

**State of Nebraska Department of Transportation
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

RETURN TO:
NE Department of Transportation
PO Box 94759
Lincoln NE 68509-4759
(402) 479-4328

SOLICITATION NUMBER	RELEASE DATE
RFI R230-23	October 13, 2023
OPENING DATE AND TIME	PROCUREMENT CONTACT
November 15, 2023 2:00 p.m. Central Time	Brandy Henke

This form is part of the specification package and must be signed in ink and returned, along with information documents, by the opening date and time specified.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

SCOPE OF SERVICE

The State of Nebraska (State), Department of Transportation (NDOT) is issuing this Request for Information RFI R230-23 for the purpose of gathering information to help the NDOT assess and potentially update/modernize NDOT's Roadway Asset Management System.

Written questions are due no later than October 26, 2023 and should be submitted via e-mail to NDOT.ProcurementServices@nebraska.gov.

Bidder should submit one (1) original of the entire RFI response. RFI responses should be submitted by the RFI due date and time.

Sealed RFI responses should be received in the Nebraska Department of Transportation by the date and time of RFI opening indicated above.

BIDDER MUST COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING

By signing this Request For Information form, the bidder guarantees compliance with the provisions stated in this Request for Information.

FIRM: _____

COMPLETE ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____ FAX NUMBER: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

TYPED NAME & TITLE OF SIGNER: _____

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I. SCOPE OF THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The State of Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) is issuing this Request for Information, RFI R230-23 for the purpose of gathering information to help the NDOT assess and possibly update/modernize NDOT's Roadway Asset Management System. Information provided will assist the State of Nebraska in developing a future Request for Proposal for such assessment.

ALL INFORMATION PERTINENT TO THIS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE INTERNET AT: https://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchase_bureau/bidopps.html

A. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The State expects to adhere to the tentative procurement schedule shown below. It should be noted, however, that some dates are approximate and subject to change.

	ACTIVITY	DATE/TIME
1	Release Request for Information	October 13, 2023
2	Last day to submit written questions	October 26, 2023
3	State responds to written questions through Request for Information "Addendum" and/or "Amendment" to be posted to the internet at: https://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchase_bureau/bidopps.html	October 30, 2023
4	RFI opening Location: Nebraska Department of Transportation Operations Division 5001 South 14 th Street Lincoln, NE 68512	November 15, 2023 2:00 PM Central Time
5	"Oral Interviews/Presentations and/or Demonstrations" (if required)	To Be Determined

II. RFI RESPONSE PROCEDURES

A. OFFICE AND CONTACT PERSON

Responsibilities related to this Request for Information reside with the Nebraska Department of Transportation. The point of contact for the RFI is as follows:

RFI Number: R230-23
Name: Brandy Henke
Agency: Nebraska Department of Transportation
Operations Division
Mailing Address: PO Box 94759
(USPS delivery) Lincoln, NE 68509-4759
Physical Address: 5001 S. 14th Street
(all other deliveries) Lincoln, NE 68512
Telephone: (402) 479-4328
E-Mail: NDOT.ProcurementServices@nebraska.gov

B. GENERAL INFORMATION

A subsequent Request for Proposal (RFP) may not be issued as a result of this RFI. There will not be a contract as a result of this RFI and the State is not liable for any cost incurred by vendors in replying to this RFI. If an RFP is issued, the information provided will assist the State of Nebraska in developing the Request for Proposal. This RFI does not obligate the State to reply to the RFI responses, to issue an RFP, or to include any RFI provisions or responses provided by vendors in any RFP.

C. COMMUNICATION WITH STATE STAFF

From the date the Request for Information is issued and until RFI opening (as shown in the Schedule of Events), contact regarding this RFI between potential vendors and individuals employed by the State should be restricted to written communication with the staff designated above as the point of contact for this Request for Information.

The following exceptions to these restrictions are permitted:

1. Written communication with the person(s) designated as the point(s) of contact for this Request for Information;
2. contacts made pursuant to any pre-existing contracts or obligations; and
3. State-requested presentations, key personnel interviews, clarification sessions, or discussions.

Violations of these conditions may be considered sufficient cause to reject a vendor's response to the RFI. No individual member of the State, employee of the State, or member of the Interview Committee is empowered to make binding statements regarding this RFI. The State of Nebraska will issue any clarifications or opinions regarding this RFI in writing.

D. WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Any explanation desired by a vendor regarding the meaning or interpretation of any Request for Information provision should be submitted in writing to the Nebraska Department of Transportation and clearly marked "RFI Number R230-23; NDOT Roadway Asset Management System Questions". It is preferred that questions be sent via e-mail to NDOT.ProcurementServices@nebraska.gov.

It is recommended that Bidders submit questions sequentially numbered, include the RFI reference and page number using the following format.

<u>Question Number</u>	<u>RFI Section Reference</u>	<u>RFI Page Number</u>	<u>Question</u>

Written answers will be provided through an addendum to be posted on the Internet at https://das.nebraska.gov/materiel/purchase_bureau/bidopps.html on or before the date shown in the Schedule of Events.

