November 7, 2017

Subject: Request for Proposals
2018-2021 Load Rating Bridges Term Contract

To Whom It May Concern:

The Montana Department of Transportation is accepting proposals from consulting firms interested in a term contract for performing bridge load rating services at various locations throughout Montana.

MDT intends to establish term contract(s) to utilize consultants on an "as-needed" basis for the work described herein. At this time, the intention is to award four (4) agreements that will be approximately $1,000,000 each, for a four-year period from January 2018 through December 2021. MDT reserves the right to revise the number of term contracts, the contract values, or contract timeframes, depending on the responses received. Extension(s) of contracts, by mutual agreement of both parties, may be made at one (1) year intervals, or any interval that is advantageous to MDT. Contracts, including any renewals, may not exceed a total of five (5) years.

Teams may be established as necessary; however, it is expected that the prime consultant will be capable of completing the vast majority of the work. As a rule, the prime consultant must complete at least 50% of the work for a specific project or assignment unless written exception is given.

Montana professional engineering licensure is required for this work, and must be in-hand at the time your proposal is submitted. If this requirement is not met and clearly identified in the proposal, your proposal will be considered non-responsive.

If your firm is interested, please submit a proposal as described herein.
SCOPE OF WORK

1. **General**

   A. The consultant will provide the necessary personnel, software, equipment, and expertise to load rate the bridges using the latest version of the AASHTOWARE Bridge Rating (BrR) program for all bridges BrR has the capability to rate. BrR does not have the capability to load rate all types of structures. In cases where BrR cannot rate the structure, other software may be used, but must be coordinated with and approved in advance by the MDT Bridge Management Engineer.

   B. For bridges that require Under Bridge Inspection Vehicles and for which MDT cannot provide sufficient information to rate the structure, the consultants will join the bridge inspectors during their regularly scheduled inspection of the bridge and take measurements then. MDT Under Bridge Inspection Vehicles and operators will be available during the regularly scheduled inspections for use in measuring bridges that require this type of access. The consultant will provide and operate any other specialized equipment needed to obtain structural measurements for bridges without plans. The consultant will fill out and submit to MDT, the standardized MDT Measurement forms and also provide any additional sketches made for bridges or culverts when measurements are taken.

   The MDT Measurement forms will be available to consultants with awarded contracts through the MDT Structure Management System (SMS).

   C. The consultant will provide all necessary traffic control and ensure that the traffic control complies with the requirements in the MUTCD. MDT provides traffic control during regularly scheduled inspections using Under Bridge Inspection Vehicles, so the consultant will not need to provide traffic control when measuring bridges during regular scheduled inspections.

2. **Personnel**

   All bridge load ratings will be completed under the direction of a professional engineer licensed in the State of Montana.

3. **Coordination and Scheduling**

   Before load rating begins, the consultant will provide a tentative schedule to the MDT Bridge Management Section so that MDT can anticipate workload and plan for review of submittals.

4. **Bridge Load Rating**

   A. All bridges will be rated in accordance with the most current version of Chapter 8 Load Rating and Posting of the *MDT Bridge Inspection and Rating Manual*, the latest version of the *AASHTO Manual for Bridge Evaluation*, the *AASHTO*
B. The types of bridges to be rated is variable. Any bridge type that is found in Montana may require load rating. This includes corrugated steel and reinforced concrete culverts.

5. Structural Measurements

A. In cases where plans are not available, the consultant will provide equipment and personnel necessary to obtain the required measurements for load rating a bridge, except when coordinating with inspectors for use of an MDT Under Bridge Inspection Vehicle. Plans are available for most prestressed concrete and reinforced concrete bridges.

B. The MDT Superstructure Measurement Forms will be used when consultants measure bridges for load rating purposes. In the case(s) where the standardized measurement forms do not provide enough information to load rate the bridge, the consultant will also create and submit to MDT, any additional sketches of the bridge, or parts of the bridge as required to define the bridge sufficiently to perform the load rating.

