

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
TO DEVELOP, DESIGN, CONSTRUCT, FINANCE, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN  
THE  
IH 635 MANAGED LANES PROJECT  
THROUGH A COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT**

**VOLUME I  
INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS**

**A PROJECT OF THE  
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**RFP ISSUED SEPTEMBER 18, 2007**

**ADDENDUM #1 ISSUED JANUARY 9, 2008**

**ADDENDUM #2 ISSUED MARCH 3, 2008**

**ADDENDUM #3 ISSUED MARCH 19, 2008**

**Texas Department of Transportation  
125 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street – Fifth Floor  
Austin, Texas 78701**

**CERTAIN KEY DATES**

<b><u>EVENT</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>
Issue Final Request for Proposals	September 18, 2007
Proposal Due Date	June 23, 2008
CDA conditionally awarded (anticipated)	July 31, 2008
CDA executed and delivered (anticipated)	September 30, 2008

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
SECTION 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL PROVISIONS.....	7
1.1 INTRODUCTION.....	7
1.2 PROJECT GOALS .....	7
1.3 GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SCOPE OF DEVELOPER'S OBLIGATIONS .....	8
1.3.1 GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION.....	8
1.3.2 SCOPE OF DEVELOPER'S OBLIGATIONS .....	10
1.4 DOCUMENTS IN THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.....	10
1.5 [RESERVED].....	10
1.6 PROCUREMENT SCHEDULE; COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL CLOSE DEADLINES .....	10
1.6.1 PROCUREMENT SCHEDULE .....	10
1.6.2 DEADLINE FOR CDA EXECUTION AND CONDITIONAL AWARD .....	12
1.6.3 FINANCIAL CLOSE DEADLINE .....	12
1.7 GENERAL PROVISIONS REGARDING PROPOSALS .....	12
1.7.1 PROPOSAL CONTENTS .....	12
1.7.2 INCLUSION OF PROPOSAL IN CDA.....	13
1.7.3 COMMITMENTS IN THE PROPOSAL .....	13
1.7.4 OWNERSHIP OF PROPOSAL AND APPLICABILITY OF PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT.....	13
1.8 FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS AND FUNDING .....	13
1.8.1 DBE REQUIREMENTS.....	13
1.8.2 FEDERAL FUNDING, TIFIA AND PRIVATE ACTIVITY BONDS .....	14
1.9 TOLL COLLECTION SYSTEM.....	15
1.9.1 RAYTHEON TOLL SYSTEM CDA.....	15
1.9.2 NTTA TOLLING SERVICES AGREEMENT .....	15
1.10 THE INDEPENDENT ENGINEER.....	16
SECTION 2.0 PROCUREMENT PROCESS.....	17
2.1 PROCUREMENT METHOD.....	17
2.2 RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER INFORMATION .....	17

2.2.1	AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE AND OMBUDSMAN .....	17
2.2.2	IDENTIFICATION OF PROPOSER REPRESENTATIVE .....	18
2.2.3	RULES OF CONTACT.....	18
2.2.4	COMMUNICATIONS WITH FHWA CONCERNING TIFIA CREDIT ASSISTANCE AND FHWA'S REVIEW OF FINANCIAL PROPOSALS .....	19
2.2.5	LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT .....	20
2.3	QUESTIONS AND RESPONSE PROCESS, ADDENDA, ROLE OF THE OMBUDSMAN AND PRE-PROPOSAL SUBMITTALS.....	21
2.3.1	QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES REGARDING THE RFP .....	21
2.3.2	ADDENDA .....	22
2.3.3	OMBUDSMAN .....	22
2.4	[RESERVED].....	23
2.5	PRE-PROPOSAL MEETINGS.....	23
2.5.1	INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS.....	23
2.5.2	ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS.....	23
2.5.3	QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES DURING ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS .....	24
2.5.4	STATEMENTS AT MEETINGS .....	24
2.6	CONFIDENTIALITY/PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT DISCLOSURE REQUESTS	24
2.6.1	DISCLOSURE WAIVER .....	24
2.6.2	OBSERVERS DURING EVALUATION.....	24
2.6.3	PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF PROPOSAL DOCUMENTS .....	25
2.6.4	DISCLOSURE PROCESS FOR REQUESTS UNDER THE ACT.....	25
2.7	TXDOT STUDIES AND INVESTIGATIONS .....	26
2.8	EXAMINATION OF RFP AND ACCESS TO SITE.....	26
2.8.1	EXAMINATION OF RFP .....	26
2.8.2	EXISTING CONSTRUCTION WORK SITE INFORMATION AND ACCESS .....	27
2.8.3	OTHER ACCESS .....	27
2.9	ERRORS .....	27
2.10	IMPROPER CONDUCT .....	28
2.10.1	NON-COLLUSION.....	28
2.10.2	ORGANIZATIONAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST .....	28
2.10.3	EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF PROPOSERS .....	28

2.11	CHANGES IN PROPOSER’S ORGANIZATION AND SUBMISSION OF KEY PERSONNEL .....	28
2.11.1	CHANGES IN PROPOSER’S ORGANIZATION.....	28
2.11.2	SUBMISSION OF KEY PERSONNEL .....	29
2.12	SALES TAX.....	29
SECTION 3.0 ALTERNATIVE TECHNICAL CONCEPTS, DRAFT TOLLING PLAN REVIEWS AND ALTERNATIVE FINANCIAL CONCEPTS.....		30
3.1	ALTERNATIVE TECHNICAL CONCEPTS.....	30
3.2	PRE-PROPOSAL SUBMISSION OF ATCS .....	30
3.3	TXDOT REVIEW OF PRE-PROPOSAL SUBMISSION OF ATCS .....	33
3.4	INCORPORATION OF ATCS IN THE CDA.....	33
3.5	DRAFT TOLLING PLAN.....	34
3.6	ALTERNATIVE FINANCIAL CONCEPTS .....	34
3.7	CONFIDENTIALITY.....	38
SECTION 4.0 REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMITTAL OF PROPOSALS AND ACCEPTANCE OF DELIVERY BY TXDOT .....		39
4.1	GENERAL SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS.....	39
4.1.1	PROPOSAL DUE DATE .....	39
4.1.2	SIGNATURES REQUIRED.....	39
4.1.3	CERTIFIED COPIES .....	39
4.1.4	CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO FOLLOW REQUIREMENTS.....	39
4.2	REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT COMPLIANT PROPOSAL .....	39
4.3	FORMAT .....	40
4.4	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPOSAL DELIVERY .....	41
4.4.1	TECHNICAL PROPOSAL.....	41
4.4.2	PROPOSAL SECURITY AND ESCROW AGREEMENT.....	41
4.4.3	FINANCIAL PROPOSAL .....	42
4.4.4	ESCROWED MATERIALS .....	42
4.5	CURRENCY .....	42
4.6	MODIFICATIONS, WITHDRAWALS AND LATE SUBMITTALS .....	42
4.6.1	MODIFICATIONS TO A PROPOSAL .....	42
4.6.2	WITHDRAWAL AND VALIDITY OF PROPOSALS.....	43
4.6.3	LATE PROPOSALS.....	43
4.7	FORFEITURE OF PROPOSAL SECURITY .....	43

4.7.1	FAILURE TO MEET COMMITMENTS.....	43
4.7.2	FAILURE TO CLOSE.....	44
4.8	ACCEPTANCE OF DELIVERY BY TXDOT .....	45
4.9	COSTS NOT REIMBURSABLE.....	45
SECTION 5.0 EVALUATION AND POST-SELECTION PROCESS .....		46
5.1	ORGANIZATION OF THE TXDOT EVALUATION COMMITTEES.....	46
5.2	BEST VALUE DETERMINATION.....	47
5.3	PASS/FAIL AND RESPONSIVENESS EVALUATION .....	48
5.3.1	TECHNICAL PROPOSALS .....	48
5.3.2	FINANCIAL PROPOSALS.....	49
5.3.3	TXDOT RIGHT TO EXCLUDE PROPOSALS FROM CONSIDERATION OR TO WAIVE MISTAKES .....	51
5.4	EVALUATION OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PLAN BY DPES .....	51
5.4.1	PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PLAN EVALUATION FACTORS.....	51
5.4.2	EVALUATION GUIDELINES .....	53
5.5	FINANCIAL PROPOSAL EVALUATIONS AND PAYMENT AND PERFORMANCE LETTER OF CREDIT OPTION.....	54
5.5.1	EVALUATION OF FINANCIAL PROPOSAL.....	54
5.5.2	EVALUATION OF PAYMENT AND PERFORMANCE LETTER OF CREDIT OPTION .....	55
5.6	ESRC EVALUATION OF TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PROPOSALS AND SCHEDULE.....	55
5.7	REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION .....	56
5.8	REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL REVISIONS .....	56
5.9	IDENTIFICATION OF APPARENT BEST VALUE PROPOSAL .....	56
5.10	RECOMMENDATION TO COMMISSION .....	57
5.11	FINALIZATION OF THE CDA; POST-SELECTION PROCESS.....	57
5.11.1	NEGOTIATION OF CDA.....	57
5.11.2	CASH FLOW ANALYSIS .....	58
5.11.3	FINANCIAL MODEL AUDIT.....	58
5.11.4	MARKET INTEREST RATE ADJUSTMENT.....	59
5.11.5	OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL DETERMINATION.....	59
5.11.6	EXTENSION OF FINANCIAL CLOSE .....	60
5.12	POST-SELECTION DELIVERABLES .....	60
5.12.1	PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN .....	60

5.12.2	DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED FOLLOWING CONDITIONAL AWARD .....	60
5.12.3	TXDOT COMMENTS ON POST-SELECTION DELIVERABLES .....	61
5.13	NEPA IMPACTS TO POST-SELECTION PROCESS .....	61
5.14	NEGOTIATION OF THE INDEPENDENT ENGINEER AGREEMENT .....	61
5.15	TXDOT POST-SELECTION DELIVERABLES AND NOTIFICATION TO LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD .....	62
SECTION 6.0 CONTRACT AWARD AND EXECUTION; POST AWARD ACTIONS .....		62
6.1	FINAL AWARD, EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF CDA .....	62
6.1.1	DOCUMENTS TO BE DELIVERED BY PROPOSER WITH EXECUTED CDA AND FINANCIAL CLOSE .....	63
6.1.2	DEPOSIT OF THE CONCESSION PAYMENT .....	66
6.2	DEBRIEFINGS .....	66
6.3	PAYMENT TO UNSUCCESSFUL PROPOSERS .....	66
6.4	DISPOSITION OF ESCROWED MATERIALS FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF PROCUREMENT PROCESS .....	67
SECTION 7.0 PROTESTS.....		69
7.1	APPLICABILITY .....	69
7.2	REQUIRED EARLY COMMUNICATION FOR CERTAIN PROTESTS .....	69
7.3	DEADLINES FOR PROTESTS .....	69
7.4	CONTENT OF PROTEST .....	69
7.5	FILING OF PROTEST .....	69
7.6	COMMENTS FROM OTHER PROPOSERS.....	70
7.7	BURDEN OF PROOF.....	70
7.8	DECISION ON PROTEST .....	70
7.9	PROTESTANT'S PAYMENT OF COSTS.....	70
7.10	RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF PROPOSERS.....	70
SECTION 8.0 TXDOT RIGHTS AND DISCLAIMERS.....		71
8.1	TXDOT RIGHTS.....	71
8.2	TXDOT DISCLAIMERS .....	72

## EXHIBITS

Exhibit A	Definitions and Acronyms
Exhibit B	Technical Proposal Instructions
Exhibit C	Financial Proposal Instructions
Exhibit D	Required Forms
Form A	Proposal Letter
Form B-1	Identification of Proposer and Major Participants
Form B-2	Information About Proposer Organization
Form B-3	Information About Major Participants, Major Professional Services Firms and Identified Subcontractors
Form C	Responsible Proposer Questionnaire
Form D	Industrial Safety Record for Team Members
Form E	Personnel Work Assignment Form
Form F	Non-Collusion Affidavit
Form G	Buy America Certification
Form H	DBE Certification
Form I	Child Support Statement for State Grants, Loans and Contracts
Form J	Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement
Form K	Financial Request / Offer Form
Form K-1	Financial Request / Offer - Payment and Performance Letter of Credit Option Form
Form L-1	Proposal Bond
Form L-2	Letter of Credit (Proposal)
Form L-3	Financial Close Bond
Form L-4	Letter of Credit (Financial Close)
Form M	Escrow Agreement
Form N	Opinion of Counsel
Form O	[Reserved]
Form P	Detailed Costing Form
Form Q	Intellectual Property Escrow Agreement
Form R	Certification Regarding NTTA Communications
Form S	Equal Employment Opportunity Certification
Form T	Revenue Payment Tables Form
Form U	Financial Summary Form
Exhibit E	Summary and Order of Proposal Contents
Exhibit F	[Reserved]
Exhibit G	NTTA Tolling Services Agreement
Exhibit H-1	Independent Engineer Agreement
Exhibit H-2	Pre-qualified Independent Engineers
Exhibit I	Right of Entry Process
Exhibit J	Minute Order
Exhibit K	Project Trust Agreement
Exhibit L	Lender's Direct Agreement
Exhibit M	Sanctions

**INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSERS**  
**(Request for Proposals: IH 635 Managed Lanes Project)**

**SECTION 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**1.1 Introduction**

This Request for Proposals is issued by the Texas Department of Transportation (“TxDOT”), an agency of the State of Texas, to seek competitive detailed proposals (individually, a “Proposal” and collectively, “Proposals”) for a public-private partnership to be evidenced by a Comprehensive Development Agreement (“CDA”). The CDA shall provide that the entity identified in the successful Proposal (the “Developer”) shall develop, design, construct, finance, operate and maintain the IH 635 Managed Lanes Project (the “Project”). The form of CDA is included in Volume II of the RFP.

Refer to Exhibit A hereto for the meaning of various capitalized terms and acronyms used but not defined herein, and refer to Exhibit 1 to the CDA for the meaning of capitalized terms and acronyms used but not defined herein or in said Exhibit A.

TxDOT is issuing the RFP to those Proposers shortlisted based on TxDOT’s evaluation of Qualification Submittals delivered to TxDOT on September 22, 2005 in response to the Request for Qualifications for the Project.

Proposers must comply with these Instructions to Proposers during the procurement and in their responses to the RFP. Proposers shall also take the Project goals identified in Section 1.2 below into consideration in drafting their Proposals.

The RFP permits a Proposer to identify an entity other than Proposer to act as Developer, thus allowing unsuccessful Proposers to avoid unnecessary costs associated with formation of such entity. However, if the entity identified as Developer in the successful Proposal is not formed as contemplated herein, or fails to comply with the requirements set forth herein, the entity(ies) that signed the Proposal shall have the obligation either to enter into the CDA itself or to provide a substitute Developer acceptable to TxDOT in its sole discretion.

All forms named in this ITP are found in Exhibit D unless otherwise noted.

**1.2 Project Goals**

TxDOT’s goals for the Project are as follows:

- (a) Maintaining mobility through the Project area during construction and renewal activities through the term of the concession while minimizing impacts to business, communities and adjacent property owners through communication, cooperation and coordination with Stakeholders;



- (b) Improving mobility within the Project area after the construction period;
- (c) Implementing safe construction, operation and maintenance;
- (d) Obtaining cost-effective financing and leveraging available state funds and toll revenue to maximize funding for this and other regional projects eligible for federal transportation funding;
- (e) Securing quality design and construction to optimize the operational life cycle performance of the Project and accommodate Related Transportation Facilities with minimal impact;
- (f) Expediting delivery of Project improvements;
- (g) Obtaining high quality operation and maintenance meeting or exceeding TxDOT technical requirements, including interoperability requirements, applying the same standards to the Managed and General Purpose Lanes, and allowing handback to TxDOT upon termination of the CDA, in accordance with TxDOT requirements; and
- (h) Facilitating participation by DBEs, women-owned business enterprises and minority business enterprises, consistent with the CDA Documents and applicable Laws and regulations.

### **1.3 General Project Description and Scope of Developer's Obligations**

#### **1.3.1 General Project Description**

The Project consists of reconstruction of the IH 635 general purpose lanes, new construction of managed lanes, reconstruction of existing frontage roads and construction of new frontage roads. Along IH 35E, the Project consists of elevated direct connector ramps between IH 35E and IH 635. Other facilities to the extent necessary will be constructed for connectivity, mobility and safety. Tolling operation will be provided for the managed lanes for the approximately 17 mile Project along the IH 635 and IH 35E corridors in Dallas County. In addition, operations and maintenance work is required for the IH 635 and IH 35E. Municipalities located adjacent to the corridor include the Cities of Dallas and Farmers Branch.

The Project is divided into the following Sections:

- a. IH 635 Section (IH 635 from east of IH 35E to east of Merit Drive): This section of IH 635 currently includes eight general purpose lanes and two interim HOV lanes from IH 35E to Merit Drive (8.9 miles eastbound and 8.0 miles westbound). The Developer will fully reconstruct the IH 635 Section, which will result in an 8-lane general-purpose freeway, a 6-lane managed lane facility and a continuous 2 to 3-lane frontage road system with access ramps. In addition, the following cross streets/facilities will be reconstructed: Denton Drive, Josey Lane, Webb Chapel Road, Joe Ratcliff Walkway, Marsh Lane, Rosser Road, Valley View Lane, Midway Road, Welch Road, main lanes of the Dallas North Tollway (DNT) and portions of the

DNT interchange impacted by the Project, Montfort Drive, Preston Road, Hillcrest Road and Park Central Boulevard.

b. IH 635/IH 35E Interchange (IH 635 from east of Luna Road to east of IH 35E and IH 35E from Crown Road to south of Valwood Parkway): This interchange currently consists of eight, 1 to 3-lane direct connectors between IH 635 and IH 35E. The Developer will construct four additional 2 to 3-lane direct connectors within the the IH 635/IH 35E Interchange (the existing direct connectors will be left in place). The direct connectors to be constructed include: northbound IH 35E to eastbound IH 635, westbound IH 635 to southbound IH 35E, westbound IH 635 to northbound IH 35E, and southbound IH 35E to eastbound IH 635. The westbound-southbound and northbound-eastbound direct connectors will connect with the elevated direct connector Managed Lanes to be built on the IH 35E Section. The IH 635/IH 35E Interchange also includes other reconstruction or new construction as required on IH 635 from east of Luna Road to east of IH 35E and on IH 35E from Crown Road to south of Valwood Parkway.

c. IH 35E Section (IH 35E from the Loop 12 / IH 35E Split to Crown Road): This section of the Project will include the construction of two 3-lane elevated direct connector Managed Lanes along IH 35E that will interface with the IH 635/IH 35E Interchange direct connectors. The existing IH 35E facility will not be reconstructed. Four 1 to 2-lane direct connectors will be constructed within the existing interchange at the south end of the Project at Loop 12. Additionally, minor improvements to ramp connections to/from IH 35E and limited frontage road construction near Walnut Hill Lane will be required.

d. IH 635/US 75 Interchange (IH 635 from Merit Drive to Greenville Avenue): The existing IH 635/US 75 interchange will remain functionally in place. The private sector developer will construct the elements necessary to provide tolling operation for the Managed Lanes within the existing interchange. The construction will include Managed Lane entrance/exit ramp improvements on IH 635 near Greenville Avenue and along the TI Boulevard Managed Lanes access ramps.

