



DelDOT Public Relations

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IRIB Design-Build Teams Lined Up

Also, Claims Consultant and Embankment Removal Scheduled

Indian River Inlet – The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) announces several updates toward its goal of building a new bridge over the Indian River Inlet, including the selection of three teams who will compete for the right to design and construct a new, longer bridge.

Shortlist of Teams to Build a New Bridge

DelDOT advertised its Request for Qualifications (RFQ) on October 26, 2007. A review of the qualifications of the interested teams has resulted in a selection of three finalists to submit proposals on the new bridge. The proposals will include concept, technical and price proposals as outlined in the Request for Proposals (RFP), which will be posted on the DelDOT Web site. Announcement of the selected proposal is expected in the late Spring. The procurement will be design-build.

The shortlisted teams consisting of bridge contractors and engineering firms are, in alphabetical order:

- Indian River Constructors, a Joint Venture of Flatiron Constructors, Inc. and Kiewit Construction, Inc.;
- PCL Civil Constructors, Inc.; and,
- Skanska USA Civil Southeast Inc.

Each team has previous experience in long span cable stay bridge design and construction. Over the next several months the teams will develop proposals that will include a preliminary design and cost proposal for their proposed structure. Estimated budget for the design-build of the new bridge is \$150 million. The design-build process allows a team of bridge design engineers and bridge construction contractors to be responsible for both the design and construction, meeting predetermined design criteria. This process will enable DelDOT to expedite the completion of the bridge.

The new bridge is proposed to be 2,600 feet long, including 900 feet for the actual clear span over the inlet, with 1,700 feet of the bridge over land, supported by piers in the ground. The previous design called for a bridge approximately 1,400 feet long. All piers of the new bridge remain out of the water. The additional length is needed because of continuing settlement problems encountered with the recently built approaches for the new bridge.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on Dec. 14, 2007 approved the new planned path forward for the building of a longer bridge over the Inlet. They concurred with the department's decision based on the fact that DeIDOT's plan will "minimize safety concerns, project delays and future maintenance considerations."

For more on the settlement concerns, and DeIDOT's response to the issues go to www.irib.deldot.gov.

Claims Consultant

DeIDOT continues to move forward with the Errors and Omissions review – including the hiring of an outside claims consultant -- to investigate the geotechnical work and embankment construction. The criteria for selection includes demonstrated knowledge and experience in handling similar projects; adequate staffing to meet an aggressive schedule; and immediate availability.

According to the Request for Proposals (RFP), the purpose of the solicitation was to acquire investigation services, to perform a claims or forensic review of the design and construction of earthen embankments at the Indian River Inlet. It is expected that the review will involve, at a minimum, a review of geotechnical testing information, design calculations and decisions, construction bid documents, field testing results, survey and monitoring data collection results and methods, and project files from design and construction.

Embankment Removal

With regard to the embankment material, we have been investigating suitable locations to place the fill that is to be removed. This carries with it the responsibility to ensure the sites selected meet all environmental and cultural permitting agency requirements. Partnering with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) we are working to expedite the contracting process. As a result, we anticipate removal to begin in March.

For additional information on the history of the bridge and project go to www.irib.deldot.gov.

DeIDOT encourages residents, motorists and others to write to DeIDOT Public Relations at dotpr@state.de.us , or 800 Bay Road, Dover, DE, 19903, or call 302-760-2080 or 800-652-5600.