6. Report and Revision of Load Ratings

A. For each bridge load rating, the consultant will submit to MDT, a report containing the following:

1) a cover page clearly showing all bridge identification information
2) a one-page load rating results summary that includes load rating results for the design vehicle (typically HL-93), all 3 AASHTO legal loads, all 4 Specialized Hauling Vehicles, the EV2 and EV3 loads, and any additional loads as defined by MDT during scoping of a term assignment.
3) a copy of any structural measurements obtained for the bridge
4) documentation of all assumptions made during load rating
5) copies of all calculations made outside of the software used to rate the bridge
6) input, output, and results printouts of all software used except the AASHTOWARE BrR software
7) an electronic copy of the bridge model exported from BrR in .xml format
8) where possible, an electronic input file for any other software used that is not BrR

B. One electronic copy (in .pdf format) of each load rating report will be submitted for MDT review of each bridge, along with an electronic copy of the bridge model exported from BrR in .xml format and an electronic input file for any other software used. Provide a location on the cover page for a signed stamp for each structure, but do not sign and stamp the report at the time of the initial submittal.
C. In addition to the consultant reviewing all deliverables, MDT personnel will review the rating documentation to verify that all required deliverables have been included. MDT will then request changes or additions as needed and notify the consultant of acceptance of load ratings that do not need revision and request revision and resubmittal for load ratings that need revision.

D. Once each report has been approved and accepted by MDT personnel, the consultant will then revise (as needed) the load rating reports and resubmit a final version that is signed and stamped by the engineer in responsible charge for each load rating report until all reports have been accepted.

E. Once the approved report has been accepted by MDT, the consultant will then enter the load rating data into the MDT Structure Management System (SMS) by updating all required Attribute fields in Chapter L and uploading the final load rating report to the structure documents. The consultant will then send an email to MDT notifying them that final data entry in SMS is complete for each structure.

**LOCATION**
Various – Statewide

**PROJECT/TASK SCHEDULE AND DELIVERABLES**
The project schedule will be developed and negotiated separately for each individual term/task assignment. At this time, it is anticipated that deliverables will generally follow those described in MDT’s Consultant Activity Descriptions (as applicable): http://www.mdt.mt.gov/other/webdata/external/cdb/ACTIVITY_DESCRIPTIONS/CONSULTANT_DESIGN_2500_MU.PDF

**STANDARDS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND POLICIES**
Work is expected to follow MDT’s various Manuals, Guides, and Policies. These items may be found on MDT’s Design Consulting web page at: http://www.mdt.mt.gov/business/consulting/. 

**PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL**
Submit four (4) copies of the proposal. The correct number of proposals must be submitted in order for your firm to be considered. Clearly label each proposal with the contract name identified in the subject line of this RFP. All proposals must be submitted in hard copy format; electronic proposals will not be considered.

The Department must receive the proposals for this RFP no later than 12:00 PM MST, November 28, 2017. Send the proposals to:
Regardless of cause, late proposals will not be accepted and will automatically be disqualified from further consideration. It shall be solely the vendor's responsibility to assure delivery at the specified office by the specified time. Offeror may request the State return late proposals at vendor’s expense or the State will dispose of late proposals if requested by the offeror. (See Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 2.5.509.). If no request is made, late proposals become the property of the Department. All proposals submitted on time become the property of the Department.

The costs for developing and delivering responses to this solicitation are entirely the responsibility of the offeror. The State is not liable for any expense incurred by the offeror in the preparation and presentation of this submittal.

TENTATIVE RFP/SELECTION SCHEDULE

The anticipated schedule for consultant solicitation and selection for this contract is as follows (subject to change):

November 7, 2017: RFP released
November 28, 2017: Proposals due to be submitted to MDT Consultant Design
December 4, 2017: Proposals reviewed, rated, and ranked by the evaluation committee
December 6, 2017: Consultant Selection Board meeting to select consultant(s)

There are three (3) members on the evaluation committee for this RFP:
1. MDT Bridge Bureau Manager
2. MDT Bridge Bureau Structural Engineer
3. MDT Bridge Bureau Engineering Specialist

