



September 27, 2021

## RFI RESPONSES

### CITY OF ABERDEEN

### WATERMAIN EXTENSION

Engineering Project No. 11201446

The RFIs received by the City of Aberdeen are listed below in regular text. The responses to the RFIs follow in **red text**.

1. Harford County standard spec. section 02250 3.0 B 1 a states that excavation for the installation of utilities shall be unclassified. However, section 02250 2.0 C 3 a-c states that suitable excavated soils shall be reused for backfill in utility trenches. The section further states that if the excavated soils are not suitable, Borrow Excavation shall be supplied and placed at the contract unit price or when not provided for in the contract, at a negotiated price for Extra Work. Please confirm that unsuitable soil replacement will be paid for at contract Unit Price for Borrow, or at a negotiated price when needed.  
**Borrow excavation is not provided in the contract, so if it is needed in accordance with Section 02250.C. it will be paid by the City of Aberdeen at a negotiated price.**
2. Please confirm that Harford County will retain the services of a soils testing agency at their expense pursuant to section 02250 - 3.0 D 4 f.  
**The City of Aberdeen will retain the services of a soils testing company at its own expense.**
3. Harford County standard spec. section 02250 3.0 C 2 states that initial backfill shall be to 2'-0" above pipe, whereas Plate S-1 detail on plan sheet 11 of 14 (C-501) shows the initial backfill to be not more than 6" above the pipe. Please clarify to what dimension above the pipe bidders should assume for initial aggregate backfill.  
**The pipe bedding for initial aggregate backfill shall be to 2'0 above pipe per Spec Section 02250. The note on Plate S-1 is for deep sanitary sewer.**
4. Supplemental spec section states that only 1 bid form is required to be filled out but both forms must be returned. Can the bidder fill out both bid forms for submittal on Bid Day?  
**The Contractor may elect to fill out one or both bid forms. Both bid forms must be returned regardless if one or both are filled out.**
5. Supplemental spec section implies that the bidder can choose to complete the entire project by HDD drilling. Is this meant to be proposed under the 14" HDPE Bid Form only or can the Bidders elect to install the entire project as Directional drilling with 12" pipe under the 12" PVC Bid Form?  
**All HDD crossings of streams and culverts must be completed with the specified 14" HDPE watermain. The City will consider 12" fusible PVC for the remaining directional drills on the "Entire Project by HDD" alternative. The 12" fusible PVC shall meet all AWWA/NSF requirements and shall be Class 200.**
6. MDOT Utility permit implies that Cold Mix for temporary patching can be used between April 15<sup>th</sup> through October 30<sup>th</sup>. Is this correct?  
**The first special provision of the MDOT Utility permit states that Cold Patch is prohibited unless approved by the MDOT SHA Utility Inspector. It is the Contractor's responsibility to obtain this approval.**
7. But from October 30<sup>th</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup> the Contractor must use 6" of HMA for temp patching. Please clarify what mix design should be used.

This special provision of the MDOT Utility permit is in regards to the additional depth of temporary paving during the period from October 30<sup>th</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>. Outside of that timeframe, 3" of HMA is acceptable per the MDOT Utility Permit General Provisions. The MDOT General Provision document is enclosed.

