

## QUESTION & ANSWER



### **Request for Proposals - Department of Housing and Community Development Maryland Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program**

#### **Questions received Post Bidders Meeting:**

Question #15: Does the MdBC have existing pole attachment agreements or other pole attachment rights required for all new attachments or overlash required?

- Do any of these require the attacher to perform a structural load analysis, or does the pole owner perform these in response to an attachment application?
- Are there particular timeframes for application review required by the pole attachment agreement(s)?

Answer #15: Yes, MdBC has existing pole attachment agreements with DP&L, Choptank Electric, Potomac Edison, and Verizon. MdBC will apply for additional attachment agreement(s) as needed.

- This is specific to each pole owners' requirements.
- Yes, each utility company has different timeframes.

Question #16: Please confirm that permitting fees, pole make-ready fees, and the like will be paid by the MdBC directly and/or passed through to the MdBC outside the proposal pricing

Answer #16: Yes, MdBC will be responsible for permitting fees and make-ready fees on aerial attachments. All projects are contingent on budget and DHCD budget approval.

Question #17: Except as required for permit applications, are CAD construction prints and as-builts required, or is a GIS-based design allowed/preferred?

Answer #17: MdBC requires CAD construction prints and as-builts (MdBC would prefer three print copies and one electronic file for as-builts.)

Question #18: (Section 3.2 of the Standard and Specifications) Has MdBC developed a permitting tracking form for each of the work areas or possessed a list of the known permits/site issues?

Answer #18: (Section 4.2 of the Standard and Specifications) "The Permitting Tracking form is to be prepared by the contractor based upon initial contacts with agencies, landowners, and jurisdictions. The Permit Tracking from is continuously updated by the contractor as permitting progresses and shall be made available for review by the owner."

Question #19: For the underground routes outlined in the scoping document, are there any locations known to MDBC where work in wetlands cannot be avoided?

Answer #19: To the best of our knowledge, we are not aware of any areas where wetlands cannot be avoided.

Question #20: What is the timeline for the completion of each of these segments?

Answer #20: MDBC is planning a six to eight-month timeline for each segment; however, as time is of the essence, MDBC will appreciate proposals that anticipate early asset delivery.

Question #21: Is there a priority for site construction and splicing?

Answer #21: There is no priority in which sites are to be completed.

Question #22: Why is the county building around a court? Is this Fiber to the home? If so, do you have a list of materials like HH's and Terminals to be used? (Hebron)

Answer #22: MDBC is building around a court to pass additional homes. This is a middle-mile project as opposed to a fiber to the home project. MDBC has just reached an agreement with the development owner to utilize existing conduits crossing the roadway in multiple areas in the development of Plantations. This may allow for a reduction in the underground build-out.

Question #23: Will, the contractor, build into the homes?

Answer #23: The contractor will not build into the homes.

Question #24: Aerial construction practice: Several Spans are excessively long; one is measured at 402' which unfortunately crosses a roadway. **Should these spans be designated as buried, so as not to create an unsafe situation?**

Answer #24: If spans are excessively long, we recommend that the fiber path should be underground in those areas. All builds should be engineered to follow safe practices and utility pole codes and specifications.

Question #25: Does the county have As-Builts of the existing Conduit/Fiber?

Answer #25: Yes. MDBC will provide as-builts to the awarded contractor.

Question #26: Item 2.5, on page 22, does not mention Fiber Terminals. Are we to install and proof them?

Answer #26: There are no terminals requested in the Scope of Work(s).

Question #27: Is there an item or Part number specified for terminals?

Answer#27: There are no terminals requested in the Scope of Work(s).

Question #28: Item 6.3 on page 24, Direct Buried Cables Placing direct buried Inner Duct and installing the Fiber cable in the inner duct is always the best practice. Is the entire job to be direct buried? Or are there designated areas for Innerduct to be placed?

Answer #28: All underground builds require the fiber to be in innerduct. There is no direct buried fiber in any of the Scope of Work(s).

Question #29: Item 7.1 (**minimum depth of 48"**). T Burying 36" is the industry standard. Digging 12" further down is more costly and not necessarily cost beneficial. Is there a reason to bury 48" rather than 36"?

Answer #29: MdBC's fiber is required, per SHA, to be a minimum depth of 42" and 60" at road crossings and 3' below invert of culvert pipe.

Question #30: Will the contractor Design and install Fiber Terminals on poles and HH's to serve Each home/Residence that is passed Aerial / UG?

Answer #30: No.

Question #31: Is there a list of homes that are to be served?

Answer #31: Not at this time. MdBC is a middle-mile provider.

Question #32: Should electronic markers be placed in HH's or Critical HH's, and will cost like this be passed on?

Answer #32: No markers are planned for at this time.

Question #33: Is there a Pass-Thru cost for the RR Permit Xing (s) involved?

Answer #33: Include all permitting costs in RFP response.