PROPOSAL CONTENTS

The proposal must contain the information listed in this section. The proposal is limited to ten (10) pages, not including the required Unbound Cover Page, Appendix A, or Unbound References attachment. A single cover jacket/title page is allowed if desired, and will not count in the page limit. Each page is defined as one side of a letter size sheet (no larger than 8 ½” x 11”), minimum font size of 10. Evaluation of information will begin with the first page immediately following the cover jacket/title page, and every page will be counted, in order, from that point forward, including any table of contents or divider pages the firm wishes to include. Once the page limit is reached, any information included thereafter will be removed and not considered or scored. Please organize your proposal in the same order and numbering format as shown below, which will assist MDT in reviewing your proposal:
Unbound Cover Page (1 page)
Include an UNBOUND version of MDT’s standard cover page form, available at the following location:
Information presented in the cover page will not be considered in proposal scoring.

Questions
1) Qualifications of Firm: Provide a discussion of how your firm is best qualified to respond to work assignments for this contract. Discussion should focus on the requirements for this specific contract, particularly:
   - Your firm’s expertise and experience, as it relates to the work described in the “Scope of Work” section above. Provide examples of previous related project experience as it relates to these services.
   - Ability, Strategy, and Approach to meet project/contract requirements, as described in the “Scope of Work” section above.
   - Ability and Strategy to meet project schedules, including fast-tracked or emergency projects, and changing priorities. Response should include a brief discussion on current and projected workload.
   - Compatibility of systems, software, and equipment (i.e. load rating software, CADD software, word processing software, etc.), and experience with these systems, software, and equipment. The Department’s standard design software is Microstation GEOPAK SS4 with OpenRoads Technology. Please note that MDT is not currently prepared to allow use of Bentley OpenRoads Designer CONNECT edition. Describe any additional support equipment or software you intend to use.
   - Subcontractors and support services that you anticipate utilizing and describe their expertise.
   - Quality assurance/quality control procedures. Provide a thorough discussion on the quality control plan that will be used during bridge load rating to insure consistent and thorough load ratings are performed.

2) Qualifications of Personnel: Provide a discussion of the qualifications of the key personnel to be assigned to this contract. The specific individuals or subconsultants listed in the proposal, including Project Manager, that will be assigned to key positions shall not be removed or replaced without the prior written approval from MDT Bridge. Replacement personnel submitted for approval must have at least equal qualifications, experience and expertise as those listed in the proposal.

Discussion should focus on the requirements for this specific contract, particularly:
   - Expertise, experience, and training of key personnel to be assigned to the contract, as it relates to the “Scope of Work” for this contract. Provide examples of previous related project experience as it relates to these services.
   - Clearly state any professional licensing requirements applicable to this contract making sure to identify the state the license(s) are held in.
• Include an organization chart that indicates the project staff, their area of expertise, registration, and office location(s).

Resumes may be considered as supplemental information for scoring this question.

Appendix A

Resumes

Include brief resumes for the key personnel to be assigned to the contract.

Resumes are limited to one (1) page per person.

Unbound attachment

References

Submit ONE UNBOUND COPY of references that includes a minimum of five (5) separate contracts from the past three (3) years. If applicable, you may submit multiple contracts for a single client. Each contract must pertain to work similar to the proposed scope of services. Include client name, a currently employed primary contact person, an alternative contact person, corresponding valid phone numbers and emails for both contacts, a range of contract value, and a brief description of the work performed. If MDT needs to use these references for the Past Performance Score (as described in the “Evaluation of Proposals” section below), and is unable to contact the required number of references after a reasonable effort, the firm will receive a zero for the missing reference(s).

EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

All proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the following factors:

1) Qualifications of Firm (50 points possible)
2) Qualifications of Personnel (50 points possible)
3) Record of past performance (30 points possible)

a) If two (2) or more MDT evaluations specific to the discipline for this contract are available for the consultant, the average score of these evaluations will be used.

b) If fewer than two (2) MDT evaluations specific to the discipline for this contract are available for the consultant, but there are two (2) or more MDT evaluations are available for other work disciplines, the consultant’s current overall past performance score from MDT evaluations will be used.

c) If there is only one (1) MDT evaluation available for the consultant, the record of past performance score will be an average of the MDT evaluation and one (1) reference check from the references provided in the unbound attachment.

d) If no MDT evaluations are available, the average score of two (2) reference checks from the references provided in the unbound attachment will be used for this score.

