SAN ANTONIO District

Subchapter F, Chapter 223, Transportation Code prescribes the process by which the Texas Department of Transportation (department) may enter into a design-build contract with a private entity that provides for the design, construction, expansion, extension, related capital maintenance, rehabilitation, alteration, or repair of a highway project.

Transportation Code §§ 223.245-223.250 prescribe requirements for a design-build contract procurement. Pursuant to those provisions, the department must issue a request for qualifications that includes, among other things, the criteria that will be used to evaluate any qualification submittals, the relative weight given to the criteria, and a deadline by which qualification submittals must be received. The department is also required to publish a notice advertising the issuance of the request for qualifications in the *Texas Register* and on the department's website.

The I-35 Northeast Expansion South Project consists of non-tolled improvements along I-35 from approximately I-410 South to I-410 North, including transitions along I-35 from Petroleum Drive to I-410 South, and along the portion of I-410 South from the I-35/I-410 South Interchange to 0.3 miles north of Seguin Road/FM 78, which improvements include the construction of: additional elevated mainlanes comprised of two General Purpose (GP) lanes and one High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane in each direction; two additional direct connectors at the I-35/I-410 South interchange to connect I-410 to the I-35 elevated lanes; and connection to the elevated lanes and direct connectors at the I-35/I-410 North interchange being constructed as part of the I-35 Northeast Expansion Central Project.

I-35 is a major north-south transportation corridor critical for moving people and goods. This portion of I-35 is ranked number 61 on the Top 100 list of most congested roadways in Texas, according to the 2021 report. The proposed improvements would manage vehicle congestion, promote efficient use of existing transportation facilities, minimize impacts to the natural and built environment, complement other modes of transportation and economic development initiatives in the region, improve safety and mobility in the area, and meets the requirements for design-build delivery.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the commission that the department is authorized to issue a request for qualifications to design, construct, and potentially maintain the I-35 Northeast Expansion South Project in Bexar County, and to publish in the *Texas Register* and on the department's website a notice advertising the issuance of the request for qualifications.

Submitted and reviewed by:

DocuSigned by:

Executive Director

Deputy Executive Director

116217 March 31, 2022

Minute Date Number Passed