Question #34: Will HH's be provided by MDBC?

Answer #34: Contractors responsible for all material.

Question #35: Design to each home?

Answer #35: No.

Question #36: There is a Railroad Crossing involved, likely needs to be UG. Is MDBC aware that the RR Permit may affect the deliverable date for half of the project?

Answer #36: Yes.

Question #37: Where is the tie in point? (Lonaconing)

Answer #37: MDBC has two tie in points, at this location, back to the existing backbone fiber. Two - tie in points 1) Main Street and Douglas Hill Avenue 2) Church Street and Union Street.

Question #38: Does enough backbone fiber exist for each home?

Answer #38: Yes.

Question #39: Will there be a "Hub" location?

Answer #39: Not at this time.

Question #40: Will there be a performance and payment bond required for the project?

Answer#40: Yes, the awarded contractor will be asked to provide a Performance Bond.

Question #41: How will MDBC differentiate between the plow/trench price vs bore price through neighborhoods. Concerned bore price will be higher, but restoration and customer complaints will be fewer.

Answer #41: MDBC does not have a preference on plow/trench vs bore. All restoration work must be completed to the existing state or better.

Question # 42: Are there bid forms that will be sent over? If not, what is the preferred format of bid submittal?

Answer #42: Contractor are to submit their own bid form. Submit all bids to the below mailing address or electronic mailing address before the specified closing date. Only submittals sent to the below address will be considered. Mailing address: Attention: Megan Speake, Maryland Broadband Cooperative, 2129A Northwood Drive Salisbury MD 21801 o Electronic Mailing address: mspeake@mdbc.us.

Question #43: Referencing section 3.1, the RFP calls out to place handholes every 750-800 feet. The footage in the description vs. amount of handholes would be well under the 750-foot spacing.

Answer #43: The handholes count was an approximate number. MdBC is looking for 750 foot maximum spacing on placement of handholes.

Question #44: Section 1.6 – What is the % for retainage?

Answer #44: 10%

Question #45: Section 3.2 #4 – Does aerial overlash continue south from bore point to Pole 712/105

Answer #45: Section 3.2 #4 “From Cherry Walk Road/ Quantico Road to Utility Pole # 712/98”, The aerial overlash will continue north-east approximately 2,000’.

Question #46: Have all pole lines been verified as existing?

Answer #46: Yes.

Question #47: Will there be the opportunity for follow up questions once the first set of questions have been answered?

Answer #47: The questions and answers asked on the ride out will be published.

Question #48: On the bidders call Q&A armored cable was called out to be used. Will armored cable be using for aerial installation and/or in conduit? Will armored cable only be used for direct bury?

Answer #48: Armored cable will be used for aerial installation and in conduit. All underground fiber will be placed in conduit as specified in Scope of Work(s).

Question #49: There is a section in the materials specifications for 2. Shelters. Are we responsible to provide shelters? If so, where?

Answer #49: There are no shelters in any of the Scope of Work(s) for this RFP.

Question #50: Has MdBC contacted the pole owners advising them of the projects?

Answer #50: MdBC has pole attachment agreements in place at this time but companies have not been contacted.

Question #51: How would MdBC handle a rejection to a pole attachment application?

Answer #51: The build will have to be underground to skip that pole attachment.

Question #52: Does MDBC have a right of entry agreement with poles outside the public right of way? If not, how will the contractor handle those cases?

Answer #52: MDBC has an agreement with The State of Maryland for right of way. MDBC has agreements in place with utility companies to access pole lines. MDBC will be responsible for any additional easements and/or right of entries.

Question #53: Engineering and Construction Standards and Specifications, Section 19, Page 17, 19.1 Shelter Installation. Initial documentation references "Contractor shall furnish and install shelters as set forth in Exhibit C"-could not located exhibit C. 2. Updated document (downloaded 8.28) references "Contractor shall furnish and install shelters as set forth in the Contract Documents". Only additional shelter reference is located in Material Specification Section 2, page 23. Are there any additional shelter specifications outside of this section that we should be aware of as we price this component?

Answer #53: There are no shelters specified in either segment for any Scope of Work(s) in this RFP.

Question #54: 19.4-has the property location for site buildouts (shelter offload) been determined-if so, what are the physical locations?

Answer #54: There are no shelters specified in either segment for any Scope of Work(s) in this RFP.

Question #55: We are assuming one shelter per location, but can you please provide additional clarification and requirements regarding the negotiation of the lease of the property?

Answer #55: There are no shelters specified in either segment for any Scope of Work(s) in this RFP.

Question #56: Materials Specifications, Section 8-Generator set. Specifications call out propane generators, however the Generac SD20 is a diesel-should we quote a diesel or propane unit?Do you require Generator installation and testing? Will contractor provide generator pad construction?

Answer #56: There are no generators specified in either segment for any Scope of Work(s) in this RFP.