

MEETING REPORT

May 5, 2009 Industry meeting
Grand Region Office
Grand Region Fiber Cable Installation project

Disclaimer: The contractor inquiries and questions and answers posted for this project are being provided by the Michigan Department of Transportation (hereinafter referred to as MDOT) as a courtesy service to contractors. In preparation of this publication, MDOT has endeavored to offer current, correct and clearly expressed information. The information is not a part of the contract documents for the project and has no contractual standing. The information provided will NOT be accepted as documentation as a basis to file a claim or as evidential use in the claims process.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the project and answer questions provided by the contractors. **All information provided should be considered preliminary and any information included in the RFP will take precedence.** See the attached project overview diagram that was distributed at the meeting.

1. What type of fiber is desired?

The proposed fiber-optic cable type is outdoor, single mode, water blocking, and 48 strands. The allowable dB loss limits will be provided. A minimum fiber length between splices may be specified to minimize splices and dB loss. A fiber special provision will be included.

2. Is tracer cable or traceable tape required?

Traceable tape or separate tracer wire may be acceptable. The fiber cable will be all dielectric.

3. What fiber testing will be required?

ODTR testing will be required end-to-end and bi-directionally. It will be tested at two frequencies: 1310 nm and 1550 nm. MDOT will check if the fiber testing equipment calibration requirements are included in the fiber special provision.

4. Where will fiber testing be required?

At the factory, on the spool at the job site, and after installation.

5. How will the fiber be terminated for testing the ends that will not be permanently terminated as part of the project (e.g., the ends left coiled in a handhole for future connection)?

Mechanical, temporary termination connections will be required for any fibers not permanently terminated at each end point, and will likely apply to the east end of the project (I-96 at M-11). There is currently termination points envisioned at US-131 and I-196. There will not be any other ITS devices or cabinets along the route at which to terminate fiber.

6. What fiber connector type will be used?

This will depend on components procured by the GVMC ITS Expansion project. MDOT will attempt to provide this information to the contractors prior to the due date for bid submittals.

7. How will service fiber be placed in the handhole?

It will be coiled and properly racked on the handhole wall, rather than laid in the bottom of the handhole. Service fiber will be included in the project requirements to accommodate future ITS devices.

8. What is the existing handhole size? Is it appropriate for fiber-optic cable?

The existing handholes are 4'X4'X4', and intended for fiber-optic cable use. The existing conduit and handhole system was designed for fiber-optic cable use. This will also be the minimum size for the proposed handholes.

9. What is the existing handhole spacing?

The existing handhole spacing on M-6 is approximately 800 feet, and 300 feet on I-96.

10. How clean is the existing conduit?

Field observations indicate that the existing handholes are mostly filled with water. There is not likely to be many conduit breaks or sediment, since the conduit is relatively new (all of the underground infrastructure is less than 10 years old) and little construction activity has occurred since installation. The innerducts have plugs to cap each end in the handholes. Fixing broken conduit will be a shared risk item.

11. Does the existing conduit have pull strings?

They were designed to have pull strings.

12. What is the size of the proposed conduit?

On past projects, 5" HDPE with (4) 1-1/4" innerducts has been typically used for ITS. The proposed conduit is likely to be the same or similar.

13. Are the existing plans available and will they be provided?

The as-builts will be provided in .pdf format, and Microstation drawings of the previous design plans will be provided for sections where plan sheets will be required.

14. What survey will be required?

Survey will be required in areas where new conduit, handholes, or cabinets are installed. Survey will be limited to the side of the freeway where these items are proposed. The contractor must have a surveyor licensed in Michigan, however the MDOT prequalification for survey is not required.

15. What software format is required for the plans?

Microstation.

16. What level of design will be required?

To-scale plan sheets will be required for areas with new conduit, handholes, and cabinets. Communications diagrams/schematics will be required to illustrate the fiber cable layout. Termination/splice diagrams will be required for all locations where the fiber is terminated.

17. Will as-builts be required?

Yes, however only for the areas where plan sheets are required. GPS coordinates may be required at existing handhole and cabinet locations.

18. Is there any electrical work?

No.

19. Is there any integration work?

No.

20. What does the selection process include?

The selection process is two steps. The first step selection will short-list three firms, based on qualifications. The second step will use either best value (a mix of price and other criteria) or low bid to make the selection.

21. When is the letting date?

It is scheduled for August 13, which is a change from the date in the RFQ.

When is RFQ due?

It is scheduled for May 19 at noon.

23. What type of contract will MDOT be using?

The contract is the standard MDOT contract used for construction. The MDOT Field Manager software will be used for this project. There will be Lump Sum pay time(s) for the D/B scope of work. The shared risk items will define a quantity and unit price.

24. What items will be considered for shared risk?

Tentatively, the shared risk items are repairing conduit and removing contaminated soil.

Attendance of RFQ Informational Q&A Meeting

Project: HPSL 84913-105798

Date: May 5, 2009

Description of Work: Fiber-optic cable installation along M-6 and I-96 in existing and proposed conduit; Installation of conduit and handholes for a short segment; and Termination of fiber-optic strands at each end of the project and connection points within the project in Kent and Ottawa Counties.

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