**PN 019 – 01/20/2016 - PREPARATION OF PROPOSAL**

**ELECTRONIC BIDDING REQUIREMENTS**

The Department uses the Bid Express website (<http://www.bidx.com>) as an official repository for electronic bid submittal. Bidders must prepare their bids electronically using Project Bids and submitted via Bid Express.

The Department will not accept handwritten bids or bids generated electronically from software other than that used and supplied by the Department. All handwritten bids and bids generated electronically from software other than that used and supplied by the Department shall be considered non-responsive and ineligible for award. The Department will only accept and consider bids that have been produced using Project Bids and submitted via Bid Express.

The Department’s Office of Contracts will provide planholders with a proposal, plan set and any required addenda. Most addenda will not be provided by hard copy, but will be available on the Office of Contracts website at: <http://contracts.dot.state.oh.us>. Planholders will be notified of all addenda via email. All proposals, plans, Project Bids (EBSX) files and addenda are also available on the Office of Contracts web site.

Electronic bids must comply with all special provisions, the Construction and Material Specifications, Supplemental Specifications and the rules and regulations of the Ohio Department of Transportation regarding bid preparation and bid submittal.

Blank unit prices will be considered an invalid bid EXCEPT in the case of optional designs (projects where the bidder is required to bid on only one design). Unit prices of zero are not permitted at any time.

Addenda and/or amendments must be acknowledged in the Bid Acknowledgement section of the Project Bids (EBSX) file in order for your bid to be considered for award of this project. The section contains the certification of receipt of all hard copy proposals, addenda, amendments, plans, standard specifications and supplemental specifications. Supplemental Questionnaire information regarding the bidder’s outstanding ODOT and non-ODOT work have also been included in this section. Bid Express will not accept bids that do not have amendments incorporated. Failure to incorporate changed quantities or items in your Project Bids (EBSX) submissions will result in the rejection of your bid.

Each bidder is required to file with his bid a certified check or cashier’s check for an amount equal to five percent (5%) of its bid, but in no event more than fifty thousand dollars, or a bid bond for ten percent (10%) of its bid payable to the “Director of Transportation.” Electronic bid bonds will be verified upon submission of bids through Bid Express. Bidders must obtain and verify a Bond ID number from the surety. This Bond ID must be entered in the “Bond ID Number” field in the Bid Bond Section of the Project Bids file.

If the contractor chooses to submit a certified check to guaranty its bid, the Department’s Office of Contracts will accept a check up to 72 hours in advance of the letting. The Office of Contracts must receive the certified check by 10:00 a.m. on the day the project sells. All checks must be sent to ODOT, Office of Contracts, Attention: Letting Manager, First Floor, 1980 W. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio 43223.

The successful bidder must furnish a performance bond and a payment bond in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the awarded contract amount. (Ohio Revised Code Section 5525.16)

Any bid received after 10:00 a.m. on the scheduled day of opening will receive no further consideration for award. The Department will not be responsible for a late bid due to failure of the bidder to allow sufficient time for delivery of the bid.

The Department will ensure that this electronic bid depository is available for a two-hour period prior to the deadline for submission of bids. In the case of disruption of national communications or loss of services by <http://www.bidx.com> during this two-hour period, the Department will delay the deadline for bid submissions to ensure the ability of potential bidders to submit bids. If this occurs, instructions will be communicated to potential bidders.