TxDOT has received a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for all Sections within the Project limits. The approved FONSI are listed below.

- a) "Finding of No Significant Impact, Loop 12: From Spur 408 to I.H. 35E and I.H. 35E from Spur 482 to I.H. 635," December 11, 2002
- b) "Finding of No Significant Impact, U.S. 75/I.H. 635 Interchange," October 22 1993; supplemental Categorical Exclusion for additional High Occupancy Vehicle Facilities, April 1997; and Re-evaluation, January 31 2001
- c) "Finding of No Significant Impact, I.H. 635 (LBJ Freeway – West Section): From Luna Road to U.S. 75," April 29, 2004.

TxDOT is currently re-evaluating the FONSI for these Sections, with an anticipated approval date of March 2008.

### 1.3.2 Scope of Developer's Obligations

Developer's obligations under the CDA will generally include all efforts required to develop, design, construct, finance, operate and maintain the Project in accordance with the requirements of the CDA Documents.

### 1.4 Documents in the Request for Proposals

The RFP consists of the following volumes, and any other documents that may be issued by Addendum, as such documents may be amended and supplemented:

- (a) Volume I – this ITP (including exhibits and forms);
- (b) Volume II – the CDA Documents (Books 1 – 3); and
- (c) Volume III – the Reference Information Documents.

Refer to Section 1.2 of the CDA for a list of the CDA Documents and their order of precedence, and to Volume III for the Reference Information Documents.

The Reference Information Documents are included in the RFP for the purpose of providing information to Proposers that is in TxDOT's possession. TxDOT has not determined whether the Reference Information Documents are accurate, complete or pertinent, or of any value to Proposers. The Reference Information Documents will not form a part of the contract between TxDOT and Developer. Except as may be provided otherwise in the CDA, TxDOT makes no representation, warranty or guarantee as to, and shall not be responsible for, the accuracy, completeness, or pertinence of the Reference Information Documents, and, in addition, shall not be responsible for any conclusions drawn therefrom.

### 1.5 [Reserved]

### 1.6 Procurement Schedule; Commercial and Financial Close Deadlines

#### 1.6.1 Procurement Schedule

The following represents the current schedule for the procurement.

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE and TIME</u>
One-on-one meetings with Proposers	September 26, 2007; October 29 – 30, 2007; November 14 -16, 2007; December 11 - 13, 2007; February 6 – 7, 2008; and March 26 - 27, 2008
Proposer submittal of questions regarding the RFP, as described in <u>Section 2.3.1</u>	January 25, 2008

<b><u>EVENT</u></b>	<b><u>DATE and TIME</u></b>
Last date for Proposer submittal of questions regarding Addendum 2 and Addendum 3, as described in <u>Section 2.3.1</u>	March , 2008
Last date for TxDOT responses to questions regarding the RFP (if necessary), as described in <u>Section 2.3.1</u>	April _____, 2008
Last date for submittal of ATCs and AFCs, as described in <u>Section 3.2</u> and <u>Section 3.6</u>	12:00 p.m. April 14, 2008
Last date for TxDOT responses to ATCs and AFCs, as described in <u>Section 3.2</u> and <u>Section 3.6</u>	April 28, 2008
Last date for submittal of name and information for Model Auditor, as described in <u>Section 5.11.3</u> (Optional)	12:00 p.m. May 23, 2008
Last date for submittal of draft tolling plan, as described in <u>Section 3.5</u>	12:00 p.m. May 30, 2008
Last date for submittal of Benchmark Rate(s) and proposed information source, changes in organization and submittal of Key Personnel, as described in <u>Section 5.11.4</u> , <u>Section 2.11 Exhibit B</u> , and <u>Section 3.2.5.1</u>	12:00 p.m. June 2, 2008
Last date for TxDOT responses to draft tolling plan, organizational changes and changes to Key Personnel, as described in <u>Section 3.5</u> , <u>Section 2.11</u> , and <u>Exhibit B, Section 3.2.5.1</u> (respectively)	June 9, 2008
Last date for submittal of name and information for Escrow Agent, as described in <u>Section 4.4.4</u>	12:00 p.m. June 9, 2008
Last date for TxDOT to independently verify and approve Benchmark Rate(s), as described in <u>Section 5.11.4</u>	June 9, 2008
Last date for TxDOT response to proposer Model Auditor, as described in <u>Section 5.11.3</u> (if applicable)	June 16, 2008
Proposal Due Date	12:00 p.m. June 23, 2008
Conditional award (anticipated)	July 31, 2008
CDA executed and delivered (anticipated)	September 30, 2008
Financial close (anticipated)	September 30, 2008 (subject to extension under <u>Section 5.11.6</u> )

<b><u>EVENT</u></b>	<b><u>DATE and TIME</u></b>
Deposit of Concession Payment (if applicable)	Two Business Days after financial close

All dates set forth above and elsewhere in the ITP are subject to change, in TxDOT's sole discretion, by notice to the Proposers. All times listed above and elsewhere in the RFP are for local, Central time in Austin, Texas for the applicable date.

If any of the time periods set forth in this ITP fall on a non-Business Day, then such period shall automatically be extended to the next Business Day.

### **1.6.2 Deadline for CDA Execution and Conditional Award**

If conditional award of the CDA is made, the successful Proposer shall be required to achieve Delivery on or before 61 days after conditional award.

For purposes of this ITP the term "conditional award" shall mean the determination by the Commission to proceed with a conditional award of a CDA to the apparent best value Proposer, as more particularly described in Section 5.10.

### **1.6.3 Financial Close Deadline**

If conditional award of the CDA is made, the successful Proposer shall be required to achieve financial close on or before 61 days after conditional award, subject to Section 5.11.6.

## **1.7 General Provisions Regarding Proposals**

### **1.7.1 Proposal Contents**

As used in this procurement, the term "Proposal" means a Proposer's complete response to the RFP, including (a) a Technical Proposal, including a Project Development Plan and properly completed Proposal forms, and (b) a Financial Proposal, including certain portions of a Financing Plan and properly completed Proposal forms (to be delivered directly to TxDOT) and certain portions of a Financing Plan and a Financial Model and supporting documentation (to be delivered into escrow). Requirements for the Technical Proposal and the Financial Proposal are set forth in Exhibits B and C, respectively, and a checklist showing the required contents of the entire Proposal is found in Exhibit E. The Proposal shall be organized in the order listed in Exhibit E, and shall be clearly indexed. Each Proposal component shall be clearly titled and identified and shall be submitted without reservations, qualifications, conditions or assumptions. Any failure to provide all the information and all completed forms in the format specified, or submittal of a Proposal subject to any reservations, qualifications, conditions or assumptions, may result in TxDOT's rejection of the Proposal or giving it a lower rating. All blank spaces in the Proposal forms must be filled in as appropriate. No substantive change shall be made in the Proposal forms.

### **1.7.2 Inclusion of Proposal in CDA**

Portions of the successful Proposal will become part of the CDA Documents, as specified in the CDA. All other information is for evaluation purposes only and will not become part of the CDA Documents.

### **1.7.3 Commitments in the Proposal**

The verbiage used in each Proposal will be interpreted and evaluated based on the level of commitment provided by Proposer. Tentative commitments will be given no consideration. For example, phrases such as “we may” or “we are considering” will be given no consideration in the evaluation process since they do not indicate a firm commitment.

### **1.7.4 Ownership of Proposal and Applicability of Public Information Act**

Subject to the exceptions specified herein and the Texas Transportation Code (the “Code”), all written and electronic correspondence, exhibits, photographs, reports, printed material, tapes, disks, designs, and other graphic and visual aids submitted to TxDOT during this procurement process, whether included in the Proposal or otherwise submitted, become the property of the State of Texas upon delivery to TxDOT, and will not be returned to the submitting parties.

Proposers should familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Public Information Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 552 (the “Act”) requiring disclosure of public information, and exceptions thereto (including the exceptions set forth in Section 223.204 of the Code). In no event shall the State of Texas, TxDOT, or any of their agents, representatives, consultants, directors, officers or employees be liable to a Proposer or Proposer team member for the disclosure of any materials or information submitted in response to the RFP. See also Section 2.6.

## **1.8 Federal Requirements and Funding**

In order to preserve the ability of the parties to use federal funding for the Project, the procurement process and CDA must comply with applicable federal Laws and regulations. TxDOT reserves the right to modify the RFP to address any concerns, conditions or requirements of the Federal Highway Administration (“FHWA”). Proposers shall be notified by Addendum of any such modifications.

### **1.8.1 DBE Requirements**

TxDOT has determined that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (“DBEs”) requirements apply to design and construction of the Project, and has adopted a DBE Program to provide DBEs opportunities to participate in the business activities of TxDOT as service providers, vendors, contractors, subcontractors, advisors, and consultants. TxDOT has adopted the definition of DBEs set forth in 49 CFR § 26.5. Proposer’s DBE compliance obligations shall be governed by all applicable federal DBE

regulations, including Title 49 CFR Part 26, as well as applicable requirements set forth in the CDA Documents and TxDOT's DBE Program document.

TxDOT's DBE requirements applicable to the CDA are set forth in Section 10.9 of the CDA and the DBE Special Provisions attached as Exhibit 15 to the CDA and TxDOT's DBE Program adopted pursuant to Title 49 CFR Part 26. The DBE participation goal for the Project is 12.12% for the professional services and construction portions of the Work performed under the CDA. As set forth in Section 3.2.9 of Exhibit B, each Proposer shall submit a certification concerning DBE requirements with its Proposal. Failure to provide the required DBE certification shall be considered a breach of the Proposal requirements and shall render a Proposal non-responsive.

Following conditional award, the successful Proposer will be required to submit a detailed DBE Performance Plan describing the methods to be employed for achieving TxDOT's DBE participation goals for the Project, including Proposer's exercise of good faith efforts. Requirements for the DBE Performance Plan are set forth in the DBE Special Provisions, Exhibit 15 to the CDA. The DBE Performance Plan will be subject to review, comment and approval by TxDOT prior to and as a condition of final award.

The selected Proposer will also be required to provide DBE commitments in the form required by TxDOT as DBE subcontractors are identified, in accordance with the DBE Special Provisions, the approved DBE Performance Plan, and TxDOT's DBE program.

### **1.8.2 Federal Funding, TIFIA and Private Activity Bonds**

Federal grant funds are available for the Work. Based on the level of interest expressed by Proposers, TxDOT has applied for credit assistance under the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act ("TIFIA") program as well as an allocation from the United States Department of Transportation ("USDOT") of a portion of the \$15 billion of private activity bonds ("PABs") for the Project as described below.

#### **1.8.2.1 PABs Allocation**

TxDOT has received from the USDOT the reservation of an allocation for the issuance of a principal amount of PABs in the amount of \$288 million, which is valid until January 2009, based on a pro forma plan of finance developed by TxDOT based on its estimates of Project costs and available revenues. TxDOT, a related nonprofit entity or another qualified entity will serve as the issuer of the PABs ("PABs Issuer"). TxDOT will make this allocation available to the PABs Issuer to be used in connection with the issuance of the PABs to provide a portion of the financing for the Project. Proposers seeking to use PABs shall be solely responsible for obtaining ratings, bond counsel opinions, credit enhancement and an underwriting commitment or placement of the PABs, as well as satisfying any conditions placed on the use of the allocation by USDOT or complying with any other requirements of State and federal tax laws.

The foregoing approach has been developed by TxDOT as an accommodation to Proposers and in order to attempt to facilitate the use of PABs to Proposers. TxDOT makes no representation as to nor guarantees the amount, if any, of private activity

bonds that can be issued for the Project or the use of proceeds to finance the Project as a matter of federal tax law. Proposers should seek the advice of their own tax consultants. Should a Proposer elect to include PABs in its Financial Proposal, it does so at its own risk and cost, and TxDOT shall have no liability with respect thereto.

#### 1.8.2.2 TIFIA Credit Assistance

TxDOT has received a conditional commitment for a \$146 million subordinated TIFIA loan. The conditional commitment, indicative term sheet and the form of the credit agreement will be made available to Proposers. TxDOT will assign or otherwise convey to Developer the conditional commitment in order to make the TIFIA credit assistance available to Developer to provide a portion of the financing of the Project. Except as expressly set forth in the conditional commitment with regard to TxDOT's responsibilities with respect to the TIFIA credit assistance, Developer has the sole responsibility for satisfying any conditions to obtain the funds made available under the conditional commitment. Upon the receipt of the conditional TIFIA commitment (including the indicative term sheet and form of credit agreement), Proposers will be given the opportunity to directly meet with FHWA and USDOT prior to the Proposal Due Date to discuss the specifics of its finance plans, including cost and revenue projections.

### 1.9 Toll Collection System

#### 1.9.1 Raytheon Toll System CDA

TxDOT has entered into a comprehensive development agreement (the "Toll System CDA") with Raytheon Company ("Raytheon"). Under the Toll System CDA, Raytheon has responsibility to design, construct, install, and maintain open-road toll collection systems on projects designated by TxDOT pursuant to the terms thereof.

TxDOT has chosen not to negotiate a "Project Segment Supplement" with Raytheon under the Toll System CDA with respect to the Project and, accordingly, the Toll System CDA will not apply to this Project. Proposer may, in its discretion, negotiate with Raytheon and/or any other toll systems subcontractor with respect to providing tolling systems for the Project.

#### 1.9.2 NTTA Tolling Services Agreement

Pursuant to Senate Bill 792, 80th Leg., R.S. (2007), §9.05 (to be codified in the Code), NTTA will act as the exclusive O&M Contractor for certain mandatory toll collection and enforcement services for the Project for the entire term of revenue service (commencing as of Service Commencement). NTTA will provide customer service, back office and clearinghouse services, which will be described in detail in an agreement with NTTA for the NTTA tolling services set forth in Exhibit G (the "NTTA Tolling Services Agreement"). Delivery to TxDOT of executed copies of NTTA Tolling Services Agreement is a condition to final award of the CDA.



## 1.10 The Independent Engineer

As specified in CDA Section 9.3.1, certain quality assurance services for the Project will be provided by an Independent Engineer under a joint contract among TxDOT, Developer and the Independent Engineer. A draft form of this contract and a general scope of work for the Independent Engineer are set forth in Exhibit H-1, subject to further negotiations among the parties following conditional award and prior to execution of the CDA. TxDOT and Developer shall equally share the costs of the Independent Engineer. Proposers are required to include their share of the cost of the Independent Engineer in their Financial Proposal and no adjustment shall be made for any changes thereto arising during finalization of the scope of work and form of contract.

The Independent Engineer shall be a firm that has been pre-qualified by TxDOT for the performance of independent engineer services. Exhibit H-2 lists firms that have been pre-qualified as of the issuance date of the RFP in the current order of assignment. Developer will be assigned the pre-qualified firm listed first in Exhibit H-2, as the Independent Engineer. If there is a conflict of interest with the assigned Independent Engineer and Developer, then Developer will be assigned the next pre-qualified firm on the list from Exhibit H-2.

TxDOT will enter into a three-party agreement with the assigned firm only after TxDOT ascertains that no potential conflicts of interest exist or TxDOT determines, in its sole discretion, that steps taken to mitigate potential conflicts are sufficient to allow the agreement to be awarded. TxDOT is not recommending any particular firm as the Independent Engineer for a Proposer team or the Project, and TxDOT shall bear no responsibility or liability for the assignment to Proposer of any firm or its performance as Independent Engineer.

## **SECTION 2.0 PROCUREMENT PROCESS**

### **2.1 Procurement Method**

The RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 223 of the Code, Senate Bill 792, 80th Leg., R.S. (2007), Title 43, Texas Administrative Code, Ch. 27, Subchapter A (the "Rules") and other applicable provisions of Texas and federal Law.

TxDOT will award the CDA (if at all) to the responsible Proposer offering a Proposal meeting the high standards set by TxDOT and which is determined by TxDOT, through evaluation based upon the criteria set forth in the Code, the Rules and the RFP, to provide the best value to TxDOT and to be in the best interest of the State of Texas.

TxDOT will accept Proposals for the Project only from those Proposers TxDOT has shortlisted for the procurement based on their responses to the RFQ.

TxDOT will not review or consider alternative proposals.

### **2.2 Receipt of the Request for Proposal Documents, Communications and Other Information**

The RFP will be issued to shortlisted Proposers in electronic format on the secure file transfer site for the Project (the "FTP site").

#### **2.2.1 Authorized Representative and Ombudsman**

TxDOT has designated the following individual to be its authorized representative for the procurement (the "Authorized Representative"):

John Hudspeth, P.E.  
Texas Department of Transportation  
125 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Fifth Floor  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Phone: (512) 936-0980  
Fax: (512) 936-0970  
E-mail: [jhudsp1@dot.state.tx.us](mailto:jhudsp1@dot.state.tx.us)

Proposers shall provide copy of correspondence to:

Diana Vargas  
Texas Department of Transportation  
125 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Fifth Floor  
Austin, Texas 78701  
PH: (512) 936-0974  
Fax: (512) 936-0970  
Email: [dvargas@dot.state.tx.us](mailto:dvargas@dot.state.tx.us)

From time to time during the procurement process or during the term of the CDA, TxDOT may designate another Authorized Representative or representatives to carry out some or all of TxDOT's obligations pertaining to the Project.

TxDOT has designated the following individual who is not involved in the procurement to be the ombudsman for the procurement:

Rebecca Blewett, Esq.  
Associate General Counsel  
Texas Department of Transportation  
125 East 11th Street, Fifth Floor  
Austin, Texas 78701  
E-mail Address: rblewet@dot.state.tx.us

The ombudsman's role and the methods for communicating with the ombudsman are described in Section 2.3.3.

## **2.2.2 Identification of Proposer Representative**

If a Proposer changes its designated representative to receive documents, communications or notices in connection with the procurement subsequent to its submission of the QS, Proposer shall provide TxDOT's Authorized Representative with the name and address of such new designated representative. Failure to identify a designated representative in writing may result in Proposer failing to receive important communications from TxDOT. TxDOT is not responsible for any such failure.