8. MDOT Utility Permit calls for 19mm and 2" 12.5mm patching but does not state the depth required for the 19mm base. Please provide a depth of 19mm base HMA for bidders to base their patching on.  
The 19mm HMA base course shall be a minimum 10" depth, per MDOT Standard Detail 578.01 on Drawing Sheet C-501
9. Permit states that work hours are restricted to between 9am and 3pm. Will the State allow any night work and if so what will the hours be?  
The Contractor shall be responsible for coordinating work hours with MDOT outside the approved hours on the traffic control permit.
10. Is the Contractor responsible for Construction Survey?  
Contractor shall provide Construction Stake Out per Spec Section 01000.5.C.
11. Where is the 60 feet of 12" DIP? It is not clearly stated on the plans or profiles.  
It is for the tie in at Route 40 and Beards Hill Road on Drawing C 101.
12. Detail for boring on C-501 calls for restrained gaskets not restrained joints. Please confirm.  
The DIP pipe within the casing pipe shall have joint restraining gaskets specified under the "Approved List of Suppliers and Materials" and per Spec section 02660.2.E.3.b
13. Who will bear the cost of CSX Flagmen for 24 HR tunneling under Rail line?  
The City of Aberdeen.
14. Who will be responsible for Track Settlement Monitoring if required by CSX?  
The Contractor will not be responsible for Track Settlement Monitoring.
15. Typically, CSX wants the spoils within their R.O.W. to be left on their property. Please clarify where those spoils should be deposited.  
Per the CSX permit, Exhibit A, Note 12, "Soil that cannot be used or disposed on CSX's right of way must be properly disposed at a CSX approved disposal facility." The contractor shall be responsible for properly using or disposing the spoils on CSX right of way.
16. Spec. calls for bituminous coated casing pipe. Coating on outside only or both inside and outside?  
Coating on exterior only per Spec Section 02300.2.B.4.c
17. Please confirm there are no Prevailing Wage requirements.  
There are no Prevailing Wage requirements.
18. Please confirm there are no MBE requirements.  
There are no MBE requirements
19. Article 12.01 a states that the Bid Price of each item on the Bid Form must be stated in numerals and in words however it appears there is only space for numerals. Will you be issuing revised bid forms or will stating each bid price in numerals be sufficient?  
The prices for the individual pay items can be entered as numerals only. The total bid amount should be entered as a numeral and in words.
20. General Provisions 2.0 B calls for the Pre-Bid Meeting to be voluntary. Please confirm the Pre-Bid meeting is mandatory for those that intend to submit a bid.

The Pre Bid Meeting is Mandatory. Per the Supplementary Specifications: "Where the "General Provisions – Section 01000" of the Harford County Standard Specifications conflicts with the "General Conditions of the Construction Contract – Section 00700", requirements of the "General Conditions of the Construction Contract – Section 00700" take precedence.

21. G.P. 5.0 D 4 states that the Contractor will pay for all inspection costs. Is this correct? This also conflicts with 02250 - 3.0 D 4 f.  
The City will pay inspection/flagging costs for MDOT, CSX, MDE, and Harford County, if necessary. The City will pay soils testing services. The contractor will be responsible for any other third party inspection not mentioned.
22. G.P. 5.0 F 1 indicates there may be a requirement for Owner / Inspector Office space. Please clarify whether or not this should be included, and under which bid item is it to be paid.  
The City will not require the Contractor to provide an office space for the inspector.
23. Will the City halt the flow of existing sewer in the existing 6" Force Main or will the Contractor be responsible to by-pass sewage as an incidental cost to the new 6" Force Main?  
Contractor shall coordinate final tie ins with the City of Aberdeen. The City will shut off their pump station appropriately during tie in period. The Contractor will have 4 hours to make both tie ins. The tie ins are incidental to the forcemain pay item.
24. Spec section 02050 3.0 C 1 a states that small diameter sewers to be abandoned shall be sealed by setting mechanical plugs in all open ends and then followed by concrete fill. There are no standard details provided for this situation and it is not clear if the concrete fill is to be placed as flow-fill in the abandoned pipe or if it is to be used to fill over the mechanical plugs. Please clarify how the existing 6" force main is to be abandoned.  
The forcemain above ground shall be removed. See Addendum No. 1 documents for additional clarification. The forcemain underground shall be abandoned by installing plug or cap at each end of the abandoned sections. There shall be four plugs/caps total for the forcemain abandonment.
25. Spec section 02800 Restoration calls for the permanent asphalt patching and specifically states that payment for this work is incidental to all other items of work. This section however does not mention the asphalt milling and overlay that is called for on the plans. Can you please explain how milling, and overlay will be paid, and can you also confirm that the milling and overlay is only required where highlighted on the plan?  
The 2" mill and overlay limits are defined by a dark gray hatch on the plans. Mill and overlay is not required outside of the hatched area. The mill and overlay limits are defined on the Addendum No. 1 documents. The mill and overlay is considered part of the pavement restoration and is incidental to all other items of work, per Spec Section 02800.
26. Please confirm that no Sodding or Soil Stabilization Matting will be required for Turf Establishment or to be incidental to any other item.  
Per the Soil Limitation Resolutions on Drawing Sheet CE-001, Soil Stabilization Matting will be used on all slopes steeper than 5% that have a soil with a K factor greater than 0.35. Per E&S Notes for Linear Applications on Drawing Sheet CE-001, Note 5 states that the ESC inspector has authority to require additional ESC controls beyond those shown on the approved ESC plan. Soil Stabilization Matting is incidental to the Turf Establishment pay item.
27. Plan calls for Continuity Test Stations to be installed for all PVC Pipe. Plan Detail for Hydrants show a requirement for Test Stations however plan does not offer locations or intervals for required Test Stations. Further, standard detail G-14 does not indicate a standard interval of Test Stations along water mains. Can you please indicate how many Continuity Test Stations will be required along the new PVC Water Mains?  
Continuity Test Stations shall be installed next to Fire Hydrants per Detail W-2. Per the Supplemental Specifications – Modifications to Harford County Specifications – Section 02660, Tracer wire access shall be provided at maximum 450' intervals, at both ends of each directional