Regardless of partnership/teaming relationships, the past performance of the prime consultant will be the past performance scored that will be used for this score.
All Proposals will be evaluated using the following basic scoring methodology:

- Outstanding/Exceptional response: 90-100% of the available points
- Good response: 70-90% of the available points
- Average response: 50-70% of the available points
- Poor response: 30-50% of the available points
- Qualifications not clearly met: 0-30% of the available points

Following the review, evaluation, and rating of all proposals, the final results will be presented to the Consultant Selection Board at the MDT Headquarters Building. At this time, the Consultant Selection Board will select the most qualified firm(s) for TERM CONTRACT(S).

**SELECTION OF CONSULTANTS FOR TASK ASSIGNMENTS**

If multiple consultants are selected and multiple term contracts are awarded, task or work orders (term assignments) will be awarded through an additional qualifications-based selection procedure. This selection procedure will be comprised of selecting a firm in accordance with the following weighted factors:

1) **Qualifications for specific Task Assignment (60 points possible)**
   a) Using the proposals submitted in response to this RFP and work performed with MDT since the submittal of this proposal: an evaluation of the consultant’s qualifications as related to the specific knowledge, skills, and abilities required for the individual task assignment, including familiarity with the region in which the task assignment is located. Firm office location is not the determining factor for this score. (50 points possible)
   b) As relating to this type of work, the firm’s current workload and amount of recent work with MDT. (10 points possible)

**INDIRECT COST RATE REQUIREMENTS**

Proof of the firm’s Indirect Cost Rate (overhead rate) is *not required* with this proposal submittal. However, an Indirect Cost Rate may be required prior to executing a contract according to MDT’s Indirect Cost Rate Requirements:

All submitted indirect cost rates must be calculated in accordance with 23 CFR 172 for the cost principles of 48 CFR part 31 and include the required items identified in the MDT Indirect Cost Rate Policy located in Appendix A of the Consultant Services Manual on the MDT Internet website.  

*Do not show any actual numerical financial information such as the overhead rate or personnel rates within your proposal. Specific cost information of the firm or team should not be part of the proposal.*
AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Contract agreements will generally be administered on a cost plus fixed fee basis. The contracts will have negotiated cost ceilings. If a consulting firm is selected for a specific project and a contract agreement is successfully negotiated, certain financial information will be required as part of the contract agreement. As described in the Indirect Cost Rate Requirements section above, all Consultants and subconsultants must provide the Department with an Indirect Cost Rate (as applicable) audited (when applicable) in accordance with 23 CFR 172 for the cost principles of 48 CFR Part 31 and based on the firm’s latest completed fiscal year’s costs. Personnel rates, profit, and direct expenses must be clearly outlined and provided to the Department. The standard MDT agreement can be found at the following address:


Do not submit actual numerical financial information within this proposal.

STATE OPTION TO AWARD

While the State has every intention to award a contract resulting from this RFP, issuance of the RFP in no way constitutes a commitment by the State to award and execute a contract. Upon a determination such actions would be in its best interest, the State, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to:

- Cancel or terminate this RFP (18-4-307, MCA);
- Reject any or all proposals received in response to this RFP (ARM 2.5.602);
- Waive any undesirable, inconsequential, or inconsistent provisions of this RFP that would not have significant impact on any proposal (ARM 2.5.505);
- Not award a contract, if it is in the State's best interest not to proceed with contract execution (ARM 2.5.602); or
- If awarded, terminate any contract if the State determines adequate funds are not available (18-4-313, MCA).

SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT

From the date this solicitation is issued until the consultant selection is finalized by MDT at the Consultant Selection Board meeting, offerors are not allowed to communicate with any state staff or officials regarding this solicitation, except at the direction of the Consultant Design Engineer. If unauthorized contact is made and the Consultant Design Engineer determines the context of the contact gives the firm an unfair advantage, the firm will be disqualified from the solicitation. Contact information for the single point of contact is as follows:

Ryan Dahlke
Consultant Design Engineer
Montana Department of Transportation
(406) 444-7292 (Direct Line)
(800) 335-7592 (TTY)
rdahlke@mt.gov
DBE/WBE GOALS
There are no DBE/WBE goals for this work, but firms are strongly encouraged to utilize DBE firms if applicable. A Montana certified DBE list is available and can be found on the MDT webpage, http://www.mdt.mt.gov/business/contracting/civil/dbe.shtml.

NONDISCRIMINATION COMPLIANCE
Consultants will be subject to Federal and Montana nondiscrimination laws and regulations (see attached notice).

If you have any questions, please contact me at (406) 444-7292 or (406) 444-7696 TDD, or by email at rdahlke@mt.gov. I look forward to receiving your proposal.

Sincerely,

Ryan Dahlke, P.E.
Consultant Design Engineer

Attachment

copies:
Jay Skoog, ACEC Executive Director-Montana Chapter
MDT Consultant Design Bureau file

e-copies:
Dwane Kailey, MDT Chief Engineer
Dustin Rouse, MDT Preconstruction Engineer
Lesly Tribelhorn, MDT Highways Engineer
Lynn Zanto, MDT Planning Division Administrator
Patricia Schwinden, MDT Civil Rights Bureau Chief
Kent Barnes, MDT Bridge Engineer
**MDT NONDISCRIMINATION AND DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION NOTICE**

Montana Department of Transportation ("MDT") is committed to conducting all of its business in an environment free from discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. In accordance with State and Federal law MDT prohibits any and all discrimination and protections are all inclusive (hereafter "protected classes") by its employees or anyone with whom MDT does business:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federal protected classes</th>
<th>State protected classes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, &amp; Limited English Proficiency</td>
<td>Race, color, national origin, parental/marital status, pregnancy, childbirth, or medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth, religion/creed, social origin or condition, genetic information, sex, sexual orientation, gender identification or expression, national origin, ancestry, age, disability mental or physical, political or religious affiliations or ideas, military service or veteran status</td>
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For the duration of this contract/agreement, the PARTY agrees as follows:

1. **Compliance with Regulations:** The PARTY (hereinafter includes consultant) will comply with all Acts and Regulations of the United States and the State of Montana relative to Non-Discrimination in Federally and State-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation and the State of Montana, as they may be amended from time to time, which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract.

2. **Non-discrimination:**
   a. The PARTY, with regard to the work performed by it during the contract, will not discriminate, directly or indirectly, on the grounds of any of the protected classes in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment, employment, and all other activities being performed under this contract/agreement.
   b. PARTY will provide notice to its employees and the members of the public that it serves that will include the following:
      i. Statement that PARTY does not discriminate on the grounds of any protected classes.
      ii. Statement that PARTY will provide employees and members of the public that it serves with reasonable accommodations for any known disability, upon request, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act as Amended (ADA).
      iii. Contact information for PARTY’s representative tasked with handling non-discrimination complaints and providing reasonable accommodations under the ADA.
iv. Information on how to request information in alternative accessible formats.

c. In accordance with Mont. Code Ann. § 49-3-207, PARTY will include a provision, in all of its hiring/subcontracting notices, that all hiring/subcontracting will be on the basis of merit and qualifications and that PARTY does not discriminate on the grounds of any protected class.

(3) Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs):

a. If the PARTY receives federal financial assistance as part of this contract/agreement, the PARTY will make all reasonable efforts to utilize DBE firms certified by MDT for its subcontracting services. The list of all currently certified DBE firms is located on the MDT website at mdt.mt.gov/business/contracting/civil/dbe.shtml

b. By signing this agreement the PARTY assures that:

The contractor, sub recipient or subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this contract. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR part 26 in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract or such other remedy as the recipient deems appropriate.

c. PARTY must include the above assurance in each contract/agreement the PARTY enters.

