

## GUIDELINES FOR ADVERTISING AND OPENING BIDS FEDERAL-AID PROJECTS

**Upon receipt of written authorization from the Arkansas Department of Transportation (Department), the project may be advertised for bids.** The following minimum guidelines for advertising must be met:

- The minimum advertising period is three weeks (21 days).
- In addition to meeting the State requirements for advertising for construction projects, the project must be advertised a minimum of two times in a statewide newspaper (online or print versions are acceptable).
- The notice must contain: (1) the time, date, and place that sealed bids are to be accepted, opened, and publicly read; (2) a brief description of the kind or type of work contemplated; and (3) the place at which prospective bidders may obtain plans and specifications.
- The Sponsor will forward a copy of the approved advertisement to the Department once advertisement starts. Any addenda will also be sent to the Department during the advertisement period.

- The Sponsor will include the following language in the solicitation for bids:

“The **(INSERT SPONSOR NAME)** hereby notifies all bidders that this contract is subject to applicable labor laws, non-discrimination provisions, wage rate laws and other federal laws including the Fair Labor Standards Acts of 1938. The Work Hours Act of 1962 and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 also apply.”

“Build America, Buy America provisions apply to this project.”

- All bids received in accordance with the terms of the advertisement shall be publicly opened and at a minimum, the total amount bid must be read aloud (the sponsor may choose to read the bids item by item).
- If any bid received is not read aloud, the name of the bidder and the reason for not reading the bid aloud shall be publicly announced at the letting.
- In accordance with 23 CFR 635.110, any procedures and requirements for qualifying and licensing contractors must be approved by the Federal Highway Administration.
- **Negotiation with contractors during the period following the opening of bids and before the award of the contract is strictly prohibited.**