## **2.2.3 Rules of Contact**

From the date of issuance of the RFQ until December 21, 2006, the rules of contact provisions in the RFQ were applicable to this procurement. Starting on December 21, 2006, the date the Industry Review Package was issued, and ending on the earliest of (i) execution and delivery of the CDA, (ii) rejection of all Proposals by TxDOT or (iii) cancellation of the RFP, the following rules of contact shall apply. These rules are designed to promote a fair and unbiased procurement process. Contact includes face-to-face, telephone, facsimile, electronic-mail (e-mail), or formal written communication.

The specific rules of contact are as follows:

(a) No Proposer nor any of its team members may communicate with another Proposer or its team members with regard to the RFP or either team's Proposal, except that (i) subcontractors that are shared between two or more Proposer teams may communicate with their respective team members so long as those Proposers establish a protocol to ensure that the subcontractor will not act as a conduit of information between the teams and (ii) this prohibition does not apply to public discussions regarding the RFP at any TxDOT sponsored informational meetings.

(b) Each Proposer shall designate one representative responsible for contacts with TxDOT, and shall correspond with TxDOT regarding the RFP only through TxDOT's Authorized Representative and Proposer's designated representative.

(c) No Proposer or representative thereof shall have any ex parte communications regarding the RFP or the procurement described herein with any member of the Texas Transportation Commission or with any TxDOT staff, advisors, contractors or consultants involved with the procurement, except for communications expressly permitted by the RFP or except as approved in advance by the Authorized Representative or the Director of the Texas Turnpike Authority Division, in his/her sole discretion. The foregoing restriction shall not, however, preclude or restrict communications with regard to matters unrelated to the RFP or participation in public meetings of the Commission or any public or Proposer workshop related to the RFP. Any Proposer engaging in such prohibited communications may be disqualified at the sole discretion of TxDOT.

(d) Except to the extent that NTTA participates in workshops or one-on-one meetings as set forth in Section 2.5.2 or as otherwise approved in writing by TxDOT, Proposers shall not communicate with NTTA regarding the Project. There will be no one-on-one meetings with NTTA between the Proposal Due Date and conditional award. The successful Proposer will have the opportunity to request one-on-one meetings with TxDOT and NTTA to discuss the provision of optional services by NTTA, however, discussions regarding changes to the mandatory services are prohibited. Proposers shall not contact any of the other Stakeholders regarding the Project, except as specifically approved in advance by TxDOT in writing.

(e) Any communications determined by TxDOT, in its sole discretion, to be improper may result in disqualification.

(f) Any official information regarding the Project will be in writing, on TxDOT letterhead, and signed by TxDOT's Authorized Representative or designee.

(g) TxDOT will not be responsible for any oral exchange or any other information or exchange that occurs outside the official process specified herein.

Proposer shall note that no correspondence or information from TxDOT or anyone representing TxDOT regarding the RFP or the Proposal process in general shall have any effect unless it is in compliance with Section 2.2.3(f).

#### **2.2.4 Communications with FHWA Concerning TIFIA Credit Assistance and FHWA's Review of Financial Proposals**

After TxDOT's receipt of the conditional commitment and term sheet regarding TIFIA credit assistance, Proposers may request to meet with and/or conduct telephone calls with FHWA and its outside advisors to discuss the terms of TIFIA credit assistance that Proposers are considering. TxDOT will have an opportunity to observe such discussions. Proposers also may request FHWA review of preliminary Financial Proposals that include TIFIA credit assistance. If FHWA undertakes such a review,

FHWA will provide TxDOT with preliminary feedback on the results of the review. TxDOT will use the information to assess on a preliminary basis the likelihood that a Proposer will use TIFIA financing in its final Financial Proposal and be successful in obtaining TIFIA financing for the Project if selected.

In connection with any Financial Proposal review and/or meetings and/or calls between Proposer and FHWA, FHWA may request Proposers to submit to FHWA financial models, documents, reports, and other written information necessary to inform FHWA concerning the proposed terms of TIFIA credit assistance and other aspects of the preliminary Financial Proposals, including project cost information, operating expenses, sources and uses of funds, repayment schedules, coverage ratios, traffic and revenue studies, and lender commitments. Should a Proposer fail to submit any or all of the information requested, FHWA may, in its discretion, refuse to consult or limit its consultation with such Proposer or with TxDOT regarding such Proposer.

The confidentiality of any documents, reports, or other written information provided by Proposers to FHWA shall be determined in accordance with 49 C.F.R. Part 7.

Communications between Proposer and FHWA must comply with the following requirements:

- (a) A Proposer will provide TxDOT with reasonable advance written notice of any meeting with FHWA. TxDOT, at its discretion, may participate in any such meeting. In the case of correspondence or email communication to FHWA, a Proposer shall concurrently copy TxDOT's Authorized Representative. In the case of any meeting or telephone call with FHWA, a Proposer shall provide to TxDOT a reasonably detailed written summary of items discussed at the meeting/call, the outcome of any decisions, and any future action items.
- (b) Prior to the submission of any documents, reports, or other written information that a Proposer does not want to be made publicly available, such Proposer may request FHWA to conduct a review of the information pursuant to Section 3.3 of the EDA.
- (c) Following TxDOT's receipt of Proposals, Proposers shall have no further communication with the FHWA until TxDOT's selection of the successful Proposer.

### **2.2.5 Language Requirement**

All correspondence regarding the RFP, ATCs, AFCs, Proposal, and CDA are to be in the English language. If any original documents required for the Proposal are in any other language, Proposer shall provide a certified English translation, which shall take precedence in the event of conflict with the original language.

## **2.3 Questions and Response Process, Addenda, Role of the Ombudsman and Pre-Proposal Submittals**

### **2.3.1 Questions and Responses Regarding the RFP**

Proposers shall be responsible for reviewing the RFP and any Addenda issued by TxDOT prior to the Proposal Due Date, and for requesting written clarification or interpretation of any perceived discrepancy, deficiency, ambiguity, error or omission contained therein, or of any provision which Proposer fails to understand. Failure of Proposer to so examine and inform itself shall be at its sole risk, and no relief for error or omission will be provided by TxDOT. Proposers shall submit, and TxDOT will respond to, requests for written clarification in accordance with this Section 2.3.1. To the extent responses are provided, they will not be considered part of the CDA nor will they be relevant in interpreting the CDA except as they may clarify provisions otherwise considered ambiguous.

TxDOT will only consider questions regarding the RFP, including requests for clarification and requests to correct errors, if submitted by a shortlisted Proposer to the Authorized Representative or TxDOT's designated ombudsman, by hard copy, facsimile, or other electronic transmission in the prescribed format.

Such request may be submitted at any time prior to the applicable last date specified in Section 1.6.1 or such later date as may be specified in any Addendum. Requests for clarification or interpretation must specifically reference the relevant RFP volume, section and page number, unless such request is of general application (in which case the request for clarification shall so note).

No telephone or oral requests will be considered, and e-mail requests must be followed up by a facsimile or other hard copy delivery. Proposers are responsible for ensuring that any written communications clearly indicate on the first page or in the subject line, as applicable, that the material relates to the Project. No requests for additional information or clarification to any person other than TxDOT's Authorized Representative or, subject to compliance with this Section 2.3.1, TxDOT's ombudsman, will be considered. Questions may be submitted only by Proposer's designated representative, and must include the requestor's name, address, telephone and facsimile numbers, and Proposer he/she represents.

The questions and TxDOT's responses will be in writing and will be delivered to all Proposers, except that TxDOT intends to respond individually to those questions identified by a Proposer or deemed by TxDOT as containing confidential or proprietary information relating to a Proposer's ATCs or AFCs. TxDOT reserves the right to disagree with Proposer's assessment regarding confidentiality of information, in the interest of maintaining a fair process or complying with applicable Law, in which case TxDOT may allow Proposer to withdraw the question. TxDOT may rephrase questions as it deems appropriate and may consolidate similar questions. TxDOT contemplates issuing multiple sets of responses at different times during the procurement process. Except for responses to questions relating to Addenda, the last set of responses will be

issued no later than the applicable last date specified in Section 1.6.1. A consolidated, final set of questions and answers will be compiled and distributed prior to final award.

TxDOT may convene pre-Proposal meetings with Proposers as it deems necessary (see Section 2.5), and Proposers must make themselves available to TxDOT for such pre-Proposal meetings and to discuss any matters they submit to TxDOT under this Section 2.3.1. If TxDOT determines, in its sole discretion, that its interpretation or clarification requires a change in the RFP, TxDOT will prepare and issue an Addendum.

### **2.3.2 Addenda**

TxDOT reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to revise, modify or change the RFP and/or procurement process at any time before the Proposal Due Date (or, if Proposal Revisions are requested, prior to the due date for Proposal Revisions). Any such revisions will be implemented through issuance of Addenda to the RFP. Addenda will be posted on the FTP site, and Proposers will be notified of the issuance of such Addenda. If any Addendum significantly impacts the RFP, as determined in TxDOT's sole discretion, TxDOT may change the Proposal Due Date. The announcement of such new date will be included in the Addendum.

Proposer shall acknowledge in its Proposal Letter (see Form A) receipt of all Addenda and question and answer responses. Failure to acknowledge such receipt may cause the Proposal to be deemed non-responsive and be rejected. TxDOT reserves the right to hold group meetings with Proposers and/or one-on-one meetings with each Proposer to discuss any Addenda or response to requests for clarifications. TxDOT does not anticipate issuing any Addenda later than five Business Days prior to the Proposal Due Date. However, if the need arises, TxDOT reserves the right to issue Addenda after such date. If TxDOT finds it necessary to issue an Addendum after such date, then any relevant processes or response times necessitated by the Addendum will be set forth in a cover letter to that specific Addendum.

### **2.3.3 Ombudsman**

As set forth in Section 2.2.1, TxDOT has designated an employee who is not involved in this procurement to act as an ombudsman for the purpose of receiving written communications submitted in accordance with this Section 2.3.3 on a confidential basis. Instead of submitting written communications to the Authorized Representative as provided in Section 2.3.1, a Proposer may submit such confidential communications, and any confidential comments or complaints regarding the procurement, to the ombudsman, where Proposer believes in good faith that confidentiality is essential. A Proposer must submit such confidential communications in a separate document that does not include any information identifying Proposer. After receiving such confidential communications, the ombudsman shall forward only the separate document containing the confidential communication to the Authorized Representative as identified in Section 2.2.1. If the ombudsman determines that the submitted material is not of a confidential nature, the ombudsman shall return the submission to Proposer and instruct Proposer

to submit the communication directly to TxDOT's Authorized Representative in accordance with Section 2.3.1.

## **2.4 [Reserved]**

## **2.5 Pre-Proposal Meetings**

### **2.5.1 Informational Meetings**

TxDOT may hold joint informational meetings with all Proposers at any time prior to the Proposal Due Date. Informational meetings may be held either in person or by telephonic or electronic means. If held telephonically or electronically, the meeting will permit interactive communication between all Proposers and TxDOT. Written notice of any informational meetings will be sent to all Proposers. If the meeting is conducted by telephonic or electronic means, the notice will inform Proposers of the manner of the meeting.

If any informational meeting is held, each Proposer shall attend with appropriate members of its proposed key management personnel, and if required by TxDOT, senior representatives of proposed team members identified by TxDOT.

### **2.5.2 One-on-One Meetings**

TxDOT intends to conduct one-on-one meetings with each Proposer on the dates set forth in Section 1.6.1, and on such other dates designated by TxDOT in writing to Proposers, to discuss issues and clarifications regarding the RFP, Proposer's ATCs and Proposer's AFCs. TxDOT reserves the right to disclose to all Proposers any issues raised during the one-on-one meetings, except to the extent that TxDOT determines, in its sole discretion, such disclosure would impair the confidentiality of an ATC or an AFC, or would reveal a Proposer's confidential business strategies. Participation at such meetings by Proposers shall be mandatory. TxDOT may permit NTTA to participate in one-on-one meetings for the purposes of describing the terms of NTTA Tolling Services Agreement.

The one-on-one meetings are subject to the following rules:

- The meetings are intended to provide Proposers with a better understanding of the RFP.
- TxDOT will not discuss with any Proposer any Proposal, ATC or AFC other than its own.
- Proposers shall not seek to obtain commitments from TxDOT or NTTA in the meetings or otherwise seek to obtain an unfair competitive advantage over any other Proposer.



- No aspect of these meetings is intended to provide any Proposer with access to information that is not similarly available to other Proposers, and no part of the evaluation of Proposals will be based on the conduct or discussions that occur during these meetings.

Persons attending the one-on-one meetings will be required to sign an acknowledgment and waiver that addresses the foregoing rules and to identify all participants from Proposer whether attending in person or by phone.

### **2.5.3 Questions and Responses During One-on-One Meetings**

During one-on-one meetings, Proposers may ask questions and TxDOT may provide responses. However, any responses provided by TxDOT during one-on-one meetings may not be relied upon unless questions were submitted in writing and TxDOT provided written responses in accordance with Section 2.3.1. The questions and TxDOT's responses will be provided in writing to all Proposers, except to the extent such questions are deemed by TxDOT to contain confidential or proprietary information relating to a particular Proposer's Proposal, ATCs or AFCs.

### **2.5.4 Statements at Meetings**

Nothing stated at any pre-proposal meeting or included in a written record or summary of a meeting will modify the ITP or any other part of the RFP unless it is incorporated in an Addendum issued pursuant to Section 2.3.2.

## **2.6 Confidentiality/Public Information Act Disclosure Requests**

### **2.6.1 Disclosure Waiver**

Each Proposer, by submitting a Proposal to TxDOT in response to the RFP, consents to the disclosures described in this ITP, including this Section 2.6 and Section 5.15, and expressly waives any right to contest, impede, prevent or delay such disclosure, or to initiate any proceeding that may have the effect of impeding, preventing or delaying such disclosure, under Section 223.204 of the Code, the Rules, the Act or any other law relating to the confidentiality or disclosure of information. Under no circumstances will TxDOT be responsible or liable to a Proposer or any other party as a result of disclosing any such materials. Proposer hereby further agrees to assist TxDOT in complying with these disclosure requirements if it is the selected Proposer.

### **2.6.2 Observers During Evaluation**

Proposers are advised that observers from federal or other agencies, including representatives appointed by the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) may observe the Proposal evaluation process and will have the opportunity to review the Proposals after the Proposal Due Date. Prior to the submission of final Proposals, Proposers will also have the opportunity to meet separately with representatives of the TIFIA Joint Program Office and their outside advisors. The confidentiality of any information presented to the TIFIA Joint Program representatives is governed by 49 CFR Part 7;

furthermore, FHWA has agreed to take reasonable steps to prevent this information from becoming a public record. Outside advisors to FHWA will be required to sign TxDOT's standard confidentiality agreement.

### **2.6.3 Public Disclosure of Proposal Documents**

Proposers are advised that the information contained in Form J (Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement) and the Executive Summary of each Proposal may be publicly disclosed by TxDOT at any time, in TxDOT's sole discretion.

Proposers are advised that upon recommendation to the Commission of the selection of an apparent best value Proposer, in TxDOT's sole discretion, TxDOT may publicly release the selected apparent best-value Proposer's Form U (Financial Summary Disclosure Form) or any information contained therein. In the event TxDOT is unable to reach agreement on the CDA with the selected apparent best-value Proposer and TxDOT, in accordance with applicable law, chooses to enter into negotiations with the next highest ranking Proposer, then the Form U submitted by the next such highest ranking Proposer and any information contained therein may be publicly disclosed by TxDOT, in TxDOT's sole discretion.

After final award, or in the event that the procurement is cancelled by TxDOT, TxDOT shall have the right to publicly disclose any and all portions of all the Proposals, except the Escrowed Materials. The Escrowed Materials shall be subject to disclosure as described in Section 2.6.4.

### **2.6.4 Disclosure Process for Requests Under the Act**

If a request is made under the Act for disclosure of the Proposals or information contained therein, other than information which may be otherwise disclosed pursuant to the Proposer's express consent given in accordance with Section 2.6.1, TxDOT will submit a request for an opinion from the Office of the Attorney General prior to disclosing any such documents. Proposer shall then have the opportunity to assert its basis for non-disclosure of such documents and claimed exception under the Act or other applicable Law to the Office of the Attorney General within the time period specified in the notice issued by TxDOT and allowed under the Act. However, it is the responsibility of Proposer to monitor such proceedings and make timely filings. TxDOT may, but is not obligated to, make filings of its own concerning possible disclosure; however, TxDOT is under no obligation to support the positions of Proposer. By submitting a Proposal to TxDOT in response to the RFP, Proposer consents to, and expressly waives any right to contest, the provision by TxDOT to the Office of the Attorney General of all, or representative samples of, the Proposal, including Escrowed Materials, in accordance with the Act and each Proposer consents to the release of all such information to the Attorney General for purposes of the Attorney General making a determination in response to a disclosure request under the Act. Under no circumstances will TxDOT be responsible or liable to a Proposer or any other party as a

result of disclosing any such materials, whether the disclosure is deemed required by Law or by an order of court or the Office of the Attorney General or occurs through inadvertence, mistake or negligence on the part of TxDOT or its officers, employees, contractors or consultants.

All Proposers should obtain and thoroughly familiarize themselves with the Act, Code and any Rules applicable to the issue of confidentiality and public information. TxDOT will not advise a Proposer as to the nature or content of documents entitled to protection from disclosure under the Code, the Act or other Texas Laws, as to the interpretation of such Laws, or as to definition of trade secret. Proposer shall be solely responsible for all determinations made by it under applicable Laws. Each Proposer is advised to contact its own legal counsel concerning the effect of applicable Laws to that Proposer's own circumstances.

In the event of any proceeding or litigation concerning the disclosure of any Proposal or portion thereof, including Escrowed Materials, submitted by Proposer, Proposer shall be responsible for prosecuting or defending any action concerning the materials at its sole expense and risk; provided, however, that TxDOT reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to intervene or participate in the litigation in such manner as it deems necessary or desirable. All costs and fees (including attorneys' fees and costs) incurred by TxDOT in connection with any litigation, proceeding or request for disclosure shall be reimbursed and paid by Proposer whose Proposal is the subject thereof.

## **2.7 TxDOT Studies and Investigations**

TxDOT has completed its Site investigations and traffic and revenue studies and does not anticipate undertaking any further investigative activities during the procurement process. To the extent TxDOT undertakes any additional investigative activities, the information obtained by TxDOT from such activities may be made available to Proposers.

