



## INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) No. 025-013

### CONSTRUCTION OF THE ALEXANDRIA STATION IMPROVEMENTS AND KING STREET & COMMONWEALTH AVENUE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS- SET NO. 1

---

Below are questions VRE received as of **July 22, 2025**, at 2:00 P.M. EST, with responses. Whenever possible, questions are presented as originally asked. Otherwise, the questions or inquiries are presented to capture the main thrust or idea. Please note that not all questions submitted by this date are addressed in this set. Additional responses will be posted as they are finalized.

**Question #1:** The IFB for the Alexandria Station Improvements project currently shows a Bids Due date of August 7, 2025. For a project of this size and complexity, that does not allow adequate amount of time to prepare responsive bids. We respectfully request you allow at least an additional month and have bids due on approximately September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

**Response #1:** See Addendum No. 1.

**Question #2:** Specification 013219 3.1 A.1 indicates milestone dates of CSXT use of east and west bridges based on fixed calendar dates. Recognizing that the ability to achieve these dates is directly dependent upon the amount of time allowed to construct each bridge, what NTP date shall bidders assume to allow us to achieve this milestones?

Conversely, we recommend stipulating a number of calendar days from NTP to achieve said milestones. Please be aware that the construction schedule represents a significant amount of risk and VRE is asking bidders to guarantee an end date without knowing how much time the contractor will actually have, which injects a significant amount of risk into the project.

**Response #2:** See Addendum No. 1. The anticipated LNTP date is October 7, 2025 with a Full NTP by the end of November 2025. Full NTP is dependent on the Contractor's timely and satisfactory completion of required submittals as outlined in the IFB.

**Question #3:** Part IV Special Provisions 16 disallows changes for material cost increases due to tariff action. Considering that such actions by government constitute changes in law, please reconsider to maximize bidding participation by the contracting community. Notwithstanding the fact that provisions of BABAA apply, it is important to note that government action relative to

foreign source material often affects the pricing of domestic products the Contractor must supply for this project and the Contractor has no way to predict these outside influences on pricing.

**Response #3:** Part IV, Special Provision No. 16 will remain as stated in IFB No. 025-013.

**Question #4:** Specification 01 45 00 1.5.C. Please confirm that Contractor shall not be required to submit testing agent information per 01 45 00 1.5.C because per IV Special Provisions 06.B Special inspections is not by Contractor.

**Response #4:** Per Specification No. 01 45 00 1.5.C, the Contractor is required to submit, for review and approval by VRE, the qualifications of the proposed Independent Testing Agency for all inspections not covered by the Special Provisions. See Sheet S1-004 for Special Inspections.

**Question #5:** The IFB specifies a bid due date of 8/7/2025. Due to the complexity of phasing, pending RFIs, and the compressed construction schedule VRE is requiring, we request a bid extension of 1 month. We recommend a bid date on a Tuesday through Thursday no earlier than 9/9/25.

**Response #5:** See Addendum No. 1.

**Question #6:** Per the Part II Procurement Schedule on page 5 of the IFB the bid submittal date is August 7, 2025. Due to the complexity of the phasing of work, we request the bid submittal date be extended a minimum of 2-3 weeks to allow enough time to bid on the project.

**Response #6:** See Addendum No. 1.

**Question #7:** This project has a very tight schedule. Currently Structural steel procurement could extend 6 -9 months. Per Section VIII 36.B (IFB page 21) the Bidder will not withdraw such bid during the period of one hundred twenty (120) calendar days. If the Notice of Award and NTP are delayed for 120 calendar days, it might not be possible to meet the milestone dates for the CSX East Bridges 2/26/27 and West Bridges 8/11/27. Can these milestone dates be extended?

**Response #7:** Reference Specification 01 35 14 regarding coordination with other project schedules. See Addendum No.1 regarding LNTP. VRE anticipates issuing LNTP within thirty (30) calendar days after receiving Operations Board authorization to execute a contract.

