



Purchasing Division
Finance Department
Room 120
411 West First Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

218-730-5340
purchasing@duluthmn.gov

*******ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS*******
BIDS DUE Monday, October 19, 2020 at 2:00 pm

BID NUMBER: 20-99512

PROJECT NAME: Fiber Optic Connection along Lake Avenue

STATE/CITY PROJECT NUMBER: 1939

ANTICIPATED START DATE: October 26, 2020

The City of Duluth, Minnesota requests sealed bids for the above named project. **Due to reduced staffing and hours at City Hall as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, all bids must be submitted electronically through Bid Express® at www.bidexpress.com** prior to the bid deadline. The City Purchasing Agent, or her designee, will open bids immediately after the deadline for receiving bids. Bid results will be posted on Bid Express and the city website.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION & MAJOR WORK ITEMS: Construct fiber optic interconnect along Lake Avenue from Railroad Street/Canal Park Drive to the Duluth Aerial Lift Bridge. This includes construction of fiber optic interconnect connections to existing signal cabinets and across the lift bridge to the lift bridge offices, tower cabinets, and pilot house.

PREBID MEETING: A pre-bid meeting will take place on Monday, October 12, 2020 at 10:00 am. Interested bidders are strongly encouraged to attend and are to meet outside at the south abutment (Park Point Side) of the Aerial Lift Bridge, Duluth, MN. Masks and social distancing requirements recommended by the CDC are to be followed. The City will not be providing masks.

Questions pertaining to this project should be directed to: Chris Majerle, Network Administrator, 218-730-5112, cmajerle@duluthmn.gov

Plans and specifications may be viewed and downloaded at no cost at www.bidexpress.com. Bidders must create a free account with Bid Express®; and login to search for city projects (search by "City of Duluth" or bid number. Bid Express® does charge a nominal fee for bid submission. More information can be found at https://www.bidexpress.com/vendor_resources

Plans and specifications are on file for inspection at the Minnesota Builder's Exchange, BXWI-Fox Valley Plan Room, and Blue Book Building and Construction Network.

Bidders must review the 2019 edition of the City of Duluth Public Works/Utilities Department – Engineering Division Standard Construction Specifications (available at <http://www.duluthmn.gov/engineering/standard-construction-specifications/>) as these Specifications are incorporated by reference.

Bid surety in an amount equal to five per cent (5%) of the total bid shall be submitted with each bid. Electronic bid surety can be submitted using Surety 2000 or SuretyWave. **For the duration of the City Hall closure to the public as a result of COVID-19, bid bonds may be emailed to purchasing@duluthmn.gov. The emailed bid bond must be received by purchasing office prior to the bid opening, and must be verifiable with the surety company. Any exceptions to submitting bid bonds other than via Bid Express or email must be arranged in advance with the Purchasing office.**

The City Purchasing Agent or her designee will conduct a public bid opening immediately after the deadline for receiving bids. Bidders may view the opening by going to the Purchasing web page (<https://www.duluthmn.gov/bids-request-for-proposals/>) and selecting the appropriate link.

No alternatives to the specification will be considered unless specifically requested. Erasures or other changes to the bid must be initialed and dated, however no special conditions shall be made or included in the bid form by the bidder.

The City of Duluth reserves the right to split the award where there is a substantial savings to the City, to waive



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informalities and to reject any and all bids. Price may not be the only consideration for bid award. Bids must be firm for a minimum of 90 days.

Please note that the following requirements also apply to this project, and any additional required documents must be submitted prior to award/contract execution.

1. **Insurance** – Contractor must provide proof of Public Liability and Automobile Liability Insurance with limits not less than \$1,500,000 Single Limit prior to the commencement of work. The City of Duluth must be named as an additional insured. Please refer to the draft Contract, Section 7.
2. **Performance & Payment Bonds** – The awarded contractor will be required to submit performance and payments bonds in the full amount of the project cost prior to award.
3. **Project Labor Agreement (PLA)** - A PLA will be required for any bid that is over or could virtually go over \$150,000. A copy of the City standard PLA is included in this package.
4. **Community Benefits Provisions** - A Community Benefits Best Efforts Plan will be required for any project that includes a PLA. The required form is included in the bid package, as well as a link to additional community benefits information, including the program specifications and a process flowchart.
5. **Out of State Contractor** - Unless a State of Minnesota Certificate of Exemption is provided, any out-of-state bidder receiving a bid award will have 8% retained from invoice payments on any contracts over \$50,000. Submit a signed copy of the signed exemption form when submitting Payment and Performance Bonds. This form may be found at: http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/Forms_and_Instructions/sde.pdf
6. **Prevailing Wage** - Not less than the minimum salaries and prevailing wages as set forth in the bid package must be paid on this project.

The contractor must take affirmative action to ensure that the employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, creed, sex or national origin, and must meet the affirmative action goals. Contractors are encouraged to subcontract with Disadvantaged Business Enterprises when possible. Contractor will comply with all applicable Equal Employment Opportunity laws and regulations.

The City of Duluth reserves the right to waive informalities and to reject any or all bids.

Amanda Ashbach, City Purchasing Agent