## **2.8 Examination of RFP and Access to Site**

### **2.8.1 Examination of RFP**

Each Proposer shall be solely responsible for examining, with appropriate care and diligence, the RFP, including Reference Information Documents and any Addenda, and material posted on the FTP site, and for informing itself with respect to any and all conditions which may in any way affect the amount or nature of its Proposal, or the performance of its obligations following award if Proposer enters into the CDA with TxDOT. Each Proposer also is responsible for monitoring the FTP site for information concerning the RFP and the procurement. The Proposal Letter (Form A) includes an acknowledgment that Proposer has received and reviewed all materials posted thereon. Failure of Proposer to so examine and inform itself shall be at its sole risk, and TxDOT will provide no relief for any error or omission.

Each Proposer is responsible for conducting such investigations as it deems appropriate in connection with its Proposal, regarding the condition of existing facilities

and Site conditions, including Hazardous Materials, permanent and temporary Utility appurtenances, area population, traffic patterns and driver preferences, keeping in mind the provisions of the CDA regarding assumption of liability by Proposer. Proposer's receipt of TxDOT-furnished information does not relieve Proposer of such responsibility.

The submission of a Proposal shall be considered prima facie evidence that Proposer has made the above-described examination and is satisfied as to the conditions to be encountered in performing the Work and as to the requirements of the CDA Documents.

### **2.8.2 Existing Construction Work Site Information and Access**

After issuance of the RFP and through the Proposal Due Date, Proposers will be provided with project updates concerning the status of existing IH 635 construction. These updates will be considered additions to the Reference Information Documents described in Section 1.4. In addition, Proposers may access the Site for investigations with TxDOT's prior written consent through the process outlined in Section 2.8.3.

### **2.8.3 Other Access**

An expedited process for obtaining rights of entry to access portions of the Project is attached hereto as Exhibit I. Pursuant to the terms set forth in Exhibit I and subject to Proposer obtaining any required administrative or governmental approvals, each Proposer will be permitted to conduct data mining studies and investigations for purposes of obtaining additional traffic and revenue information that Proposer deems necessary; provided, however, that Proposer shall not (i) interrupt or impede traffic flow; (ii) stop traffic at cross-streets or intersections or otherwise to solicit information; and/or (iii) request any vehicle/owner data or information from TxDOT prohibited by Law. Proposers will be allowed access, through the Proposal Due Date, to those portions of the Project under TxDOT ownership that are not currently under construction, subject to the conditions specified in Exhibit I, for purposes of inspecting in-place assets and determining Site conditions through non-destructive investigations. This work may include surveys and site investigations, such as geotechnical, Hazardous Materials and Utilities investigations.

After conditional award, the successful Proposer will be allowed access to the Project Right of Way that TxDOT owns, in accordance with the process described in this Section 2.8.3, in order to conduct surveys and site investigations, including geotechnical, Hazardous Materials and Utilities investigations, and to engage in the other activities that are allowed prior to NTP2.

## **2.9 Errors**

If any mistake, error, or ambiguity is identified by Proposer at any time during the procurement process in any of the documents supplied by TxDOT, Proposer shall have a duty to notify TxDOT of the recommended correction in writing in accordance with Section 2.3.1.

## **2.10 Improper Conduct**

### **2.10.1 Non-Collusion**

Neither Proposer nor any of its team members shall undertake any of the prohibited activities identified in the Non-Collusion Affidavit (Form F).

### **2.10.2 Organizational Conflicts of Interest**

The rules at 43 Texas Administrative Code § 27.8 regarding organizational conflicts of interest apply to all CDA projects, including this Project. Proposers are advised that the rules may preclude certain firms and their subsidiaries and affiliates from participating on a Proposer team.

By submitting its Proposal, each Proposer agrees that, if an organizational conflict of interest (as defined in the rules) is thereafter discovered, Proposer must make an immediate and full written disclosure to TxDOT that includes a description of the action that Proposer has taken or proposes to take to avoid or mitigate such conflicts. If an organizational conflict of interest is determined to exist, TxDOT may, at its sole discretion, cancel the procurement, disqualify Proposer with a conflict or take other action as necessary to mitigate the conflict. If Proposer was aware of an organizational conflict of interest prior to the award of the CDA and did not disclose the conflict to TxDOT, TxDOT may pursue remedies under the CDA including termination of the CDA for default.

### **2.10.3 Equitable Treatment of Proposers**

During the procurement process (including the process for evaluation of ATCs, AFCs and Proposals), TxDOT will not engage in conduct that treats any Proposer inequitably.

## **2.11 Changes in Proposer's Organization and Submission of Key Personnel**

### **2.11.1 Changes in Proposer's Organization**

In order for a Proposer to remain qualified to submit a Proposal after it has been placed on the shortlist, unless otherwise approved in writing by TxDOT, Proposer's organization as identified in the QS must remain intact for the duration of the procurement process. If a Proposer wishes to make changes in the Major Participants identified in its QS, including, without limitation, additions, deletions, reorganizations and/or role changes in or of any of the foregoing, Proposer shall submit to TxDOT a written request for approval of the change from TxDOT as soon as possible, but in no event later than the applicable last date set forth in Section 1.6.1. Any such request shall be addressed to TxDOT at the address set forth in Section 2.2.1, accompanied by the information specified for such entities or individuals in the RFQ. If a request is made to allow deletion or role change of any Major Participant identified in its QS, Proposer shall submit such information as may be required by TxDOT to demonstrate that the changed team meets the RFQ and RFP criteria (pass/fail and technical). Proposer shall submit an original and five copies of each request package. TxDOT is under no

obligation to approve such requests and may approve or disapprove in writing a portion of the request or the entire request at its sole discretion. Except as provided herein and in the CDA, a Proposer may not make any changes in the Major Participants identified in its QS after the applicable last date set forth in Section 1.6.1. Between the applicable deadline set forth in Section 1.6.1 for submission of changes in Proposer's organization and execution of the CDA, TxDOT will consider requests by Proposers to make changes in Proposers' organization based only on unusual circumstances beyond Proposer's control.

### **2.11.2 Submission of Key Personnel**

Each Proposer shall submit a package that includes an original and five copies of the information specified in this Section 2.11.2 to TxDOT, by the last date and time for submittal of Key Personnel specified in Section 1.6.1, for review and written approval by TxDOT, in its sole discretion. The package shall be delivered to the address set forth in Section 2.2.1, and shall include a list of the proposed Key Personnel for each category identified in Exhibit B, Section 3.2.5.2, along with copies of resumes for each such person (which must contain the individual's qualifications and relevant work experience) and contact information for three references for each individual. If TxDOT, in its sole discretion, disapproves a proposed key person, Proposer shall submit the information required above for its proposed substitute, for review and approval by TxDOT in accordance with the foregoing process, at least ten business days prior to the Proposal Due Date.

### **2.12 Sales Tax**

Proposers should assume that the Project is exempt from sales tax for certain Expendable Materials as more particularly described in the CDA. The selected Proposer will be required to submit a "Texas Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certification" to a seller for exempt items. The referenced form is available online to the public through the Comptroller's website.

## **SECTION 3.0 ALTERNATIVE TECHNICAL CONCEPTS, DRAFT TOLLING PLAN REVIEWS AND ALTERNATIVE FINANCIAL CONCEPTS**

### **3.1 Alternative Technical Concepts**

Sections 3.1 through 3.4 set forth a process for pre-Proposal review of ATCs conflicting with the requirements for design, construction, operation and maintenance of the facilities, or otherwise requiring a modification of the Technical Provisions. This process is intended to allow Proposers to incorporate innovation and creativity into the Proposals, in turn allowing TxDOT to consider Proposer ATCs in making the selection decision, to avoid delays and potential conflicts in the design associated with deferring of reviews of ATCs to the post-award period, and, ultimately, to obtain the best value for the public.

ATCs eligible for consideration hereunder shall be limited to those deviations from the requirements of the as-issued CDA Documents that result in performance and quality of the end product that is equal to or better than the performance and quality of the end product absent the deviation, as determined by TxDOT in its sole discretion. A concept is not an ATC if, in TxDOT's sole judgment, it merely results in reduced quantities, performance or reliability. A concept is not eligible for consideration as an ATC if it is premised upon or would require (a) the addition of a separate TxDOT project to the CDA (such as expansion of the scope of the Project to include additional roadways), (b) a change in the aesthetic or landscaping provisions set forth in Book 2, or (c) an increase in the amount of time required for Service Commencement. ATCs that, if implemented, would require further environmental evaluation of the Project, may be allowed, provided that Developer will bear the schedule and cost risk associated with such additional environmental evaluation. If Developer is not able to obtain the approvals necessary to implement the ATC, Developer will be obligated to develop the Project in accordance with existing approvals without additional cost or extension of time.

Any ATC that has been pre-approved may be included in the Proposal, subject to the conditions set forth herein.

If a Proposer is unsure whether a concept is consistent with the requirements of the RFP or if that concept would be considered an ATC by TxDOT, TxDOT recommends that Proposer submit such concept for review as an ATC.

### **3.2 Pre-Proposal Submission of ATCs**

Proposer may submit ATCs for review to TxDOT at the address specified in Section 2.2.1, until the applicable last date and time identified in Section 1.6.1. All ATCs shall be submitted in writing, with a cover sheet identifying Proposer and stating "IH 635 Managed Lanes Project – Confidential ATCs." Proposer shall clearly identify the submittal as a request for review of an ATC under this ITP. If Proposer does not clearly designate its submittal as an ATC, the submission will not be treated as an ATC

by TxDOT. ATC submittals shall include five copies of a narrative description of the ATC and technical information, including drawings, as described below.

3.2.1 Pre-Proposal ATC submissions shall include:

(a) a sequential ATC number identifying Proposer and the ATC number (multi-part or multi-option ATCs shall be submitted as separate individual ATCs with unique sequential numbers);

(b) a description and conceptual drawings of the configuration of the ATC or other appropriate descriptive information, including a traffic operational analysis, if appropriate;

(c) the locations where, and an explanation of how, the ATC will be used on the Project;

(d) any changes in operations requirements associated with the ATC, including ease of operations;

(e) any changes in maintenance requirements associated with the ATC, including ease of maintenance;

(f) any changes in Handback Requirements associated with the ATC;

(g) any changes in the anticipated life of the item(s) comprising the ATC;

(h) any reduction in the time period necessary to design and construct the Project resulting from implementing the ATC, including, as appropriate, a description of method and commitments;

(i) references to requirements of the RFP which are inconsistent with the proposed ATC, an explanation of the nature of the deviations from said requirements, and a request for approval of such deviations;

(j) the analysis justifying use of the ATC and why the deviation, if any, from the requirements of the RFP should be allowed;

(k) a preliminary analysis of potential impacts on vehicular traffic (both during and after construction), environmental permitting, community impact, safety, and life-cycle Project and infrastructure costs, including impacts on the cost of repair, maintenance and operation;

(l) a preliminary analysis of potential impacts on Project revenue;

(m) if and what additional right of way will be required to implement the ATC (and Proposers are advised that they shall (i) be solely responsible for the acquisition of any such right of way, including the cost thereof and obtaining any necessary Environmental Approvals; (ii) not be entitled to any additional time or money as a result



of Site conditions (i.e., Hazardous Materials, differing site conditions, geotechnical issues, Utilities, etc.) on such additional right of way; and (iii) not be entitled to any additional time or money as a result of any delay, inability or cost associated with the acquisition of such right of way);

(n) a description of other projects where the ATC has been used, the degree of success or failure of such usage and names and contact information including phone numbers and e-mail addresses for project owner representatives that can confirm such statements;

(o) a description of added risks to TxDOT or third parties associated with implementing the ATC;

(p) an estimate of any additional TxDOT, Developer and third party costs associated with implementation of the ATC;

(q) an estimate of any savings that would accrue to TxDOT should the ATC be approved and implemented;

(r) a description of how the ATC is equal or better in quality and performance than the requirements of the RFP; and

(s) a preliminary analysis of potential impacts on the Public Funds Request or Concession Payment, as applicable.

3.2.2 Proposer shall not make any public announcement or disclosure to third parties concerning any ATC until after pre-approval (including conditional pre-approval) has been obtained. Following pre-approval (including conditional pre-approval), if a Proposer wishes to make any such announcement or disclosure, it must first notify TxDOT in writing of its intent to take such action, including details as to date and participants, and obtain TxDOT's prior written consent, in its sole discretion, to do so.

3.2.3 If implementation of an ATC will require approval by a third party (e.g., a governmental authority), Proposer will have full responsibility for, and bear the full risk of, obtaining any such approvals after award of the CDA and submission of data; provided, however, that TxDOT shall retain its role as liaison with any governmental authorities as more particularly described in the CDA and Technical Provisions. If any required third-party approval is not subsequently granted with the result that Proposer must comply with the requirements of the original RFP, Proposer will not be entitled to any additional time or money.

3.2.4 If TxDOT determines, based on a proposed ATC or otherwise, that the RFP contains an error, ambiguity or mistake, TxDOT reserves the right to modify the RFP to correct the error, ambiguity or mistake, regardless of any impact on a proposed ATC.

### 3.3 TxDOT Review of Pre-Proposal Submission of ATCs

TxDOT may request additional information regarding proposed ATCs at any time and will, in each case, return responses to each Proposer regarding its ATC on or before the applicable last date set forth in Section 1.6.1, provided that TxDOT has received all requested information regarding such ATC.

TxDOT's responses will be limited to one of the following statements:

- (a) the ATC is acceptable for inclusion in the Proposal;
- (b) the ATC is not acceptable for inclusion in the Proposal;
- (c) the ATC is not acceptable in its present form, but may be acceptable upon the satisfaction, in TxDOT's sole discretion, of certain identified conditions which must be met or clarifications or modifications that must be made; or
- (d) the submittal does not qualify as an ATC but may be included in Proposer's Proposal because it appears to be within the requirements of the RFP.

TxDOT will make a preliminary determination on whether to accept and approve an ATC for submission. However, Proposer will be responsible for ensuring that the final submittal complies with the requirements of the RFP.

Approval of an ATC will constitute a change in the specific requirements of the CDA Documents associated with the approved ATC for that specific Proposer. Each Proposer, by submittal of its Proposal, acknowledges that the opportunity to submit ATCs was offered to all Proposers, and waives any right to object to TxDOT's determinations regarding acceptability of ATCs.

TxDOT's rejection of a pre-Proposal submission of an ATC will not entitle Proposer to an extension of the Proposal Due Date or the date that the ATCs are due; provided, however, that the foregoing shall not limit TxDOT's absolute and sole right to modify the Proposal Due Date or any other date in connection with this procurement.

TxDOT anticipates that its comments provided to a Proposer will be sufficient to enable Proposer to make any necessary changes to its ATCs. However, if a Proposer wishes additional clarifications regarding necessary changes, Proposer may provide a written request for clarifications under Section 2.3.1.

### 3.4 Incorporation of ATCs in the CDA

Following conditional award, the ATCs that were pre-approved by TxDOT and incorporated in the Proposal by the successful Proposer shall be included in the CDA Documents. If TxDOT responded to any ATC by stating that it would be acceptable if certain conditions were met, those conditions will become part of the CDA Documents. The CDA Documents will be conformed after conditional award, but prior to execution of the CDA, to reflect the ATCs, including any TxDOT conditions thereto. Notwithstanding

anything to the contrary herein, if Developer does not comply with one or more TxDOT conditions of pre-approval for an ATC or Developer fails to obtain a required third party approval for an ATC, Developer will be required to comply with the original requirements of the RFP without additional cost or extension of time as set forth in the CDA.

Prior to final award of the CDA, ATCs from unsuccessful Proposers may, in TxDOT's sole discretion, be presented to the selected Developer for possible incorporation in the CDA during negotiation of the final terms of the CDA pursuant to Section 5.11.1. In addition, following conditional award, ATCs from unsuccessful Proposers may, in TxDOT's sole discretion, be presented to the selected Developer as a TxDOT Change Order in accordance with the CDA.

### **3.5 Draft Tolling Plan**

Proposers shall submit a draft tolling plan for TxDOT's review of general responsiveness to the requirements of the RFP pertaining to tolling regulations set forth in Exhibit 4 to the CDA and Exhibit B, Section 4.3.3.2. Proposers must submit their plan by the applicable last date and time set forth in Section 1.6.1. Submittals shall consist of the limits of toll Segments, general location of toll gantries, HOV declaration zone locations, and the location of HOV enforcement zones.

TxDOT intends to respond in writing to submittals by the applicable last date set forth in Section 1.6.1. TxDOT's response will indicate whether the draft tolling plan, as presented, is generally responsive to the requirements of the CDA and the RFP or whether the submittal is non-responsive. Where the draft tolling plan is found non-responsive, TxDOT will attempt to identify the general areas of the submittal that are non-responsive, and at TxDOT's discretion, TxDOT may request that the plan be resubmitted if it is deemed non-compliant by TxDOT.

### **3.6 Alternative Financial Concepts**

This Section 3.6 sets forth a process for pre-Proposal review of Alternative Financial Concepts ("AFCs"). This process is intended to allow Proposers to incorporate innovation and creativity into the Proposals, in turn allowing TxDOT to consider Proposer AFCs in making the selection decision, to avoid delays and potential conflicts in the commercial terms associated with deferring of reviews of AFCs to the post-award period, and, ultimately, to obtain the best value for the public.

AFCs are defined as changes to the terms of the CDA Documents, subject to the exclusions set forth in Section 3.6.1, that allow (a) financing structures ("Financial AFCs") or (b) structures for the Developer entity and/or Project management and operations ("Structure AFCs") that would otherwise be prohibited or impracticable due to the terms of the as-issued CDA Documents.

TxDOT has sole discretion to allow or reject any AFC submitted. Proposers are advised that TxDOT will allow an AFC only if TxDOT determines that the terms and conditions of the CDA Documents, as modified by the AFC, allow TxDOT substantially the same or better value for money, rights and remedies as the unmodified terms and conditions.