**Question #8:** We understand from page 29 of the IFB that the award document will be a Contract incorporating by reference the Invitation for Bids, Special Provisions (if applicable), General Provisions, General Conditions for Construction, Scope of Work and/or Technical Specifications, Drawings/Plans and the Contractor's Bid, governed by the precedence of the terms and provisions in the General Provisions. In review of the IFB and other provided attachments, no form of Contract could be located. Please provide VRE's proposed form of Contract that will be used for this project for our review.



**Response #8:** No. The contract will be straightforward and incorporate the FTA third party contract provisions, special provisions, general provisions, general conditions for construction, technical specifications, and plans as well as the Contractor's Bid.

**Question #9:** Has WMATA JDAC approved the design? What duration should bidders assume for WMATA reviews? Must VRE review and approve submissions prior to Contractor submitting to JDAC?

**Response #9:** WMATA has approved the design. See Special Provision No. 14 for WMATA coordination and review requirements. VRE will review and approve submissions prior to JDAC review.

**Question #10:** IFB - Section V. General Provisions - Item 43 indicates that items purchased directly by VRE are exempt from certain taxes. Please confirm that all permanent material supplied for the project are exempt from the referenced taxes.

**Response #10:** The tax exemption applies solely to materials purchased directly by VRE.

**Question #11:** We request a two week extension to the RFI submission date.

**Response #11:** See Addendum No. 3.

**Question #12:** Please clarify if existing utilities are to be relocated by others.

**Response #12:** The scope of this project does not include the relocation of public utility company infrastructure by VRE or others.

**Question #13:** The city of Alexandria typically requires that construction projects to provide parking for workers to prevent street overcrowding. Has the City or other AHJ imposed specific parking criteria, and if so will it be Contractor's responsibility to provide said parking?

**Response #13:** Reference Specification 01 50 00, Section 1.9.

**Question #14:** Due to the complexity of the project, we believe that extending the bid date would provide all contractors with additional time to thoroughly review the documents and develop more comprehensive proposals. Would VRE consider extending the bid date by an additional three weeks?

**Response #14:** See Addendum No. 1.

**Question #15:** We respectfully request a 4 week extension of the bid date to allow sufficient time to prepare and submit a proposal to the owner.

**Response #15:** See Addendum No. 1.



**Question #16:** Could the owner please provide an estimated value or cost range for this project?

**Response #16:** See the VRE projects website at <https://www.vre.org/projects-and-studies/> for the overall project cost.

**Question #17:** Per the IFB General Provisions section 43 (page 62) states that items purchased directly by VRE shall be exempt sales taxes. Are any materials purchased by the contractor exempt from a sales tax, use tax, and federal excise and transportation taxes? Is the contractor responsible for any local “Gross Receipt” taxes?

**Response #17:** No, the tax exemption applies solely to materials purchased directly by VRE.

**Question #18:** Per attachment E Summary form there is a 14.7 % DBE goal. Can wholesaler subcontractor be used to purchase and deliver materials to the project? Can 100% of their subcontract value be counted towards this goal?

**Response #18:** A DBE firm acting as a regular dealer may count 60% of the cost of the materials supplied toward the DBE goal.

A regular dealer is a firm that owns, operates, or maintains a store, warehouse, or other establishment in which the materials, supplies, articles or equipment of the general character described by the specifications and required under the contract are bought, kept in stock, and regularly sold or leased to the public in the usual course of business.

A DBE firm acting as a distributor may count 40% of the cost of the materials supplied toward the DBE goal.

A distributor is an established business that engages in the regular sale or lease of the items specified by the contract. A distributor assumes responsibility for the items it purchases once they leave the point of origin (e.g., a manufacturer’s facility), making it liable for any loss of damage not covered by the carrier’s insurance.

**Question #19:** Will CSX provide the Railroad flagger and Point of Contact (POC’s) for this contract?

**Response #19:** Yes, CSX will provide the flagger and Point of Contact.

**Question #20:** Please extend the bid date and questions due date 2-3 weeks?

**Response #20:** See Addenda Nos. 1 and 3.



**Question #21:** Division 27/28 T1-402. Please confirm if there is enough room to install additional equipment in existing communication rack in Communication Room located on the basement level.

