



## **Bay Bridge Protection Project October 2025 Industry Forum Q&A**

### **1. What is the Bay Bridge Protection Project?**

- Protection of the Bay Bridge by installing pier protection systems.

### **2. When will the Bay Bridge Protection Project be advertised?**

- It is anticipated that a Design-Build RFP will be advertised by Winter 2025. The goal is to select and award the project to a qualified firm by Spring 2026.

### **3. What is included in the design of the bridge protection project?**

- Protective structures (dolphins) will be strategically located in front of the existing bridge piers along the edge of the navigable channel that traverses beneath the main span of the bridges. These structures will be designed to enhance existing protections. Although the bridges' pier protection design and condition meet the requirements of their federal permits, this protective system will be designed to meet enhanced physical protection as recommended by current bridge standards applicable to new bridge construction. Specific details for the bridge protection design will be developed by the Design–Builder in collaboration with MDTA.

### **4. Will the procurement be conducted as a single-stage process, or will it include a shortlisting step?**

- There will not be a shortlisting process; instead, a pre-qualification process will be used. The Request for Proposals (RFP) will specify the minimum qualification requirements for the project. Design-build teams will submit their qualifications and provide supporting examples to demonstrate they meet the minimum requirements outlined in the RFP. Teams that meet the established criteria will be designated as prequalified proposers.
- Prequalified proposers will then be invited to schedule one-on-one meetings, during which they will receive project documentation, including the detailed risk assessment developed in accordance with AASHTO guidelines and the 30% design plans. Each team will then submit technical and financial proposals, which will be evaluated to identify the proposal offering the best value to the State.

### **5. Have any preliminary design concepts or preferences for a potential future bridge been identified at this stage? If so, will this information be provided as part of the RFP?**

- The Bay Crossing Study is ongoing and follows its own schedule for future-decision making. However, the MDTA project team maintains regular communication with the Division of Planning to ensure that project efforts do not preclude plans for a potential future bridge.
  - These considerations will be addressed during the project's design phase, and any relevant documentation will be provided to the selected proposer.
- 6. Does the MDTA anticipate requiring the use of an Independent Design-Quality Management (IQDM) firm as part of the design build team?**
- The MDTA will maintain its own Quality Assurance and Design teams. Specific requirements will be included in the RFP; however, design-build teams are typically expected to include a Quality Assurance team or an Independent Design Quality Manager (IDQM) as part of their proposal.
- 7. Will the geotechnical investigation be included within in the scope of the RFP, or will it be completed separately, prior to contract award?**
- The MDTA is currently conducting additional geotechnical borings to provide proposers with preliminary information on anticipated soil conditions. This data, along with existing boring logs, will be provided to prequalified proposers after the advertisement of the RFP. Additional geotechnical investigations may be required for detailed design, and the selected design-build team will have the option to perform their own borings as needed.
- 8. Will permitting be included within the scope of work for the RFP?**
- Details regarding permitting requirements will be outlined in the RFP. The MDTA is currently coordinating with applicable state and federal agencies to obtain the necessary permits prior to the start of the project. Any required permit modifications will be coordinated and finalized with the design-build team as the project progresses.
- 9. Should qualified contractors expect a stipend for their design-build proposals?**
- At this time, the MDTA does not anticipate providing stipends to firms for the preparation of their proposals; however, the solicitation is still in development, and final determinations will be confirmed upon issuance of the RFP.
- 10. How will design-build proposals be evaluated?**
- Similar to other design-build projects, proposals will be evaluated based on both technical and price components. Because this project is structured as a fixed-price, variable scope contract, the MDTA will focus on the level of protection and the value the proposed design delivers within the established budget specified in the RFP.
- 11. How can you contact MDTA regarding this procurement?**
- Contact Procurement Officer Jullian Johns via email [jjohns@mdta.state.md.us](mailto:jjohns@mdta.state.md.us). For general Procurement questions or information, please email using

mdtaprocurement@mdta.state.md.us.

## **12. How can you view project updates?**

- Visit the project website at <https://mdta.maryland.gov/BayBridgeProtection>. Subscribe to the mailing list to keep updated with recent news and milestones at [BayBridgeProtection@mdta.state.md.us](mailto:BayBridgeProtection@mdta.state.md.us).

## **13. Doing Business with the MDTA**

- Interested in working with the MDTA? You can find valuable information on where to find contracts using eMaryland Marketplace Advantage (eMMA), resources and assistance through the MDTA Division of Civil Rights and Fair Practices (CRFP), MBE Certification Information and the Certified MBE Directory, and contact information for Minority and Women owned businesses by visiting our Business page.