### 3.6.1 Exclusions to AFCs

A concept is not an AFC if, in TxDOT's sole judgment, it reduces TxDOT's value for money, or TxDOT's contractual rights or remedies, including any concepts that include the following:

- a) An increase in the Term;
- b) A change to the tolling provisions, including tolling systems, rates, managed lane pricing and speed requirements, user classifications, exempt vehicles and post-termination tolling provisions;
- c) An increase in TxDOT liability for Project Debt;
- d) Reduction in compensation to TxDOT, including the Concession Payment, Revenue Payments and Refinancing Gain sharing;
- e) Increase in the Public Funds Amount or an adverse change in the draw requirements from the terms set forth in Exhibit 7 to the CDA;
- f) Increase in compensation to the Developer in the event of termination, including provisions relating to Compensation Amounts and Termination Compensation;
- g) A change in the conditions to, or procedures for certifying, Substantial Completion, Service Commencement and Final Acceptance;
- h) A change regarding allocation of responsibilities between TxDOT and Developer for performance of design, permitting, ROW acquisition, Utility Adjustments, construction, operations, maintenance, Renewal Work, Upgrades, Technology Enhancements, Safety Compliance or Handback Requirements;
- i) A change to the provisions addressing Compensation Events and Relief Events, or any other modifications that would allocate additional risk to TxDOT or reduce risks assumed by Developer;
- j) A change to the provisions on the role or scope of the Independent Engineer;
- k) A change to the provisions relating to Unplanned Revenue Impacting Facilities;
- l) A change to the provisions regarding Developer default, notice, cure periods, remedies and dispute resolution, except to the extent such change would result in more favorable terms to TxDOT;
- m) A change to the Lender rights and protections provided in the CDA Documents, except insofar as an AFC not directed at such provisions incidentally would require amendment of such provisions in order for the AFC to work;

- n) A change to the provisions relating to Noncompliance Points and related remedies, except to the extent such change would result in more favorable terms to TxDOT;
- o) A change to the termination provisions, except to the extent such change would result in neutral or more favorable terms to TxDOT;
- p) A change to the provisions regarding lender direct agreements, except insofar as an AFC not directed at lender direct agreements would require entry into or amendment of a direct lender agreement in order for the AFC to work; or
- q) A change resulting in requirements for insurance, performance security, proposal security or indemnities that would be less favorable to TxDOT.

### **3.6.2 Pre-Proposal Submission of AFCs**

Proposer may submit AFCs for review to TxDOT at the address specified in Section 2.2.1, until the applicable last date and time identified in Section 1.6.1. All AFCs shall be submitted in writing, with a cover sheet identifying Proposer and stating "IH 635 Managed Lanes Project – Confidential AFCs." Proposer shall clearly identify the submittal as a request for review of an AFC under this ITP. If Proposer does not clearly designate its submittal as an AFC, the submission will not be treated as an AFC by TxDOT.

Any AFC that has been pre-approved may be included in the Proposal, subject to the conditions set forth herein.

If a Proposer is unsure whether a concept is consistent with the requirements of the RFP or if that concept would be considered an AFC by TxDOT, TxDOT recommends that Proposer submit such concept for review as an AFC.

Pre-Proposal AFC submissions shall include five copies of the following:

- a) a sequential AFC number identifying Proposer and the AFC number (multi-part or multi-option AFCs shall be submitted as separate individual AFCs with unique sequential numbers);
- b) a detailed narrative description of the AFC, including a designation of the AFC as either a Financial AFC or a Structure AFC;
- c) an explanation of the value of the AFC to TxDOT;
- d) an explanation and detailed description of each proposed change to the as-issued CDA Documents, including a detailed mark-up of each provision in the as-issued CDA Documents that will be changed as a result of the AFC;
- e) the analysis justifying use of the AFC, which may include an explanation of how the proposed changes to the CDA Documents will provide TxDOT substantially

the same (or better) rights and remedies as the unmodified terms and conditions;  
and

- f) an estimate of any savings that would accrue to TxDOT should the AFC be approved and implemented.

### **3.6.3 Modifications to RFP**

If TxDOT determines, as the result of review of a proposed AFC or otherwise, that the RFP contains an error, ambiguity or mistake, TxDOT reserves the right to modify the RFP to correct the error, ambiguity or mistake, regardless of any impact on a proposed AFC. Furthermore, TxDOT may modify the RFP Documents to incorporate modifications proposed by an AFC, provided that TxDOT (a) will not advise the other Proposers that the modification is associated with an AFC, and (b) will not make any modification if TxDOT determines that such modification would compromise a Proposer's intellectual property.

### **3.6.4 TxDOT Review of Pre-Proposal Submission of AFCs**

TxDOT may request additional information regarding proposed AFCs at any time and will, in each case, return responses to each Proposer regarding its AFC on or before the applicable last date set forth in Section 1.6.1, provided that TxDOT has received all requested information regarding such AFC.

TxDOT's responses will be limited to one of the following statements:

- a) the AFC, as submitted, is acceptable for inclusion in the Proposal;
- b) the submittal is not acceptable for inclusion in the Proposal;
- c) the AFC is not acceptable in its present form, but will be acceptable upon satisfaction, in TxDOT's sole discretion, of certain identified conditions which must be met or clarifications or modifications that must be made; or
- d) the concept in the submittal is permitted under the RFP Documents.

Approval of an AFC will constitute a change in the specific requirements of the CDA Documents associated with the approved AFC for that specific Proposer. Each Proposer, by submittal of its Proposal, acknowledges that the opportunity to submit AFCs was offered to all Proposers, and waives any right to object to TxDOT's determinations regarding acceptability of AFCs.

TxDOT anticipates that its comments provided to a Proposer will be sufficient to enable Proposer to make any necessary changes to its AFCs. However, if a Proposer wishes additional clarifications regarding necessary changes, Proposer may provide a written request for clarifications under Section 2.3.1.

### **3.6.5 Incorporation of AFCs in the CDA**

Following conditional award, the AFCs that were pre-approved by TxDOT and incorporated in the Proposal by the successful Proposer shall be included in the CDA Documents in the form pre-approved by TxDOT. If TxDOT responded to any AFC by stating that it would be acceptable if certain conditions, clarifications or modifications were met, those identified conditions, clarifications or modifications will become part of the CDA Documents. The CDA Documents will be conformed after award, but prior to execution of the CDA, to reflect the AFCs.

Following conditional award, AFCs from unsuccessful Proposers may, in TxDOT's sole discretion, be presented to the selected Developer as a TxDOT Change Order in accordance with the CDA.

### **3.7 Confidentiality**

Subject to the provisions of the Act and Section 223.204 of the Code, ATCs, draft tolling plans, AFCs and all communications regarding ATCs, draft tolling plans and AFCs will remain confidential until conditional award or cancellation of the procurement, at which time all confidentiality rights, if any, shall be of no further force and effect except as otherwise allowed under the Act, applicable Law, and Section 2.6. By submitting a Proposal, Proposer agrees, if it is not selected, to disclosure of its work product to the successful Proposer.

## **SECTION 4.0 REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMITTAL OF PROPOSALS AND ACCEPTANCE OF DELIVERY BY TXDOT**

### **4.1 General Submittal Requirements**

Each Proposal shall include a Technical Proposal and a Financial Proposal meeting the requirements set forth in Exhibits B and C.

#### **4.1.1 Proposal Due Date**

The completed Proposal shall be delivered in sealed containers no later than the Proposal Due Date, except for the Cost and Pricing Data, which may be delivered after the Proposal Due Date pursuant to Section 4.4.4.

#### **4.1.2 Signatures Required**

The Proposal Letter (Form A) shall be signed in blue ink by all parties making up Proposer, and shall be accompanied by evidence of signatory authorization as specified in Form A.

#### **4.1.3 Certified Copies**

Where certified copies of the Proposal are required, Proposer shall mark the document or cover with the words "Certified True Copy" and have the mark oversigned by Proposer's designated representative.

#### **4.1.4 Consequences of Failure to Follow Requirements**

Failure to use sealed containers or to properly identify the Proposal may result in an inadvertent early opening of the Proposal and may result in disqualification of the Proposal. Proposer shall be entirely responsible for any consequences, including disqualification of the Proposal, which result from any inadvertent opening if TxDOT determines that Proposer did not follow the foregoing instructions. It is Proposer's sole responsibility to see that its Proposal is received as required. Proposals received after the time due will be rejected without consideration or evaluation.

### **4.2 Requirement to Submit Compliant Proposal**

The Proposal may not include any qualifications, conditions, exceptions to or deviations from the requirements of the RFP, except as contained in pre-approved ATCs and AFCs (including conditionally pre-approved ATCs and AFCs that have been revised to satisfy any conditions to approval). If the Proposal does not fully comply with the instructions and rules contained in this ITP, including the exhibits and forms, it may be considered non-responsive or non-compliant. Alterations that have been approved in writing in advance by TxDOT will not be considered material.



If a Proposal is deemed non-responsive or non-compliant, TxDOT may disqualify the Proposal from further consideration, in its sole discretion. Such disqualification will not result in the forfeiture of Proposer's Proposal Security.

Each Proposer, by submittal of its Proposal, shall be deemed to have agreed to the foregoing.

Each Proposal must be submitted in the format which is specified by TxDOT in the RFP. Proposer shall sign the original copy of the Proposal submitted to TxDOT. Multiple or alternate proposals may not be submitted.

Proposals may be considered non-compliant and may be rejected for any of the following reasons:

(a) If the Proposal is submitted in paper form or on disk other than that specified by TxDOT; if it is not properly signed; if any part of the Proposal is missing from the Proposal package, and/or if it otherwise does not meet the Proposal submittal requirements;

(b) If TxDOT determines that the Proposal contains irregularities that make the Proposal incomplete, indefinite, or ambiguous as to its meaning, including illegible text, omissions, erasures, alterations, or items not called for in the RFP, or unauthorized additions;

(c) If multiple or alternate Proposals are submitted or if the Proposal includes any conditions or provisions reserving the right to accept or reject an award or to enter into a CDA following award;

(d) If Proposer attempts to limit or modify the Proposal Security, if the Proposal Security (see Exhibit B, Section 3.3) is not provided, and/or if requested information deemed material by TxDOT is not provided; and

(e) Any other reason TxDOT determines the Proposal to be non-compliant.

### **4.3 Format**

The Proposal shall contain concise written material and drawings enabling a clear understanding and evaluation of the capabilities of Proposer and the characteristics and benefits of the Proposal. Legibility, clarity, and completeness of the Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal are essential. The Technical Proposal shall not exceed the page limitation set forth in Exhibit B, Section 2.0. No page limit applies to appendices and exhibits, however, TxDOT does not commit to review any information in appendices and exhibits other than those required to be provided, and the Proposal evaluation process will focus on the body of the Proposal and any required appendices and exhibits.

An 8 ½ by 11-inch format is required for typed submissions and an 11 by 17-inch format is required for drawings, except that design drawings may be submitted on scroll mats

not to exceed 34 inches in width (and such design drawings shall be submitted on CD or DVD in Adobe (.pdf) format and in Bentley Microstation format).

Submittals must be bound with all pages in a binder sequentially numbered. Printed lines may be single-spaced with the type font size being no smaller than 12-point. The use of 11 by 17-inch foldouts for tables, graphics and maps is acceptable in the main body of the Proposal. Each 11 by 17–inch foldout will be considered one page.

#### **4.4 Additional Requirements for Proposal Delivery**

The Proposal is to be delivered to TxDOT at the following address, except for the Escrowed Materials, which shall be delivered to the Escrow Agent as specified in Section 4.4.4:

Phillip E. Russell, P.E.  
Texas Department of Transportation  
Texas Turnpike Authority  
125 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701-2483

Each binder of the Proposal shall be labeled to indicate its contents. The original Technical and Financial Proposals shall be clearly identified as “original”; copies of the Proposals shall be sequentially numbered, labeled and bound.

##### **4.4.1 Technical Proposal**

All of the binders comprising the original Technical Proposal, together with an electronic copy on one or more CDs and the envelopes described in Section 4.4.2, shall be packaged in a single container, clearly addressed to TxDOT as provided herein, and labeled “[Proposer Name]: Original Technical Proposal for the TxDOT IH 635 Managed Lanes Project.” Proposer shall provide 20 certified copies of the Technical Proposal (except for the Proposal Security and Escrow Agreement). The containers that include the required hard copies of the Technical Proposal shall be labeled “Copies of Technical Proposal for the TxDOT IH 635 Managed Lanes Project.”

The electronic copy shall be in Adobe (.pdf) format on CD(s); provided, however, that (a) Proposal forms may be submitted in either Adobe or Word format, and (b) corporate, partnership, joint venture and limited liability company documents (e.g., articles of incorporation, bylaws, partnership agreements, joint venture agreements and limited liability company operating agreements) may be submitted in hard copy and need not be submitted electronically.

##### **4.4.2 Proposal Security and Escrow Agreement**

One original and three certified copies of the Proposal Security shall be provided with the Technical Proposal, and shall be in a separate envelope labeled “[Proposer Name]: Proposal Security for the TxDOT IH 635 Managed Lanes Project.” A copy of the executed Escrow Agreement shall be provided with the Technical Proposal, in a

separate envelope labeled “[Proposer Name]: Escrow Agreement for the TxDOT IH 635 Managed Lanes Project.”

#### **4.4.3 Financial Proposal**

One original and six certified copies of the Financial Proposal (excluding the Escrowed Materials) shall be delivered to TxDOT, together with one electronic copy of the Financing Plan in either Adobe or Word format . The documents shall be included in a sealed container labeled “[Proposer Name]: Financial Proposal for the TxDOT IH 635 Managed Lanes Project.”

#### **4.4.4 Escrowed Materials**

The Financial Model, Form K, Form K-1, Form T, and non-public financial statements (collectively referred to herein as the “Escrowed Materials”) shall be delivered into escrow in one or more sealed containers labeled: “[Proposer Name]: Escrowed Financial Proposal for the TxDOT IH 635 Managed Lanes Project—Financial Model and Forms,” (see Exhibit E). The Cost and Pricing Data shall be delivered into escrow not later than seven days after the Proposal Due Date.

Proposers are advised that certain line-item information contained in Form K (or, if applicable, Form K-1) is included in Form U (the Financial Summary Form), which is subject to public disclosure pursuant to Section 2.6. Proposers are also advised that prior to final award, portions of Developer’s Form T will be incorporated into the executed CDA and will no longer be held as Escrow Materials.

Proposer shall provide TxDOT with the name, address and contact information of Proposer’s selected Escrow Agent by the applicable last date set forth in Section 1.6.1. Proposer shall deliver to the Escrow Agent chosen by Proposer the Escrowed Materials, along with three completed original Escrow Agreements executed by Proposer in substantially the form attached as Form M. The documents shall be delivered to the Escrow Agent at the address identified in the Escrow Agreement, which shall be located within a 10 mile radius of 125 East 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, Texas. The Escrow Agent chosen by Proposer must be unaffiliated with Proposer and otherwise must be free of any conflict of interest. A copy of the executed Escrow Agreement shall be included in the Technical Proposal as specified in Section 4.4.2.

#### **4.5 Currency**

All required pricing, revenue and cost information shall be provided in US\$ currency only.

#### **4.6 Modifications, Withdrawals and Late Submittals**

##### **4.6.1 Modifications to a Proposal**

A Proposer may modify its Proposal in writing prior to the specified time on the Proposal Due Date. The modification shall conform in all respects to the requirements for

submission of a Proposal. Modifications shall be clearly delineated as such on the face of the document to prevent confusion with the original Proposal and shall specifically state that the modification supersedes the previous Proposal and all previous modifications, if any. If multiple modifications are submitted, they shall be sequentially numbered so TxDOT can accurately identify the final Proposal. The modification must contain complete Proposal sections, complete pages or complete forms as described in Exhibits B and C. Line item changes will not be accepted. No facsimile or other electronically transmitted modifications will be permitted.

#### **4.6.2 Withdrawal and Validity of Proposals**

Proposer may withdraw its Proposal at any time prior to the time due on the Proposal Due Date by means of a written request signed by Proposer or its properly authorized representative. Such written request shall be delivered to the address in Section 2.2.1. A withdrawal of a Proposal will not prejudice the right of a Proposer to file a new Proposal provided that it is received before the time due on the Proposal Due Date. No Proposal may be withdrawn on or after the time due on the Proposal Due Date and any attempt to do so will result in a draw by TxDOT upon the Proposal Security. Proposals shall be valid for a period of 180 days after the Proposal Due Date. Except as expressly set forth herein, no Proposal may be withdrawn on or after the time due on the Proposal Due Date and any attempt to do so will result in a draw by TxDOT upon the Proposal Security. Proposals shall be valid for a period of 180 days after the Proposal Due Date. No Proposer shall withdraw its Proposal within the 180-day period, unless notified by TxDOT that (i) no CDA for the Project will be awarded by TxDOT pursuant to the RFP (ii) TxDOT has awarded the CDA to another Proposer and has received the executed CDA and other required documents, (iii) TxDOT does not intend to award the contract to the Proposer; or (iv) such Proposer is not the apparent best value or next highest ranking Proposer.

Any Proposer may elect, in its sole discretion, to extend the validity of its Proposal beyond the time periods set forth above.

#### **4.6.3 Late Proposals**

TxDOT will not consider any late Proposals. Proposals and/or modification or withdrawal requests received after the time for submittal of Proposals will be returned to Proposer without consideration or evaluation.

### **4.7 Forfeiture of Proposal Security**

Each Proposer, by submittal of its Proposal, shall be deemed to have agreed to the following:

#### **4.7.1 Failure to Meet Commitments**

The Proposal Security is subject to forfeiture if (a) the Proposer is selected as the apparent best value Proposer and fails to increase the Proposal Security as required under Exhibit B, Section 3.3, or (b) the Proposer withdraws, repudiates or otherwise

indicates in writing that it will not meet any commitments made in its Proposal except as specifically permitted hereunder.

#### **4.7.2 Failure to Close**

The Proposal Security is subject to forfeiture if the Proposer is selected as the apparent best value Proposer but fails to achieve Delivery by the deadline set forth in Section 1.6.2, unless such failure to achieve Delivery is directly attributable to items (a), (b), (h), (i) and (j) below; or Proposer fails to achieve financial close by the deadline set forth in Section 1.6.3, as may be extended pursuant to Section 5.11.6, unless such failure to achieve financial close is directly attributable to items (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g) below, or fails to deposit the Concession Payment (if applicable) by the applicable deadline in accordance with Section 6.1.2.