**Response #21:** The existing communication room cabinet/rack will be reused and reconfigured.

**Question #22:** Division 27/28, T1-401 & T1-604. T1-604 Cable and conduit schedule includes (6) tunnel cameras. However, Drawing# T1-401 proposed tunnel area includes only 3 tunnel cameras. Please specify the total of cameras in proposed tunnel area.

**Response #22:** There are three (3) total cameras in the tunnel. See CCTV System riser diagram sheet T1-601 for conduit and cabling per the conduit/cable schedule.

**Question #23:** Division 27/28. Please clarify if new equipment communication wiring is to be installed in Existing Communication Room on Drawing T1-104 and New communication cabinet in T1-403 Detail 2 respectively.

**Response #23:** New equipment will be installed in the existing basement communication room rack/cabinet per plans, cable schedules, and conduit schedules, See drawing T1-402.

**Question #24:** Division 27/28. Please confirm if VMS# 10, 11, 12 and existing #07 have been duplicated in the conduit cable schedule. If this is not the case, please provide updated information.

**Response #24:** Conduit and cabling is per the schedule on T1-604 and T1-605. Conduit numbers and cabling numbers are unique. Cables may travel through multiple conduits to reach end devices.

**Question #25:** Division 28, Drawing# T1-104. Who will be responsible for the purchase and installation of the know box shown on Drawing# T1-104.

**Response #25:** The Knox Box will be furnished and installed by the Owner. The final location will be determined by the Fire Marshal.

**Question #26:** Volume C, DWG# S2-225, S2-227, S2-306, S3-223, S3-30. Commonwealth Avenue's and King Street's abutments and footers do indicate locations for expansion or construction joints. Is it required, or is it at the contractor's discretion to propose means and methods?

**Response #26:** It is at the Contractor's discretion to propose means and methods.

**Question #27:** DWG# S2-310, S3-306. For the precast caps, is it acceptable for the contractor to cast the cap with 2" sleeves, set in place, and then drill the abutment for the embedment length, or should the entire length of the embedment in the abutment be poured with a PVC pipe?

**Response #27:** The embedment length for the abutment is to be drilled without the PVC sleeve.



**Question #28:** DWG# S3-601, S2-602. Please confirm whether the jump span foundations are included as part of the contractor's delegated design.

**Response #28:** Jump span foundations are included in the Contractor's delegated design.

**Question #29:** The SOE concept designs represent bracing running from the sheet pile to the abutment, which would require significant block outs while pouring the abutment that later have to be filled. Are block outs acceptable for constructing the abutment in such a manner?

**Response #29:** The SOE, bracing, and struts should be designed to be able to shift as necessary for the abutment construction, including bracing to the existing abutment. Blockouts are not acceptable.

**Question #30:** We would like to request an extension to the bid date. This job is very complicated and requires more time to complete the estimate.

**Response #30:** See Addendum No. 1.

**Question #31:** Drawing G-014 General Note 17 states "The contractor shall be responsible for obtaining all permits required by governing jurisdictions that have not already been obtained by VRE." Please advise what permits have been obtained by VRE and what permits that will be required that have not already been obtained by VRE.

**Response #31:** VRE has obtained technical approval for both the Site and Building Permits. The Contractor is responsible for securing and pulling all required permits. All the necessary permits, including interim and final permit inspections to obtain the Certificate of Occupancy, are the Contractor's responsibility.

**Question #32:** Does VRE accept 3<sup>rd</sup> tier DBE participation to meet the project goals?

**Response #32:** If a DBE subcontractor (Tier 1 or Tier 2) subcontracts a portion of its work to another certified DBE subcontractor, the value of that subcontracted work can be credited towards the overall DBE goal. DBE subcontractors at any tier must be performing a "commercially useful function." This means they must be responsible for the execution of the work to include performing, managing, and supervising the work involved, not merely acting as a conduit for funds. If a DBE subcontracts work to a non-DBE firm, that portion of the work does not count toward the DBE goal.

**END OF QUESTION AND ANSWERS- SET NO. 1**