E. ORAL INTERVIEWS/PRESENTATIONS AND/OR DEMONSTRATIONS

The Review Committee(s) may conclude that oral interviews/presentations and/or demonstrations are required. All vendors may not have an opportunity to interview/present and/or give demonstrations. The presentation process will allow the vendors to demonstrate their RFI offering, explaining and/or clarifying any unusual or significant elements related to their response

Any cost incidental to the oral interviews/presentations and/or demonstrations shall be borne entirely by the vendor and will not be compensated by the State.

F. SUBMISSION OF RESPONSE

The following describes the requirements related to the RFI submission, handling and review by the State.

To facilitate the response review process, one (1) original of the entire RFI response should be submitted. RFI responses should be submitted by the RFI due date and time.

A separate sheet must be provided that clearly states which sections have been submitted as proprietary or have copyrighted materials. RFI responses should reference the request for information number and be sent to the specified address. Please note that the address label should appear as specified on the face of each container. If a recipient phone number is required for delivery purposes, 402-479-4328 should be used. The Request for Information number must be included in all correspondence.

G. PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

Data contained in the response and all documentation provided therein, become the property of the State of Nebraska and the data become public information upon opening the response. If the vendor wishes to have any information withheld from the public, such information must fall within the definition of proprietary information contained within Nebraska's public record statutes. All proprietary information the vendor wishes the state to withhold must be submitted in a sealed package, which is separate from the remainder of the response. The separate package must be clearly marked PROPRIETARY on the outside of the package. Vendor may not mark their entire Request for Information as proprietary. Failure of the vendor to follow the instructions for submitting proprietary and copyrighted information may result in the information being viewed by other vendors and the public. Proprietary information is defined as trade secrets, academic and scientific research work which is in progress and unpublished, and other information which if released would give advantage to business competitors and serve no public purpose (see Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-712.05(3)). In accordance with Attorney General Opinions 92068 and 97033, vendors submitting information as proprietary may be required to prove specific, named competitor(s) who would be advantaged by release of the information and the specific advantage the competitor(s) would receive. Although every effort will be made to withhold information that is properly submitted as proprietary and meets the State's definition of proprietary information, the State is under no obligation to maintain the confidentiality of proprietary information and accepts no liability for the release of such information.

H. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION OPENING

The sealed responses will be publicly opened, and the responding entities announced on the date, time, and location shown in the Schedule of Events. Responses will be available for viewing by those present after the opening. Vendors may also contact the state to schedule an appointment for viewing RFI responses.

III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SCOPE OF WORK

The bidder should provide the following information in response to this Request for Information.

A. PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) is seeking information on available ways of improving its Roadway Asset Management Systems and/or possible replacement with software system(s) capable of managing roadway assets suitable for a State Department of Transportation.

This RFI process is intended to help vendors gain an understanding of the State's intent, and for vendors to convey to NDOT their qualifications to assist in development of a roadmap for modernization of NDOT's Roadway Asset Management Systems.

The goals are:

1. NDOT desires to obtain the expertise of an independent consultant who does not have a financial tie to a vendor of Roadway Asset Management system(s).
2. Review NDOT's processes and provide recommendations for a Roadway Asset Management system(s) that allows comprehensive management of assets and automated reporting of data for the annual, Federal Highway Performance Management System (HPMS) submittal.
3. Provide an analysis of NDOT's existing Roadway Asset Management systems and based on the analysis results, provide options and recommendations for best practices of NDOT's Roadway Asset Management systems and processes. Such analysis should also include other roadway related ancillary assets that NDOT currently manages in systems outside of IHI, as well as those assets that NDOT would like to manage in the future. Examples of such ancillary assets are guardrails, MSE walls, and culverts.
4. NDOT's interest is to have a best overall solution recommendation containing a roadmap for the redevelopment/modernization of its existing Roadway Asset Management systems. Such a recommendation may have possible inclusion of Commercial Off The Shelf (COTS) software. All considerations must maintain those necessary integration points and interfaces with current NDOT systems and be compatible with NDOT's technical environment to allow for ease of continued maintenance and support.

B. CURRENT BUSINESS PRACTICES

Until a system has been identified that meets NDOT's business needs as identified during the assessment, the current practices will be used. For more information on current business practices, see the description of the current Roadway Asset Management systems in the next section, CURRENT ENVIRONMENT.

C. CURRENT ENVIRONMENT

The Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) is responsible for the planning, development, design, construction, maintenance, and administration of the state highway system. The NDOT collects and manages an immense amount of inventory and condition data for internal asset management purposes as well as for mandatory federal reporting. Condition data is used to program, design, and build projects to maintain all state highways in a state of good repair. Condition and Inventory data is reported to the Federal government through the HPMS submittal annually and is the basis for all federal construction funding. NDOT is responsible for the management of:

- 10,000 miles of State Highway (Extensive reporting and management)
- 98,000 miles of public roads (Limited reporting)
- 3,500+ bridges (Extensive reporting and management)

Moving legacy applications off of the mainframe is one of NDOT's goals. NDOT is a Microsoft- based shop utilizing newer technologies such as C#, .NET, and SQL Server while our software development methodology follows a modified Agile practice.