(a) TxDOT's failure to provide timely responses to Post-Selection Deliverables in accordance with Section 5.12.3, except during any period TxDOT suspends negotiations pursuant to Section 8.1(g);

(b) Proposer's failure to reach agreement with TxDOT and the Independent Engineer on the terms of the Independent Engineer Agreement, provided the Proposer has engaged in good faith negotiations with TxDOT and the Independent Engineer as set forth in Section 5.14;

(c) litigation challenging a NEPA Approval that is filed before lapse of the applicable statute of limitations and remains pending on the applicable deadline for financial close in accordance with Section 5.13;

(d) the State's credit rating drops below A+ from Standard & Poor's and A2 from Moody's;

(e) if PABs are part of the initial financing under Proposer's Financial Proposal, the refusal or unreasonable delay of the PABs Issuer to issue bonds in the amount that Proposer's underwriters are prepared to underwrite, provided that such refusal or delay is not due to any fault or less than diligent efforts of Proposer, including Proposer's failure to satisfy all requirements that it is obligated to satisfy under that certain agreement to be entered into by TxDOT, Proposer and the PABs Issuer relating to the responsibilities of the parties with respect to the issuance of the PABs in the form provided to Proposers prior to the Proposal Due Date. **Delay by the PABs Issuer shall not be considered unreasonable where the financing schedule Developer establishes does not provide the PABs Issuer normal and customary time periods for carrying the ordinary and necessary functions of a conduit issuer of tax-exempt bonds;**

(f) if PABs are part of the initial financing under Proposer's Financial Proposal, (a) the refusal of the PABs Issuer's counsel to allow closing of the PABs where the bond counsel is ready to give an unqualified opinion regarding the validity of the issuance of the PABs and the tax exempt status of interest paid on the PABs, unless the basis for such refusal is that it would be unreasonable for bond counsel to deliver the opinion **or (b) the unreasonable delay of the PABs Issuer's counsel to allow**

closing of the PABs. Delay by the PABs Issuer's counsel shall not be considered unreasonable where the financing schedule Developer establishes does not provide the PABs Issuer's counsel normal and customary time periods for carrying out the ordinary and necessary functions of such counsel to a conduit issuer of tax-exempt bonds;

(g) if TIFIA credit assistance is part of the initial financing under Proposer's Financial Proposal, the failure of the TIFIA JPO to close financing after Proposer has satisfied all requirements and conditions of the conditional term sheet and draft credit agreement provided to Proposers prior to the Proposal Due Date;

(h) TxDOT's or the Independent Engineer's failure to attend and participate in reasonably scheduled negotiation meetings concerning the Independent Engineer Agreement in accordance with Section 5.14, except during any period TxDOT suspends negotiations pursuant to Section 8.1(g);

(i) TxDOT's failure to timely execute and deliver the CDA in accordance with Section 6.1, unless such delay is attributable to Proposer; or

(j) TxDOT's election not to enter into the CDA in the form included with the RFP, following (A) TxDOT's election to commence negotiations regarding the CDA, (B) Proposer engaging in good faith negotiations as set forth in Section 5.11.1, and (C) failure of the parties to agree upon changes to the terms of the CDA.

#### **4.8 Acceptance of Delivery by TxDOT**

TxDOT will provide a receipt for Proposals that are timely delivered to TxDOT as specified herein. Proposer will be responsible for obtaining a delivery receipt from the Escrow Agent and obtaining the Escrow Agent's signature on the Escrow Agreements.

A TxDOT representative will visit the Escrow Agent's office on or shortly after the Proposal Due Date to examine the Escrowed Materials and obtain a fully executed copy of the Escrow Agreement.

#### **4.9 Costs Not Reimbursable**

The cost of preparing the Proposal and any costs incurred at any time before final award, including costs incurred for any interviews, payment owing to Proposer's Escrow Agent, costs associated with Post-Selection Deliverables and costs relating to the finance process, shall be borne by Proposer, except for any costs paid in accordance with Section 6.3.

## **SECTION 5.0 EVALUATION AND POST-SELECTION PROCESS**

TxDOT's goal is to create a fair and uniform basis for the evaluation of the Proposals in compliance with all applicable legal requirements governing this procurement.

The Proposal evaluation process will include an initial review of each Proposal for responsiveness and pass-fail criteria, followed by a subsequent responsiveness and qualitative evaluation of the Project Development Plan, subsequent responsiveness evaluation of the Financial Proposal and a net present value determination of the Public Funds Request (if applicable) and a best value determination. The process may include a request for Proposal Revisions, and may include a negotiations phase with the selected Proposer(s). The steps in the process and evaluation criteria are set forth in Sections 5.3 through 5.11. The evaluation and selection process is subject to modification by TxDOT, in its sole discretion.

The evaluation process will involve the following steps:

1. TxDOT evaluation committees will:
  - (a) evaluate the Proposals and determine which Proposer has offered the apparent best value Proposal, including the consideration of the overall total value of money to TxDOT and the specific evaluation criteria set forth herein; and
  - (b) provide a recommendation to TxDOT senior management regarding the apparent best value.
2. TxDOT senior management will review and consider the recommendations from the TxDOT evaluation committee, and will provide a recommendation for conditional award to the Commission. The Commission will issue notice of conditional award after considering the recommendations received.

The details of the evaluation and selection process are set forth more fully in this Section 5.0.

### **5.1 Organization of the TxDOT Evaluation Committees**

Evaluation of Proposals will be conducted by TxDOT's Evaluation and Selection Recommendation Committee ("ESRC") with assistance from four separate subcommittees – a Technical Proposal pass/fail and responsiveness subcommittee, a Financial Proposal pass/fail and responsiveness subcommittee, a Development Plan Evaluation Subcommittee ("DPES"), and a Financial Proposal Evaluation Subcommittee ("FPES").

The ESRC and the various subcommittees will be comprised of representatives from TxDOT and will be chaired by individuals designated by the Texas Turnpike Authority Division Director. In addition to TxDOT voting members, the ESRC and subcommittees may also be assisted by advisors, including TxDOT representatives and outside

consultants who will offer advice on the technical, financial and legal aspects of each Proposal. The primary responsibility of these advisors will be to assist the ESRC and subcommittees in making the educated and informed assessment of the individual strengths and weaknesses of the Proposals. In addition, observers from federal or other agencies, including representatives appointed by the RTC, with specific interests and responsibilities associated with the Project may be invited to observe aspects of the evaluation process. All evaluators and outside consultants and observers will be required to sign confidentiality statements and will be subject to TxDOT conflict of interest control requirements.

## 5.2 Best Value Determination

The best value determination will be based on an 80-20 point scale. The Price Score will represent up to 80 points of the total score and the Technical Score will represent up to 20 points of the total score. The determination of apparent best value shall be based on the highest Total Proposal Score computed based on the following formula:

$$\text{Total Proposal Score} = \text{Price Score (max. 80 points)} + \text{Technical Score (max. 20 points)}$$

The formula to determine Price Score will depend on whether the Proposal includes a Concession Payment or Public Funds Request. If the Proposer has offered a Concession Payment, the Price Score for such Proposer will be determined as follows:

$$\text{Price Score} = \left( \frac{(CP + \$1\text{billion})(80)}{MCP + \$1\text{billion}} \right)$$

If no Proposer has offered a Concession Payment, the Price Score for each Proposer will be determined as follows:

$$\text{Price Score} = \left( \frac{(FR - \$1\text{billion})(80)}{LFR - \$1\text{billion}} \right)$$

If at least one Proposer has offered a Concession Payment, the Price Score for each Proposer that submitted a Public Funds Request will be determined as follows:

$$\text{Price Score} = \left( \frac{(\$1\text{billion} - FR)(80)}{MCP + \$1\text{billion}} \right)$$

where:

$CP$  = net present value of the Concession Payment offer from Proposer's Form K, Box 3, (or from Form K-1, Box 3, if TxDOT uses Proposer's Form K-1 pursuant to Section 5.5.2), determined in accordance with Section 5.5



- MCP* = the highest net present value of all Concession Payment offers submitted
- FR* = net present value of the Public Funds Request from Proposer's Form K, Box 2 (or Form K-1, Box 2 if TxDOT uses Proposer's Form K-1 pursuant to Section 5.5.2), determined in accordance with Section 5.5
- LFR* = the lowest net present value of all Public Funds Requests submitted from Box 2 of the Form Ks and Form K-1s, excluding any Form K-1 that exceeds the Approved Amount pursuant to Section 5.5.2

The Technical Score will be calculated based on the Evaluation Score for the Project Development Plan (maximum of 100 points) as described in Section 5.4.2. The Technical Score will be calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Technical Score} = \text{Evaluation Score} * 0.20$$

### 5.3 Pass/Fail and Responsiveness Evaluation

Upon receipt, the Technical Proposals and the Financial Proposals will be made available for review by the relevant pass/fail and responsiveness subcommittees. They will be reviewed (a) for the Proposal's conformance to the RFP instructions regarding organization and format and responsiveness to the requirements set forth in the RFP and (b) based on the pass/fail criteria set forth below. The Technical Proposals and Financial Proposals will be further reviewed for responsiveness by the DPES and FPES as described in Sections 5.4 and 5.5. All reviews of the Escrowed Materials will take place at the Escrow Agent's offices.

#### 5.3.1 Technical Proposals

Technical Proposals will be evaluated based on the following pass/fail criteria:

(a) The business form of Proposer, the proposed Developer, and any entities that will have joint and several liability under the CDA or that will provide a performance guaranty (including any joint venture agreement, partnership agreement, operating agreement, articles of incorporation bylaws or equivalent documents) is consistent with Project and CDA Document requirements.

(b) Proposer has provided a DBE certification in accordance with the requirements of Exhibit B, Section 3.2.9.

(c) Proposer information, certifications, signed statements and documents as listed in Exhibit B, Section 3.2 are included in the Proposal and do not identify any material adverse information.

(d) Proposer has delivered Proposal Security in the form of a complete, properly executed proposal bond that complies with the requirements of Exhibit B,

Section 3.3.1 or letter of credit that complies with the requirements of Exhibit B, Section 3.3.2.

(e) The Proposal provides for Service Commencement within five years of NTP2.

(f) The Technical Proposal submitted by Proposer meets all applicable RFP requirements.

### **5.3.2 Financial Proposals**

Financial Proposals will be evaluated based on the following pass/fail criteria:

(a) The Public Funds Request, if applicable, does not exceed the Maximum Available Funds, as applied to Form K and, if submitted, Form K.

(b) Proposer's financial condition and capabilities shall not have materially adversely changed from its financial condition and capabilities as evidenced by the financial data submitted in the QS, such that Proposer continues to have the financial capacity to complete, operate, and maintain a project of the nature and scope of the Project. Factors that will be considered in evaluating Proposer's financial capacity include the following:

- i. Proposer's current financial strength;
- ii. the credit quality of Proposer and Major Participants that are equity owners of Proposers; and
- iii. any current or pending claims, litigation or equivalent.

If TxDOT determines that a Proposer is undercapitalized, it will offer Proposer the opportunity to meet the financial requirement through one or more Guarantors acceptable to TxDOT.

(c) Proposer's Financing Plan demonstrates the following:

- i. that it identifies sufficient financing for the Project, including all design and construction, operation, maintenance and rehabilitation funding;
- ii. that it is sufficiently robust, feasible and is capable of being executed expediently if Proposer is awarded the CDA; and
- iii. that it is sufficiently developed and has attracted sufficient support and commitment from Lenders and investors, to satisfy TxDOT that there is no material risk on financial grounds of any performance failure, including failure to perform any of the following:

A.

Making payments owing to TxDOT;

B. Completion of design and construction of the Project by the Service Commencement Deadline set forth in the CDA and in accordance with CDA requirements;

C. Operation and maintenance of the facility throughout the Lease Term in accordance with the requirements of the CDA and Lease; and

D. Achievement of commercial and financial close by the applicable deadlines identified in Sections 1.6.2 and 1.6.3.

iv. contains key milestones that are consistent with the Project Development Plan in Section 5.4.

Factors that will be considered in evaluating the robustness of Proposer's Financial Proposal include the following:

- i. the robustness of the results under the specified range of traffic scenarios including Proposer and/or TxDOT's traffic assumptions;
- ii. reasonableness of revenues and costs;
- iii. the terms and conditions of the financing (including debt, quasi equity and equity), including compliance with the conditions set forth in Section 4 of the CDA, and the degree of conditionality attached;
- iv. guarantees and other security required to realize financing;
- v. the level of commitment of the Principal Participants;
- vi. the level of commitment demonstrated by potential lenders to the proposed financing in advance of requiring submissions with credit committee approval;
- vii. assurance from senior lenders that they are prepared to accept the terms of any proposed TIFIA financing substantially as set forth in the indicative term sheet, or provision of an alternative approach assuring that financial close will be achieved.

(d) Proposer has provided the required lenders' support letters evidencing the proposed lenders' willingness to provide funding pursuant to Section 3.3 of Exhibit C.

(e) Proposer has provided assurance that private equity will be in place, including the required letters from Proposer's equity owners evidencing their commitment to provide equity funding pursuant to Section 3.4 of Exhibit C.

(f) The Proposal is in compliance with the Toll Regulation attached to the CDA as Exhibit 4.

Any Proposer that fails to achieve a passing score on any of the pass/fail portions of the evaluation may not be eligible for recommendation for award.

### **5.3.3 TxDOT Right to Exclude Proposals from Consideration or to Waive Mistakes**

Those Proposals not responsive to the RFP, or that do not pass the pass/fail criteria, may be excluded from further consideration, and Proposer will be so advised. TxDOT may also exclude from consideration any Proposer whose Proposal contains a material misrepresentation. TxDOT reserves the right to waive minor informalities, irregularities and apparent clerical mistakes which are unrelated to the substantive content of the Proposals.

## **5.4 Evaluation of Project Development Plan by DPES**

After completion of the pass/fail and initial responsiveness review, the Project Development Plan will be evaluated by the DPES based on the factors set forth below to determine whether it includes any improvements over the CDA requirements and brings additional benefits and/or value to TxDOT and the public.

### **5.4.1 Project Development Plan Evaluation Factors**

The evaluation factors for the Project Development Plan are as follows:

- (a) General Project Management;
- (b) Design-Build Management and Technical Solutions; and
- (c) Operations and Maintenance Management and Technical Solutions.

The Project Development Plan Evaluation Factors identified in clauses (a) through (c) above are listed in descending order of importance. Subfactors and their relative weightings are listed in Section 5.4.1.1 through 5.4.1.3. Consecutive factors or subfactors with descending order of importance may be of equal value to each other.

The evaluation factors will be evaluated and rated using the rating guidelines specified in Section 5.4.2, with special attention given to the objectives presented in Sections 5.4.1.1 through 5.4.1.3, which describe the expectations of TxDOT with regard to the Work to be performed and the related information to be submitted in the Project Development Plan. Along with the goals identified in Section 1.2, these objectives will guide TxDOT's assessment of the evaluation factors and subfactors.

#### 5.4.1.1 General Project Management

**Objectives:** An organization that is designed with clear lines of responsibility, appropriate personnel and well defined roles that respond to the Project obligations, and presents a strong Industrial Safety Record (Form D). Furthermore, a well defined approach to Project schedule methodology, and schedule and cost information in detail sufficient for assessing Project schedule/cost balance.

The General Project Management evaluation subfactors include:

- (a) Management structure and personnel;
- (b) Environmental management;
- (c) Schedule, cost control and risk management;
- (d) Safety;
- (e) Organizational systems;
- (f) Public information and communications management; and
- (g) Mentoring and job training.

Subfactors (a) through (d) are each weighted more than subfactors (e) through (g).

See Exhibit B for additional detail regarding the specific information concerning this factor to be submitted as part of the Project Development Plan.

#### 5.4.1.2 Design-Build Management and Technical Solutions

**Objective:** A Design-Build management organization with clear lines of responsibility, and which presents a well-defined and executable approach for design and construction, and incorporating technical solutions with innovative features that achieve the obligations of the Project.

The Design-Build Management and Technical Solutions evaluation subfactors include:

- (a) Design-Build management approach;
- (b) Design-Build quality management; and
- (c) Design-Build technical solutions.

Subfactors (a) and (b) are each weighted more than subfactor (c).

See Exhibit B for additional detail regarding the specific information concerning this factor to be submitted as part of the Project Development Plan.

### 5.4.1.3 Operations and Maintenance Management and Technical Solutions

**Objective:** An operations and maintenance management organization with clear lines of responsibility, and which presents a well-defined and executable approach for operations and maintenance, providing a well operated and maintained facility responding to the needs of the Project, the adjacent communities and the traveling public.

The Operations and Maintenance Management and Technical Solutions evaluation subfactors are as follows:

- (a) Operations and maintenance management;
- (b) Operations and maintenance quality management; and
- (c) Operations and maintenance technical solutions.

Subfactors (a) and (b) are each weighted more than subfactor (c).

See Exhibit B for details regarding the specific information concerning this factor to be submitted as part of the Project Development Plan.

### 5.4.2 Evaluation Guidelines

The DPES will review the Project Development Plan with reference to the evaluation factors specified in Section 5.4.1, in accordance with the guidelines provided in this Section 5.4.2. The major categories of the Project Development Plan will be qualitatively evaluated and assigned a rating as follows:

<b>ADJECTIVE RATING</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
Excellent	The Proposal greatly exceeds the stated requirements/objectives, offering material benefits and/or added value, and providing assurance that a consistently outstanding level of quality will be achieved. There is very little or no risk that this Proposer would fail to satisfy the requirements of the CDA Documents. Weaknesses, if any, are very minor and can be readily corrected. Significant unique and/or innovative characteristics are present.
Very Good	The Proposal significantly exceeds the stated requirements/objectives, offering advantages, benefits and/or added value, and providing assurance that a level of quality will be achieved that is materially better than acceptable. There is little risk that Proposer would fail to satisfy the requirements of the CDA Documents. Weaknesses, if any, are very minor and can be readily corrected. Some unique and/or innovative characteristics are present.

Good	The Proposal materially exceeds the stated requirements/objectives and provides assurance that the level of quality will meet or exceed minimum requirements. There may be a slight probability of risk that Proposer may fail to satisfy the requirements of the CDA Documents. Weaknesses, if any, are minor and can be readily corrected. Little or minimal unique and/or innovative characteristics are present.
Fair	The Proposal marginally exceeds stated requirements/objectives and provides satisfactory assurance that the level of quality will meet or marginally exceed minimum requirements. There may be questions about the likelihood of success and there is risk that Proposer may fail to satisfy the requirements of the CDA Documents. Weaknesses are correctable or acceptable per minimum standards.
Meets Minimum	The Proposal meets stated requirements/objectives and provides satisfactory assurance that the minimum level of quality will be achieved. There may be questions about the likelihood of success and there is some risk that Proposer may fail to satisfy the requirements of the CDA Documents. Weaknesses are correctable or acceptable per minimum standards

In assigning ratings TxDOT may assign “+” or “-” (such as, “Excellent -”, “Good +”, and “Fair +”) to the ratings to better differentiate within a rating in order to more clearly differentiate between the technical evaluation factors and the overall Project Development Plans. However, TxDOT will not assign ratings of “Meets Minimum –” or “Excellent +.”

The term “weakness,” as used herein, means any flaw in the Proposal that increases the risk of unsuccessful contract performance.

During the evaluation, each subfactor as described above, will be assigned a consensus rating by the DPES, which will be converted to points. The points for each subfactor will be summed to determine the Proposal’s score for each of the corresponding evaluation factors. The score of each of the evaluation factors will then be summed to arrive at the overall Evaluation Score for the Project Development Plan, with 100 maximum possible points.

