2020 to date. See Document 1 for previous questions and answers. The deadline for submitting questions is 5/21/2020. See RFP for instructions for submitting questions. Any additional questions and answers will be posted on or about 5/22/2020.*

Q. We missed the pre-bid conference and would like to find out if we can still submit questions and have the ability to bid on this RFP although not attending the pre-bid conference.

A. *Unfortunately, no. We are bound to follow the provision in the RFP that requires participation in the pre-closing conference*

Q. Is it possible to extend the deadline for responses beyond 06/03/20? If so, is DETCOG willing to provide an additional 30 days to respond to this RFP?

A. *This is not possible. We believe the June 3 deadline provides adequate time for responses and allows for the successful responder to complete the network design in a timely manner.*

Q. Is DETCOG willing to examine alternate responses that may not be completely aligned with the scope of the RFP?

A. *Yes, we will evaluate alternative responses. However, they must be consistent with the goals stated in the RFP.*

Q. Would DETCOG be willing to explore partnerships with wireless carriers to engineer and expand a wireless voice and data network in areas where coverage may not be available today?

A. *Yes, as long as the solution design results in a broadband capable network consistent with the goals stated in the RFP.*

Q. To assist in the preparation of a detailed project approach, fee schedule and cost proposal will DETCOG make available the complete Feasibility Study developed by inCode Consulting, including KMZ files?

A. *A summary of findings from the feasibility study was presented during the pre-closing conference. Data referenced during the pre-closing conference is currently in the data room. The summary findings were intended to provide context for the broadband network but are not required to complete a response to the Design RFP.*

Q. Is the data and presentation that was presented during the pre-proposal conference be made available to prospective respondents?

A. *Participants in the pre-proposal conference were provided with information to access this information in the data room.*

Q. Can you please provide the estimated date or timeline for project completion? For example, do you anticipate project completion within 6 months, 1 year, etc.

A. *Please refer to **Scheduled Time Frame** on page 4 of the RFP and to **Methodology and Approach** on page 9 of the RFP.*

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- Q. Will a Professional Engineering License be required?
- A. *Yes. As stated in the RFP, "The Engineer selected must possess the necessary experience, tools, data, professional training and licensing needed to perform the Network Design work described below and professionally certify the results." The deliverables must be certified with the seal/stamp of a Professional Engineer.*
- Q. Will DETCOG be leading the grant application development process, and engineer/consultant only supports? Or is it expected that engineer/consultant would lead?
- A. *Most likely the firm selected will support the process, but we are keeping all options open.*
- Q. Will this be an aerial or underground design, or a combination of both?
- A. *Any combination is acceptable if it meets our stated goal of providing reliable and affordable broadband service which achieves the highest network speeds that are economically feasible throughout the region.*
- Q. If aerial, should we include the cost of pole loading analysis in our bids?
- A. *Yes, Respondents should include all relevant costs in their proposal for responding to this RFP. Please refer to **Fee Schedule and Cost Proposal** on page 9 of the RFP. Engineer may determine if their relevant cost for pole loading analysis is consistent with a high-level or a low-level design.*
- Q. If aerial, who is responsible for pole attachment agreements?
- A. *Planning for pole attach agreements will be managed during the Build phase of the broadband network plan and are arranged between the construction, the operating entities, and the pole owners. For the Design RFP response, Respondents may make assumptions on the impact of pole attach agreements on design inputs.*
- Q. If aerial , who is responsible for aerial make ready coordination?
- A. *Planning for aerial made-ready coordination will occur during the Build phase of the broadband network plan. Respondent may make assumptions on the impact of aerial make-ready on design inputs.*
- Q. Should we include permitting in our proposal? If so , who is responsible for permit fees?
- A. *Yes, Respondents may make permitting assumptions in their Design RFP response proposal as they relate to network design and topology approach assumptions. Permitting will be managed during the Build phase of the broadband network plan.*
- Q. Is there an InCode Consulting Final Report Deliverable that will be provided to support our bid responses? Was there any conceptual network design completed as part of their prior engagement?
- A. *The information regarding the network design criteria was covered during the pre-closing conference and in the RFP description; any supporting data is currently in the data room. The inCode report was focused on the feasibility of using fiber and wireless*

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*technologies depending on population density, along with the associated economics of building a viable rural broadband network in the DETCOG markets.*

- Q. Is there a required list of MWBE that should be used to contact or does it matter if there are not in Texas?
- A. *No, federal funding provided to DETCOG does not come with these stipulations.*