The current Technical Environment at NDOT is described in **Attachment A – NDOT Technical Environment**.

The current Roadway Asset data is comprised of these major systems:

1. Integrated Highway Inventory (IHI) - IHI is an in-house mainframe database. IHI is the main database for roadway inventory and condition data. Inventory data is largely entered in by hand, with key fields being route ID, reference posts, and log miles. These mainframe databases are replicated into a SQL database for easier querying and reporting. Text files are currently exported from IHI for upload into HPMS software.
2. Pavement Optimization Program (POP) – The Pavement Optimization Program (POP) is an in-house comprehensive program that utilizes all pertinent data, including inventory, pavement condition, performance targets, programmed projects, traffic volumes, deterioration rates, and current pavement strategy costs to manage pavement assets. POP also allows managers the ability to run a Life Cycle Cost Analysis based on benefit/cost by selecting pavement condition target levels, time periods, and funding levels.
3. Geomedia/ESRI – The current spatial Linear Referencing System (LRS) is maintained in Geomedia. However, NDOT is transitioning away from Geomedia to ESRI for spatial LRS and mapping purposes. The spatial LRS is included in the HPMS submittal.
4. Pavement Condition Data - NDOT owns and operates two profiler vans to collect condition data on our approximate 10k mile state owned system annually. This is the source of pavement condition data that is uploaded into IHI.
5. Ancillary Assets – There are a multitude of systems with varying levels of inventory management outside of IHI that contain inventory data on various other linear assets. Some of these directly relate to the IHI database while other assets are currently in standalone databases.
6. Outside of ancillary assets, there are numerous other systems that integrate with the Integrated Highway Inventory System. These are noted in **Attachment B – NDOT Integrated Highway Inventory System**.

D. SYSTEM OVERVIEW

NDOT is interested in learning best practices incorporated by other state's DOT's and their Roadway Asset Management systems. NDOT is interested in a modern Roadway Asset Management system. NDOT wishes the result to provide a robust system to manage current data elements as well as expansion with future data elements and other ancillary assets. The system shall provide a low effort method to create the files necessary for HPMS submittal. In addition, the system shall integrate necessary data elements from related software and ultimately reduce time spent managing the system.

Project Objectives

The new modernized NDOT Roadway Asset Management system will meet the following objectives:

1. Replace the Roadway Asset Management portion of the antiquated mainframe system that requires outdated programming knowledge with a modern, intuitive interface that is more easily supported. Any system replacements must retain the ability to maintain downstream integration needs.
2. Any application replacement recommendations identified will meet the business and technical requirements defined following the full analysis of NDOT's Roadway Asset Management system as governed by all stakeholders, and the input of the project team.
3. Enable the Roadway Asset Management section to maintain effective internal control over Asset Management and reporting with minimal ITS support. Automated HPMS reporting is a priority. Additional reports include Needs Assessment, Annual Report, Lane Mile reporting, ad hoc queries, etc.
4. Aid the NDOT in the planning process with goals focused on changing and improving upon any major issues as identified in the full analysis of NDOT's Roadway Asset Management.
5. System replacement options should consider the of inclusion of ancillary assets other than bridges such as guardrails, culverts, MSE walls, etc.
6. System must have ability to create shape files for use in GIS software.

7. System must integrate with related management systems; POP, BrM, Lexus/Nexus, ESRI, Geomedia, etc. (see *Attachment B*).
8. Provide overall consistent, reliable, and flexible asset management and reporting service(s) for the NDOT.
9. Reduce duplication of effort, eliminate redundant practices, and share in transparency.

E. VENDOR RESPONSE

Vendors are asked to provide a two-page Letter of Interest that addresses the needs of NDOT.

When responding to this RFI, the vendor should describe in their response the following:

1. Describe your company's qualifications and experience with recommending modernization strategies and implementing Roadway Asset Management systems for any government entity. Provide specific description of your company's experience with respect to state Departments of Transportation.
2. Describe your process for performing detailed analysis of NDOT's existing Roadway Asset Management systems.
3. Describe your process for presenting best practices, recommendations, options, and possible solutions for modernizing NDOT's Roadway Asset Management systems.

Form A

Vendor Contact Sheet

Request for Information Number R230-23

Form A should be completed and submitted with each response to this solicitation document. This is intended to provide the State with information on the vendor's name and address, and the specific persons who are responsible for preparation of the vendor's response.

Preparation of Response Contact Information	
Vendor Name:	
Vendor Address:	
Contact Person & Title:	
E-mail Address:	
Telephone Number (Office):	
Telephone Number (Cellular):	
Fax Number:	

Each vendor shall also designate a specific contact person who will be responsible for responding to the State if any clarifications of the vendor's response should become necessary. This will also be the person who the State contacts to set up a presentation/demonstration, if required.

Communication with the State Contact Information	
Vendor Name:	
Vendor Address:	
Contact Person & Title:	
E-mail Address:	
Telephone Number (Office):	
Telephone Number (Cellular):	
Fax Number:	