## 5.5 Financial Proposal Evaluations and Payment and Performance Letter of Credit Option

### 5.5.1 Evaluation of Financial Proposal

The FPES will evaluate the Financial Proposal to determine the net present value of the Public Funds Request (Form K, Box 2, or Form K-1, Box 2, if applicable) or the Concession Payment (Form K, Box 3, or Form K-1, Box 3, if applicable), as well as for responsiveness. If there is any inconsistency between Proposer’s determination of net present value and TxDOT’s determination, TxDOT’s determination will control. The Proposal’s Price Score will be determined in accordance with the applicable formula set

forth in Section 5.2. No consideration will be given to revenue sharing other than the Concession Payment (if applicable) in the evaluation of a financial offer. All reviews of the Escrowed Materials will take place at the Escrow Agent's offices.

### **5.5.2 Evaluation of Payment and Performance Letter of Credit Option**

TxDOT will evaluate each Payment and Performance Letter of Credit Option based on a pre-determined minimum desired level of savings for the option (the "Savings Amount"). The Savings Amount will be subtracted from the lowest net present value Public Funds Request of the submitted Form Ks to determine the highest Public Funds Request that will be allowed for the Payment and Performance Letter of Credit Option ("Approved Amount"). For purposes of determining the Approved Amount, any Concession Payment shall be treated as a negative number.

In determining a Proposer's Price Score, TxDOT will use the Proposer's Public Funds Request based on the Payment and Performance Letter of Credit Option if the net present value of the Public Funds Request in Proposer's Form K-1 is equal to or less than the Approved Amount. If the net present value of the Public Funds Request in Proposer's Form K-1 is greater than the Approved Amount, then such Payment and Performance Letter of Credit Option will not be considered by TxDOT and the Proposer's Public Funds Request from Form K will be used in determining its Price Score.

TxDOT will determine the value of the Savings Amount prior to the Proposal Due Date. Such amount will not be disclosed to Proposers.

## **5.6 ESRC Evaluation of Technical and Financial Proposals and Schedule**

Before reviewing the Financial Proposal and FPES evaluation results, the ESRC will review the Project Development Plans and the ratings and points recommendations provided by the DPES with respect to each Project Development Plan. The ESRC may accept the recommendations provided by the DPES, may request the DPES to reconsider its recommendations, or may develop its own recommendations. The ESRC will determine each Proposal's Technical Score based on the formula set forth in Section 5.2.

Next, the ESRC will review the Financial Proposal and FPES evaluation results and determine each Proposal's Price Score. The ESRC will verify that the FPES has calculated the Price Score correctly for each Proposal. If the ESRC determines that a Price Score has not been correctly calculated, then the ESRC may revise the recommended Price Score based on its calculation or may request that the FPES reconsider its recommendation.

Finally, the ESRC will determine the Total Proposal Score for each Proposal by adding the Proposal's Technical Score and Price Score.



## **5.7 Requests for Clarification**

TxDOT may at any time issue one or more requests for clarification to the individual Proposers, requesting additional information or clarification from a Proposer, or may request a Proposer to verify or certify certain aspects of its Proposal. Proposers shall respond to any such requests within two Business Days (or such other time as is specified by TxDOT) from receipt of the request. The scope, length and topics to be addressed in clarifications shall be prescribed by, and subject to the discretion of, TxDOT.

Upon receipt of requested clarifications and additional information as described above, if any, the Proposals may be re-evaluated to factor in the clarifications and additional information.

## **5.8 Request for Proposal Revisions**

TxDOT may, at any time after receipt of Proposals and prior to final award, determine that it is appropriate to request changes to the Proposals (“Proposal Revisions”). If Proposal Revisions are requested, TxDOT will follow the procedures for revised proposals described in 23 CFR Part 636. TxDOT may request Proposal Revisions with or without discussions as described therein. The request for Proposal Revisions will identify any revisions to the RFP and will specify terms and conditions applicable to the Proposal Revisions, including identifying a time and date for delivery. In the event that Proposal Revisions are requested, the term “Proposal,” as used in the RFP, shall mean the original Proposal, as modified by the Proposal Revisions.

In the event that no responsive Proposals are submitted, TxDOT reserves the right to request Proposal Revisions from each Proposer that submitted a Proposal with a Public Funds Request exceeding the Maximum Available Funds, but that was otherwise fully responsive to the RFP in all respects.

Upon receipt of Proposal Revisions, the ESRC, with assistance from the Technical or Financial pass/fail and responsiveness subcommittees, DPES, or FPES, as appropriate, will re-evaluate the Proposals as revised, and will revise ratings and value estimates as appropriate following the process described above.

## **5.9 Identification of Apparent Best Value Proposal**

Once the ESRC has determined a Total Proposal Score for each Proposal and assigned rankings to the Proposals based on the Total Proposal Scores (whether based on the original Proposals or Proposal Revisions), the ESRC will present its recommended rankings to a Steering Committee comprised of the Texas Turnpike Authority Director, the Director of TxDOT’s Finance Division and the Dallas District Engineer.

## 5.10 Recommendation to Commission

The Steering Committee will review the Proposals and the recommendations and supporting information provided by the ESRC, and may accept the recommendation, reject the recommendation and cancel the procurement or request the ESRC to reconsider the recommendation. If the Steering Committee accepts the ESRC's recommendation, the Steering Committee will provide the recommendation to the TxDOT Executive Director or his designee regarding which Proposal provides the best overall value.

Upon receipt of recommendations from the Steering Committee, the TxDOT Executive Director or his designee will review the recommendations and may accept the recommendation, reject the recommendation and cancel the procurement, or request the Steering Committee to reconsider the recommendation. If the Executive Director or his designee accepts the Steering Committee's recommendation, the Executive Director, or his designee, will make a recommendation to the Commission regarding the rankings of Proposers and designation of the apparent best value. The Commission will evaluate the recommendations and will determine whether to proceed with a conditional award of a CDA to the apparent best value Proposer or take any other action. The Commission's decision of conditional award of the CDA to the apparent best value Proposer will be made in a public hearing and will be considered a public announcement of intent to award the CDA by the Commission.

The Commission's decision regarding award of the CDA shall be final.

## 5.11 Finalization of the CDA; Post-Selection Process

### 5.11.1 Negotiation of CDA

If authorized by the Commission, TxDOT will proceed with the apparent best value Proposer to finalize the CDA. TxDOT may agree to negotiate various aspects of the CDA with the apparent best value Proposer, including Form P (Detailed Costing Form) and incorporation of unsuccessful Proposers' work product; however, any decision to commence negotiations regarding the terms of the CDA is at TxDOT's sole discretion. By submitting its Proposal, each Proposer commits to enter into the form of CDA included in the RFP, without negotiation or variation, except to fill in blanks and include information that the form of CDA indicates is required from the Proposal.

If a CDA satisfactory to TxDOT cannot be negotiated with the apparent best value Proposer, TxDOT will formally end negotiations with that Proposer and take action consistent with the direction provided by the Commission. Such action may include (a) rejection of all Proposals, (b) issuance of a request for Proposal Revisions to Proposers; or (c) proceeding to the next most highly ranked Proposal to finalize or attempt to negotiate a CDA with that Proposer in accordance with this Section 5.11 and applicable law.

In the event TxDOT elects to commence negotiations with a Proposer, such Proposer will be deemed to have failed to engage in good faith negotiations with TxDOT and shall

forfeit its Proposal Security as set forth in Section 4.7 if Proposer fails to attend and actively participate in reasonably scheduled negotiation meetings with TxDOT or insists upon terms or conditions for any documents to be negotiated or provided by Developer hereunder, that are inconsistent with the CDA Documents and, with respect to the Independent Engineer Agreement, are inconsistent with the Independent Engineer scope of work set forth in Exhibit 2 to Exhibit H-1 or which would compromise the independence of the Independent Engineer.

The final form of CDA will be conformed to include the Public Funds Amount (or, if applicable, the Concession Payment,) Form T, any pre-approved ATC, any pre-approved AFC, and, if applicable, the Payment and Performance Letter of Credit provisions, as well as any other items provided in the successful Proposal and approved by TxDOT for inclusion in the CDA.

### **5.11.2 Cash Flow Analysis**

As a condition precedent to final award of the CDA, TxDOT must be assured and satisfy itself that the Public Funds Request (if applicable) is consistent with the anticipated preliminary Project Baseline Schedule and costs as set forth on Form P. As a further condition precedent to final award of the CDA, Developer shall have provided such information as TxDOT reasonably requests to verify and determine the reasonableness of such schedule and costs.

### **5.11.3 Financial Model Audit**

As a condition precedent to financial close, Developer shall cause an independent audit of the selected Proposer's Financial Model to be conducted by a firm engaged by the selected Proposer and approved by TxDOT (the "Model Auditor"), at the selected Proposer's sole cost and expense. Copies of the audit report(s) and opinion(s) shall be co-addressed to TxDOT and TxDOT shall be expressly identified therein as an entity entitled to rely upon such audit. Developer shall cause the audit report(s) and opinion(s) to be delivered to TxDOT no later than seven days before the date of close of finance.

Prior to engaging the Model Auditor, the selected Proposer will provide TxDOT with information about the proposed Model Auditor (including qualifications and relevant experience), the proposed terms of engagement (including the proposed form of the model audit opinion) and the level of professional liability coverage (which must include TxDOT as an additional insured). The Model Auditor chosen by Proposer must be unaffiliated with Proposer and otherwise be free of any conflict of interest. At Proposer's option, it may seek to obtain advance approval by TxDOT of a proposed Model Auditor by submitting all requested information concerning the proposed Model Auditor not less than 30 days prior to the Proposal Due Date. TxDOT would provide a decision on any requested pre-approval not later than one week prior to the Proposal Due Date.

Neither party will be entitled to any adjustment to the Public Funds Request or Concession Payment, as appropriate, or the revenue sharing provisions, based on the results of the model audit. The selected Proposer shall also provide TxDOT with an opinion from the Model Auditor stating that the Financial Model is suitable for use in connection with the Compensation Event procedures set out in the CDA. The Model Auditor is not required to provide an opinion on whether the financial statements for future periods are in compliance with U.S. GAAP. This opinion, on which TxDOT shall be a co-addressee and expressly entitled to rely, may also result from the independent review of the Financial Model required by the selected Proposer's lenders. The opinion is to be provided at the selected Proposer's cost.

#### **5.11.4 Market Interest Rate Adjustment**

TxDOT will bear the risk and have the benefit of changes in market interest rates (either positive or negative) for the period beginning at 10:00 a.m. on June 16, 2008 and ending on the date of financial close, except as otherwise set forth in the CDA.

The interest rate adjustment will be based on the movement, if any, in the benchmark bond(s) or SWAP rates underlying the financing contained in Developer's Financing Plan and Financial Model (the "Benchmark Rate(s)"). The Benchmark Rate(s) must be independently verifiable by TxDOT using Bloomberg U.S. based screens. The Benchmark Rate(s)' relative weightings and information source must be submitted to TxDOT for approval by June 2, 2008 and must be approved by TxDOT not later than 10:00 a.m. on June 9, 2008.

Benchmark Rate(s) will be recorded by TxDOT, or its designee, at 10:00 a.m. on the first and last day of the market interest rate protection period. The reading will be taken on the Bloomberg U.S. based screen at 10:00 a.m. Readings will be sent to the selected Proposer immediately and Proposer will have up to one hour to dispute each reading. If no objection is made within the hour, the reading as taken by TxDOT from the Bloomberg U.S. based screen shall be used for the purpose of determining the market interest rate adjustment. In the event of a dispute, TxDOT may elect to reexamine the 10:00 a.m. reading provided there is sufficient evidence to support the claim.

On the date of financial close the selected Proposer and TxDOT shall both adjust the Financial Model to reflect the change in the Benchmark Rate(s) and agree to the exact impact of such an adjustment, highlighting specifically the positive or negative change of the Public Funds Request from TxDOT or Concession Payment to TxDOT.

#### **5.11.5 Office of Attorney General Determination**

As a condition precedent to final award of the CDA, the Office of the Attorney General shall provide a determination that the proposed CDA is legally sufficient.

### **5.11.6 Extension of Financial Close**

The deadline for financial close shall be as set forth in Section 1.6.3, subject to Proposer's right to extend financial close in this Section 5.11.6. Proposer shall have the option to extend such deadline for an additional 180 days, in accordance with this Section 5.11.6. Any such extension will require the selected Proposer to have increased the Proposal Security to the amount \$75 million, as required by Section 5.12.2.

The extension option may be exercised only by delivery of written notification of the extension to TxDOT, delivered not less than 10 days prior to the initial financial close deadline set forth in Section 1.6.3. The notification shall identify the extended financial close deadline (180 days after the deadline set forth in Section 1.6.3). If the Proposer does not timely exercise this option, it will expire, and Proposer will have the obligation to achieve financial close by the original deadline set forth in Section 1.6.3.

If Proposer exercises its extension option in accordance with this Section 5.11.6, Proposer shall be required to provide TxDOT with the financial close security, as set forth in Exhibit B, Section 3.3.4 and Section 6.1.1.(g).

The Financial Model shall be adjusted at financial close to reflect the actual date of financial closing.

## **5.12 Post-Selection Deliverables**

### **5.12.1 Project Management Plan**

During the period between conditional award and final award of the CDA, the successful Proposer may, but is not required to, submit all or portions of the Project Management Plan for review, comment and possible pre-approval. TxDOT encourages such early submittal(s), and will attempt to provide comments to any such submittals generally in accordance with the process and timelines set forth in the CDA, but cannot guaranty that it will in fact undertake such review or provide comments or approval.

### **5.12.2 Documents To Be Submitted Following Conditional Award**

As a condition precedent to final award of the CDA, the successful Proposer shall deliver the following to TxDOT within 10 days after conditional award:

(a) Evidence of authority to transact business in the State of Texas for all members of Proposer's team that will transact business in the State, dated no earlier than 30 days prior to the Proposal Due Date. Depending on the form of organization, such evidence may be in the form of (i) a Certificate of Authority to transact business in Texas along with a Certificate of Good Standing from the state of organization of the member; (ii) a Certificate of Good Standing from the Texas Comptroller; or (iii) other evidence acceptable to TxDOT.

(b) If not previously submitted, a copy of the final organizational documents for Developer and, if Developer is a limited liability company, partnership or joint venture, for each member or partner of Developer. The final form of the organizational documents may not differ materially from the draft organizational documents included with the Proposal.

(c) Increased Proposal Security in the amount of \$75 million, in accordance with Exhibit B, Section 3.3.

(d) If security for Proposer's obligations under the CDA is required by TxDOT pursuant to Exhibit C, Section 2.0, the form of the proposed guarantees, which shall be in form and substance acceptable to TxDOT, in its sole discretion.

As a condition to final award, Proposer shall deliver drafts of the deliverables for final award for review and pre-approval by TxDOT prior to Delivery, as identified in Section 6.1.1; provided, however, that (i) Proposer shall not be required to deliver drafts of the Initial Funding Agreements, Initial Security Documents and the Lender's Direct Agreement if Proposer timely exercises its option to extend financial close under Section 5.11.6; and (ii) TxDOT will review the financial close deliverables for purposes of verifying conformity with the RFP and the finalized version of the CDA.

### **5.12.3 TxDOT Comments On Post-Selection Deliverables**

TxDOT shall provide comments on any Post-Selection Deliverable required to be delivered to TxDOT for review and/or approval hereunder within 10 days of the date of TxDOT's receipt of such deliverable. TxDOT shall have three Business Days to review and respond to subsequent submittals of the deliverable.

### **5.13 NEPA Impacts to Post-Selection Process**

In the event Proposer is unable to close financing by the deadline set forth in Section 1.6.3 as a result of pending litigation challenging a NEPA Approval filed before lapse of the applicable statute of limitations, Developer will be excused from reaching financial close by the deadline and shall not forfeit its Proposal Security. In such event, TxDOT may elect to terminate the procurement and/or Developer may elect to withdraw its Proposal. Neither TxDOT nor any Proposer shall be entitled to any compensation whatsoever on account of such termination prior to financial close other than the payment for work product which will be payable to eligible unsuccessful Proposers in accordance with Section 6.3.

### **5.14 Negotiation of the Independent Engineer Agreement**

Promptly following conditional award, TxDOT and the successful Proposer shall agree on a schedule to negotiate and finalize the Independent Engineer Agreement consistent with the scheduled deadline for Delivery. Both the selected Proposer and TxDOT shall thereafter adhere to the terms of such schedule and shall attend and actively participate in reasonably scheduled negotiation meetings ("the Independent Engineer negotiations"). If the selected Proposer fails to negotiate in good faith (including any

action of the type that would be deemed a failure to engage in good faith negotiations under the standards set forth in Section 5.11.1), it will forfeit its Proposal Security as set forth in Section 4.7.

If inability of the selected Proposer to reach Delivery by the applicable deadline is directly attributable to TxDOT's or the Independent Engineer's failure to negotiate in good faith (including any action of the type that would be deemed a failure to engage in good faith negotiations under the standards set forth in Section 5.11.1), Proposer shall be excused from reaching commercial and financial close and paying the Upfront Concession Payment by the applicable deadlines and shall not forfeit its Proposal Security. In such event, TxDOT may elect to terminate the procurement and/or the selected Proposer may elect to withdraw its Proposal. Neither TxDOT nor any Proposer shall be entitled to any compensation whatsoever on account of such termination prior to final award other than the payment for work product which will be payable to eligible Proposers in accordance with Section 6.3.

### **5.15 TxDOT Post-Selection Deliverables and Notification to Legislative Budget Board**

At least 30 days prior to final award TxDOT will provide an opinion from the Office of General Counsel concerning (i) knowledge of any pending or threatened litigation challenging the CDA Documents; (ii) the due authorization, execution and delivery of the CDA by TxDOT; and (iii) knowledge regarding any consents required to be obtained for the performance of TxDOT's obligations under the CDA and regarding any conflicts with any other agreements to which TxDOT is a party. The final opinion will be delivered on the date of final award.

At least 30 days prior to final award, TxDOT is required to provide the Legislative Budget Board and the State Auditor with the following, as compliance with Sections 371.052 and 371.151 of the Code: (i) a copy of the CDA; (ii) a copy of the selected apparent best value Proposal, or if applicable, the next highest ranking Proposal; (iii) a financial forecast prepared by TxDOT for the Project; and (iv) a copy of TxDOT's traffic and revenue report for the Project. TxDOT is also required, pursuant to Sections 371.052 and 371.151 of the Code, to publish certain financial information of the selected apparent best value Proposer.

## **SECTION 6.0 CONTRACT AWARD AND EXECUTION; POST AWARD ACTIONS**

### **6.1 Final Award, Execution and Delivery of CDA**

The following are conditions precedent to final award of the CDA: (a) successful completion of negotiations (if held), (b) concurrence in award by FHWA, (c) receipt by TxDOT of all of the documents required to be provided prior to execution of the CDA under this Section 6.1, and (d) any other conditions required by the Commission. Final award will be evidenced by execution of the CDA by the Executive Director of TxDOT or his designee.