drill, and at the continuity test stations aside each fire hydrant. The contractor shall install the appropriate amount of continuity test stations to comply with this requirement.

28. The plan view for the 6" sewer main between STA. 0+40 and 2+40 calls for "New 6" **PVC** SSWR Forcemain (via directional drill)" and the profile view calls for "New 6" **HDPE** Forcemain (via directional drill)". Could you clarify which material should be used here: PVC or HDPE? If it is HDPE, I do not see that in the approved materials list for Harford County. I appreciate any info you can provide on this.

The proposed forcemain is 6" PVC. See Addendum No. 1.

29. Can you please clarify and confirm the asphalt restoration detail required along the entire length of the Rt. 40 shoulder work area? According to the MDSHA Standard MD 578.01 which is included in the documents (see Sheet C-501), the pavement restoration needed will include 2" mill/surface Asphalt + 10" Base Asphalt + 6" GABC + 12" of Geotextile wrapped #57 Stone for a total final restoration depth of 30" of structural materials. Is this correct and what you really want us to include in our bid? Note this leaves only 12" of soil backfill over the top of pipe/bedding (which is also #57 stone).

The restoration shall be as described above, per MDOT Standard Detail 578.01 on Drawing Sheet C-501, the MDOT Utility Permit General Provisions, and the MDOT Utility Permit. The contractor is responsible for obtaining approval from MDOT for restoration not shown on the bid documents.

30. I would also like clarification on what MDSHA will accept as temporary restoration (at the end of each pipe installation shift). This seems excessive and expensive for shoulder repair/patch. And I want to make sure all the bidders (and the owner) are clarified on this point to bid correctly since this is an expensive restoration detail if missed or misinterpreted.

Per the Special Provisions of the MDOT utility permit, the MDOT Utility permit states that Cold Patch is prohibited unless approved by the MDOT SHA Utility Inspector. It is the Contractor's responsibility to obtain this approval. From April 16<sup>th</sup> through October 29<sup>th</sup>, 3" of HMA is acceptable for temporary restoration per the MDOT Utility Permit General Provisions. A special provision of the MDOT Utility permit states that 6" of HMA is required for temporary restoration from October 30<sup>th</sup> through April 15<sup>th</sup>. It is the contractor's responsibility to obtain approval from MDOT for a different temporary restoration.

31. Are we to assume that on-site soils are suitable for backfill or are we importing all backfill if using open cut method?

See RFI No. 1.

32. Do we know the thickness of asphalt and concrete in the existing roadway of Route 40 and Beards Hill Road?

The existing road thickness is not known.

33. When restoring the temporary patch on roadways, are we able to fill with stone to the top of trench before coming back for permanent patching?

See RFI No. 6 and 7.

#### END OF RFI RESPONSES