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NJDOT advertises first Design-Build project Route 50 Bridge over Cedar Swamp Creek first project to use innovative project delivery method

(Trenton) – The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) today announced the advertisement of the Department's first Design-Build project, the Route 50 Bridge over Cedar Swamp Creek located in Upper Township, Cape May County. Information about the advertisement can be found on NJDOT's <u>Alternative Project Delivery Page</u> on the <u>NJDOT Procurement page</u>.

"Finding innovative ways to deliver transportation projects helps advance Governor Phil Murphy's vision of a safe, equitable, and sustainable transportation system for all New Jerseyans," NJDOT Commissioner Fran O'Connor said. "Advertising NJDOT's first Design-Build project is an important milestone in the implementation of a new way to bid and deliver select capital projects that offer opportunities for collaboration and cost-effective solutions."

Traditionally, construction projects have separate contracts for design and construction. The Design-Build method streamlines the process by incorporating both design and construction into a single contract. It fosters opportunities for collaboration and innovation to optimize designs, reduce risk, and find more cost-effective solutions. This process means fewer changes once construction begins and quicker project delivery since design and construction phases can overlap.

The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) issued on December 2, 2024, is the first phase of a two-phase best-value procurement process. The second phase of the procurement process is the Request for Proposals (RFP). Responses to the RFQ will be evaluated to establish a short list of design-build firms that will be invited to submit proposals in response to a Final RFP, scheduled to be issued in June 2025. The project is anticipated to be awarded in January 2026.

The RFQ follows the Letter of Intent, which was issued in August 2024, and was the first step in the process of awarding a Design-Build project. The Letter of Intent provides information about the project, which will be a full replacement of the Route 50 Bridge over Cedar Swamp Creek, which is part of a coastal evacuation route, as well as information on the procurement schedule. All documents related to the procurement process for this project will be posted on the Alternative Project Delivery Page on the NJDOT Procurement page.

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