Upon satisfaction of the foregoing conditions, TxDOT will deliver four sets of execution copies of the CDA to the selected Proposer along with the number of sets of execution copies reasonably requested by the Proposer. The selected Proposer shall obtain all required signatures and deliver all of the execution sets to TxDOT within seven Business Days of receipt, together with the required documents described in Section 6.1.1 below. If Developer is a joint venture or a partnership, the CDA must be executed by all joint venture members or general partners, as applicable. Within 15 Business Days of TxDOT's receipt of all such documents and satisfaction of all conditions precedent, TxDOT will execute the agreements, retain four sets and deliver the other executed sets to Proposer. Final award shall be deemed to have occurred upon TxDOT's delivery of the fully executed sets to Proposer.

### **6.1.1 Documents To Be Delivered By Proposer With Executed CDA and Financial Close**

The Proposer shall deliver the documents listed below to TxDOT concurrently with the executed CDA, as a condition to execution of the CDA by TxDOT.

(a) Evidence of approval of the final form of the CDA and of due authorization, execution, delivery and performance of the CDA by Developer and (if Developer is a joint venture) by its joint venture members. Such evidence shall be in form and substance satisfactory to TxDOT. If Developer is a corporation, such evidence shall be in the form of a resolution of its governing body certified by an appropriate officer of the corporation. If Developer is a partnership, such evidence shall be in the form of a resolution signed by the general partners and appropriate evidence of authorization for each of the general partners, in each case, certified by an appropriate officer of the general partner. If Proposer is a limited liability company, such evidence shall be in the form of (1) a resolution of the governing body of the limited liability company, certified by an appropriate officer of the company, or (2) a managing member(s) resolution, certified by an appropriate officer of the managing member(s), or (3) if there is no managing member, a resolution from each member certified by an appropriate officer of such member. If Proposer is a joint venture, such evidence shall be in the form of a resolution of each joint venture member, certified by an appropriate officer of such joint venture member.

(b) A written opinion from counsel for Developer, which counsel shall be approved by TxDOT (which may be in-house or outside counsel, provided that the organization/authorization/execution opinion shall be provided by an attorney licensed in the State of the formation/organization of the entity for which the opinion is rendered (i.e., Developer, joint venture member, etc.) and the qualification to do business in Texas and the enforceability opinion shall be provided by an attorney licensed in the State of Texas), in substantially the form attached hereto as Form N (with such changes as agreed to by TxDOT in its sole discretion); provided, however, that the organization/authorization/execution opinion for an entity formed or organized under the laws of the State of Delaware may be issued by an in-house or outside counsel not licensed in Delaware.



(c) Evidence of insurance required to be provided by Developer under the CDA.

(d) Evidence that Developer and Major Participants hold all licenses required for performance of the Work.

(e) Executed Lease and Lease Escrow Agreement (in a form approved by TxDOT for (i) consistency with the CDA, (ii) inclusion of a provision naming TxDOT as a 3<sup>rd</sup> party beneficiary, and (iii) inclusion of provisions prohibiting the release of escrowed documents to any party without TxDOT's approval);

(f) Executed copies of the Intellectual Property Escrow Agreement(s) in the form attached hereto as Form Q (with such changes as agreed to by TxDOT in its sole discretion);

(g) Executed Project Trust Agreement (in the form of Exhibit K) and the Project Trust and Security Instruments;

(h) Copy of executed NTTA Tolling Services Agreement (in the form of Exhibit G);

(i) Copy of Independent Engineer Agreement (in the form of Exhibit H-1 with such changes as agreed to by Proposer, TxDOT and the Independent Engineer) executed by Proposer and the Independent Engineer;

(j) TxDOT approved DBE Performance Plan in accordance with the requirements of Section 1.8.1;

(k) Commitments for payment and performance security as follows:

(i) A letter from a licensed Surety, rated in the top two categories by two nationally recognized rating agencies or at least A minus (A-) or better and Class VIII or better by A.M. Best and Company, signed by an authorized representative as evidenced by a current certified power of attorney, committing to provide the Payment and Performance Bonds in the form acceptable to TxDOT as described in Section 16.2 of the CDA. If multiple Surety letters are provided, the Proposal shall identify which Surety will be the lead Surety. The commitment letter may include no conditions, qualifications or reservations for underwriting or otherwise, other than a statement that the commitment is subject to final award, issuance of NTP2 and execution and delivery of the Design-Build Contract; provided, however, that the Surety may reserve in its letter the right to reasonably approve any material adverse changes made to the CDA, the Technical Provisions or the Design-Build Contract prior to the date the bonds are issued, but excluding any changes or information reflected in the Proposal, such as ATCs, AFCs and Proposer commitments. The Surety letter must commit to issuance of a bond on behalf of Proposer's Design-Build Contractor, naming TxDOT as a dual obligee; and

(ii) if Proposer submits a completed Form K-1 with its Proposal, Proposer shall also submit a letter from a financial institution licensed to do business in the State of Texas with a credit rating of “A” or better according to Standard & Poors and with an office in the United States at which the Payment and Performance Letter of Credit can be presented for payment by facsimile or by electronic means, signed by an authorized representative as evidenced by a current certified power of attorney, committing to provide the Payment and Performance Letter of Credit in a form acceptable to TxDOT, in the amount of \$250 million. The commitment letter may include no conditions, qualifications, or reservations or otherwise, other than a statement that the commitment is subject to final award, issuance of NTP2 and execution and delivery of the Design-Build Contract; provided, however, that the Surety may reserve in its letter the right to reasonably approve any material adverse changes made to the CDA, the Technical Provisions or the Design-Build Contract prior to the date the Payment and Performance Letter of Credit is issued, but excluding any changes or information reflected in the Proposal, such as ATCs, AFCs and Proposer commitments. The Surety letter must commit to issuance of the Payment and Performance Letter of Credit on behalf of the Proposer’s Design-Build Contractor, naming TxDOT either as the beneficiary thereof or as a transferee beneficiary thereof.;

(l) Certification Regarding NTTA Communications in the form of Form R, except that the reference to the “Proposal Due Date” in such form shall be revised to refer to the “date of final award”;

(m) Any other requirements identified by TxDOT as a condition to award or execution or determined during pre-award negotiations;

(n) If applicable, the proposed form of escrow agreement and information regarding the proposed escrow service pursuant to Section 6.1.4 of Exhibit C;

(o) Copies of the final form of the Design-Build Contract and the Operations and Maintenance Contract;

(p) Unless Proposer has timely exercised its option to extend financial close in accordance with the terms of Section 5.11.6, the documents required to achieve financial close, as set forth below; and

(q) If applicable, a valid and binding form of financial close security pursuant to Section 3.3.4 of Exhibit B.

On or before the date that TxDOT delivers the execution sets of the CDA to Proposer, TxDOT shall notify Proposer regarding the number of originals and copies required to be delivered.

The term “financial close” shall mean (i) the date when Proposer has delivered to TxDOT copies of executed Initial Funding Agreements and Initial Security Documents, and an executed Lender’s Direct Agreement (in the form of Exhibit L), which have been reviewed by TxDOT pursuant to Section 5.12.2, if Proposer does not timely exercise its option to extend financial close; or (ii) in the event Proposer timely exercises its option

to extend financial close, the date when Developer satisfies all the conditions set forth under CDA Section 4.1.4.

### **6.1.2 Deposit of the Concession Payment**

**6.2 The successful Proposer shall either deposit the Concession Payment (if applicable) into the appropriate trust account in accordance with the Project Trust Agreement or deliver the Concession Payment directly to TxDOT within two Business Days following the date of financial close. Failure to make the required payment by such deadline (if applicable) will result in a draw by TxDOT upon the Proposal Security.**Debriefings

All Proposers submitting Proposals will be notified in writing of the results of the evaluation process. Proposers not selected for award may request a debriefing. Debriefings shall be provided at the earliest feasible time after execution of the CDA. The debriefing shall be conducted by a procurement official familiar with the rationale for the selection decision and CDA award.

Debriefings shall:

(a) Be limited to discussion of the unsuccessful Proposer's Proposal and may not include specific discussion of a competing Proposal;

(b) Be factual and consistent with the evaluation of the unsuccessful Proposer's Proposal; and

(c) Provide information on areas in which the unsuccessful Proposer's Technical Proposal had weaknesses or deficiencies.

Debriefing may not include discussion or dissemination of the thoughts, notes, or rankings of individual members of the ESRC, but may include a summary of the rationale for the selection decision and CDA award.

### **6.3 Payment to Unsuccessful Proposers**

Each Proposer that submits a responsive, but unsuccessful, Proposal shall be entitled to receive payment from TxDOT for work product that is not returned to Proposer, on the terms and conditions described herein and in the Minute Order issued by the Commission, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit J. No Proposer shall be entitled to reimbursement for any of its costs in connection with the RFP except as specified in this Section 6.3.

The amount of the payment may not exceed the value of the work product provided in the Proposal that can, as determined by TxDOT, be used by TxDOT in the performance of its functions, up to the maximum stipulated amount per Proposer. The maximum stipulated payment for work product per Proposer for this procurement is \$1,000,000. In order to request payment, each Proposer must submit an invoice to TxDOT. The invoice may be submitted no earlier than 45 days after notice of final award, including

receipt of the Concession Payment (if applicable), is posted on the TxDOT website, or, if final award is not made, not earlier than 30 days after cancellation of the procurement or expiration of the time period for award stated in the RFP (as such time period may be extended by mutual agreement of the selected apparent best value Proposer and TxDOT), as applicable. All Proposers eligible to receive a payment for work product shall be required to submit an invoice to TxDOT in a form acceptable to TxDOT in order to receive such payment. Payments will be made within 30 days of receipt of an invoice therefor, provided that if a CDA has been awarded and close of finance has not occurred prior to such date, TxDOT shall have no obligation to make payment until two Business Days following close of finance.

In accordance with Section 223.203(m) of the Code, each Proposer agrees that TxDOT shall be entitled to use all work product that is not returned to Proposer (including AFCs, ATCs, concepts, ideas, technology, techniques, methods, processes, drawings, reports, plans and specifications) contained in its Proposal or generated by or on behalf of Proposer for the purpose of developing its Proposal, in consideration for TxDOT's agreement to make payment as provided herein, without any further compensation or consideration to Proposer.

Each Proposer acknowledges that TxDOT will have the right to inform the successful Proposer regarding the contents of the other Proposals after award of the CDA, and that the CDA may incorporate the above-described work product or concepts based thereon. Upon Proposer's receipt of payment hereunder, this right shall extend to allow TxDOT to use such work product in the performance of its functions. As provided in Section 223.203(m) of the Code, the use of any of the work product by TxDOT at the sole risk and discretion of TxDOT, and shall in no way be deemed to confer liability on the unsuccessful Proposer. Each Proposer acknowledges and agrees that it does not have the right to refuse the payment hereunder and keep the contents of its Proposal from being used by TxDOT, as described herein; provided, however, that an unsuccessful Proposer may [reject the payment and retain the work product if the procurement is canceled. Failure to deliver the invoice within the time period specified herein shall be deemed a rejection.](#)

In no event shall any Proposer that is selected for award but fails to satisfy the award conditions set forth in [Section 6.1](#) be entitled to receive a payment for work product under this [Section 6.3](#).

#### **6.4 Disposition of Escrowed Materials Following Conclusion of Procurement Process**

Concurrently with delivery of the executed CDA, Developer will execute and deliver the Intellectual Property Escrow Agreement(s) ([Form Q](#), with such changes as agreed to by TxDOT in its sole discretion) to the Escrow Agent, allowing the Escrowed Materials to be transferred to the Intellectual Property Escrow and to be available for review by the parties as described in the CDA.

In accordance with the procedures set forth in the Escrow Agreement (Form M), each unsuccessful Proposer shall have the right to retrieve its Escrowed Materials after the CDA has been executed and delivered and the Concession Payment made, if applicable, after TxDOT rejects all of the Proposals or after TxDOT terminates this procurement.

## **SECTION 7.0 PROTESTS**

### **7.1 Applicability**

This Section 7.0 and Section 27.6 of Title 43 of the Texas Administrative Code set forth the exclusive protest remedies available with respect to the RFP and prescribe exclusive procedures for protests regarding:

- (a) allegations that the terms of the RFP are wholly ambiguous, contrary to legal requirements applicable to the procurement, or exceed TxDOT's authority;
- (b) a determination as to whether a Proposal is responsive to the requirements of the Request for Proposals, as applicable; and
- (c) award of a CDA.

### **7.2 Required Early Communication for Certain Protests**

Protests concerning the issues described in Section 7.1(a) may be filed only after Proposer has informally discussed the nature and basis of the protest with TxDOT, following the procedures for those discussions prescribed in the RFP.

### **7.3 Deadlines for Protests**

7.3.1 Protests concerning the issues described in Section 7.1(a) must be filed as soon as the basis for the protest is known, but no later than 20 days prior to the Proposal Due Date, unless the protest relates to an Addendum to the RFP, in which case the protest must be filed no later than five Business Days after the Addendum is issued (but in any event, prior to the Proposal Due Date).

7.3.2 Protests concerning the issues described in Section 7.1(b) must be filed no later than five Business Days after receipt of the notification of non-responsiveness.

7.3.3 Protests concerning the issues described in Section 7.1(c) must be filed no later than ten Business Days after conditional award.

### **7.4 Content of Protest**

Protests shall completely and succinctly state the grounds for protest, its legal authority, and its factual basis, and shall include all factual and legal documentation in sufficient detail to establish the merits of the protest. Statements shall be sworn and submitted under penalty of perjury.

### **7.5 Filing of Protest**

Protests shall be filed by hand delivery on or before the applicable deadline to the address specified in Section 2.2.1, with a copy to the Office of General Counsel, Texas Department of Transportation, 125 E. 11th Street, Suite 702, Austin, TX 78701-2483, as

soon as the basis for protest is known to Proposer. Proposer filing the protest shall concurrently submit a copy of the protest to the other Proposers whose addresses may be obtained from the FTP site.

## **7.6 Comments from other Proposers**

Other Proposers may file statements in support of or in opposition to the protest within seven days of the filing of the protest. TxDOT shall promptly forward copies of all such statements to the protestant. Any statements shall be sworn and submitted under penalty of perjury.

## **7.7 Burden of Proof**

The protestant shall have the burden of proving its protest. TxDOT may, in its sole discretion, discuss the protest with the protestant and other Proposers. No hearing will be held on the protest. The protest shall be decided on the basis of written submissions.

## **7.8 Decision on Protest**

The Assistant Executive Director for Engineering Operations or his designee shall issue a written decision regarding the protest within 30 days after the filing of the detailed statement of protest. If necessary to address the issues raised in a protest, TxDOT may, in its sole discretion, make appropriate revisions to the RFP by issuing Addenda.

## **7.9 Protestant's Payment of Costs**

If a protest is denied, Proposer filing the protest shall be liable for TxDOT's costs reasonably incurred to defend against or resolve the protest, including legal and consultant fees and costs, and any unavoidable damages sustained by TxDOT as a consequence of the protest.

## **7.10 Rights and Obligations of Proposers**

Each Proposer, by submitting its Proposal, expressly recognizes the limitation on its rights to protest provided in this Section 7.0, and expressly waives all other rights and remedies and agrees that the decision on the protest is final and conclusive. If a Proposer disregards, disputes, or does not follow the exclusive protest remedies provided in this Section, it shall indemnify and hold TxDOT and its officers, employees, agents, and consultants harmless from and against all liabilities, fees and costs, including legal and consultant fees and costs, and damages incurred or suffered as a result of such Proposer's actions. Each Proposer, by submitting a Proposal, shall be deemed to have irrevocably and unconditionally agreed to this indemnity obligation.

## **SECTION 8.0 TXDOT RIGHTS AND DISCLAIMERS**

### **8.1 TxDOT Rights**

TxDOT may investigate the qualifications and Proposal of any Proposer under consideration, may require confirmation of information furnished by a Proposer and may require additional evidence of qualifications to perform Developer's obligations under the CDA. TxDOT reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to:

- (a) Develop the Project in any manner that it, in its sole discretion, deems necessary;
- (b) Reject any or all of the Proposals;
- (c) Modify any dates set or projected in the RFP;
- (d) Cancel, modify or withdraw the RFP in whole or in part;
- (e) Terminate this procurement and commence a new procurement for part or all of the Project;
- (f) Terminate evaluations of Proposals received at any time, in its sole discretion, including, for instance, in the case that TxDOT determines that none of the Proposals provide a favorable value of money to TxDOT;
- (g) Suspend, discontinue or terminate CDA negotiations at any time, elect not to commence CDA negotiations with any responding Proposer and engage in negotiations with other than the highest ranked Proposer;
- (h) Modify the procurement process (with appropriate notice to Proposers);
- (i) Waive or permit corrections to data submitted with any response to the RFP until such time as TxDOT declares in writing that a particular stage or phase of its review of the responses to the RFP has been completed and closed;
- (j) Permit submittal of addenda and supplements to data previously provided in a Proposal pursuant to a request for clarification issued by TxDOT until such time as TxDOT declares that a particular stage or phase of its review of the responses to the RFP has been completed and closed;
- (k) Appoint evaluation committees to review Proposals, make recommendations and seek the assistance of outside technical experts and consultants in Proposal evaluation;
- (l) Disclose information contained in a Proposal to the public as described herein;
- (m) Approve or disapprove changes in the Key Personnel identified in the QS;



- (n) Approve or disapprove changes in Proposer's organization;
- (o) Accept a Proposal other than that which requests the lowest public funds from or offers the highest total payment to TxDOT;
- (p) Waive deficiencies, informalities and irregularities in Proposals; accept and review a non-conforming Proposal or seek clarifications or modifications to a Proposal;
- (q) Not issue a notice to proceed after execution of the CDA; and
- (r) Exercise any other right reserved or afforded to TxDOT under the RFP and applicable Law.

## **8.2 TxDOT Disclaimers**

The RFP does not commit TxDOT to enter into a contract. Except as expressly set forth in Section 6.3, TxDOT and the State of Texas assume no obligations, responsibilities, or liabilities, fiscal or otherwise, to reimburse all or part of the costs incurred or alleged to have been incurred by parties considering a response to and/or responding to the RFP. All of such costs shall be borne solely by each Proposer and Proposer team.

**In no event shall TxDOT be bound by, or liable for, any obligations with respect to the Project until such time (if at all) as the CDA, in form and substance satisfactory to TxDOT, has been authorized and executed by TxDOT and, then, only to the extent set forth therein. In submitting a Proposal in response to the RFP, Proposer is specifically acknowledging these disclaimers.**