(4) Solicitation for Subcontracts, Including Procurement of Materials and Equipment: In all solicitations, either by competitive bidding, or negotiation, made by the PARTY for work to be performed under a subcontract, including procurements of materials, or leases of equipment, each potential subcontractor or supplier will be notified by the PARTY of the PARTY’s obligation under this contract/agreement and all Acts and Regulations of the United States and the State of Montana related to Non-Discrimination.

(5) Information and Reports: The PARTY will provide all information and reports required by the Acts, Regulations, and directives issued pursuant thereto and will permit access to its books, records, accounts, other sources of information and its facilities as may be determined by MDT or relevant US DOT Administration to be pertinent to ascertain compliance with such Acts, Regulations, and instructions. Where any information required of a contractor is in the exclusive possession of another who fails or refuses to furnish the information, the PARTY will so certify to MDT or relevant US DOT Administration, as appropriate, and will set forth what efforts it has made to obtain the information.

(6) Sanctions for Noncompliance: In the event of a PARTY’s noncompliance with the Non-discrimination provisions of this contract/agreement, MDT will impose such sanctions as it or the relevant US DOT Administration may determine to be appropriate, including, but not limited to:

a. Withholding payments to the PARTY under the contract/agreement until the PARTY complies; and/or

b. Cancelling, terminating, or suspending the contract/agreement, in whole or in part.
(7) Pertinent Non-Discrimination Authorities:

During the performance of this contract/agreement, the PARTY, for itself, its assignees, and successor in interest, agrees to comply with the following non-discrimination statues and authorities; including but not limited to:

Federal

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., 78 stat. 252), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin); and 49 CFR Part 21;
- The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, (42 U.S.C. § 4601), (prohibits unfair treatment of persons displaced or whose property has been acquired because of Federal or Federal-aid programs and projects);
- Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973, (23 U.S.C. § 324 et seq.), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex);
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, (42 U.S.C. § 6101 et seq.), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of age);
- Airport and Airways Improvement Act of 1982, (49 U.S.C. § 471, Section 47123), as amended, (prohibits discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, or sex);
- The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, (PL 100-209), (broadened the scope, coverage, and applicability of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, by expanding the definition of the terms “programs or activities” to include all of the programs or activities of the Federal-aid recipients, sub-recipients, and contractors, whether such programs or activities are Federally funded or not);
- Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in the operation of public entities, public and private transportation systems, places of public accommodation, and certain testing entities (42 U.S.C. §§ 12131-12189) as implemented by Department of Transportation regulations at 49 CFR parts 37 and 38;
- The Federal Aviation Administration’s Non-Discrimination statute (49 U.S.C. § 47123) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, and sex);
- Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, which prevents discrimination against minority populations by discouraging programs, policies, and activities with disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations;
- Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency, and resulting agency guidance, national origin discrimination includes discrimination because of Limited English Proficiency (LEP). To ensure compliance with Title VI, you must take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to your programs (70 Fed. Reg. at 74087 to 74100);
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, which prohibits you from discriminating because of sex in education programs or activities (20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.).
- Executive Order 13672 prohibits discrimination in the civilian federal workforce on the basis of gender identity and in hiring by federal contractors on the basis of both sexual orientation and gender identity.

State
- Mont. Code Ann. § 49-3-205 Governmental services;
- Mont. Code Ann. § 49-3-206 Distribution of governmental funds;
- Mont. Code Ann. § 49-3-207 Nondiscrimination provision in all public contracts.

**(8) Incorporation of Provisions:** The PARTY will include the provisions of paragraph one through seven in every subcontract, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment, unless exempt by the Acts, the Regulations and/or directives issued pursuant thereto. The PARTY will take action with respect to any subcontract or procurement as MDT or the relevant US DOT Administration may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance. Provided, that if the PARTY becomes involved in, or is threatened with litigation by a subcontractor, or supplier because of such direction, the PARTY may request MDT to enter into any litigation to protect the interests of MDT. In addition, the PARTY may request the United States to enter into the litigation to protect the interests of the United States.