

Questions & Answers

Questa to Red River Trail Project | Bridge Installation / Remote Access Questions

Date: October 13, 2026

Note: The following responses are provided for planning and budgeting purposes in connection with the Questa to Red River Trail bridge-related RFI. These responses reflect the project team's current understanding and may be refined as permitting, funding, procurement, and agency coordination proceed.

Question 1

Do we need, and can the project provide, river access permits to get equipment across the river?

Response: The project team is working on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permits for construction and construction access. We will confirm that river access and any equipment crossings needed for bridge installation are included in the permitted activities, or identify any additional approvals that may be required.

Question 2

Are soil core samples available for each bridge abutment?

Response: No. Soil core samples have not been completed for the bridge sites at this time. Respondents should identify any geotechnical assumptions, data needs, recommended investigations, or risk allowances that would affect bridge design, abutment design, installation approach, cost, or schedule.

Question 3

Are there restrictions on tree cutting for access? We usually build access trails to the site, then naturalize them once the bridge is installed.

Response: No specific tree-cutting restrictions have been identified beyond compliance with the Final Environmental Assessment, project design criteria, Forest Service direction, and any applicable permits or approvals. Construction access is anticipated, and in many locations access may be achieved by following the future trail route. Temporary access routes should be minimized where practical and naturalized, restored, or incorporated into the finished trail corridor as appropriate after bridge installation.

Question 4

Are there any other restrictions related to archaeological, insect, bird, animal, or fish protections that will impact access or the time of year work can occur on site?

Response: The project has completed a full Environmental Assessment with the Forest Service, and no limiting construction timing factors have been identified at this time. Future work will still be subject to the Final Environmental Assessment, associated decision documents, project design criteria, permit conditions, and agency requirements. If additional timing restrictions or resource-protection measures are identified through permitting or agency coordination, those requirements will be included in future solicitation or contract documents.

Question 5

For the Buy American requirement, can you provide the level of strictness and what level of tracking is required? What traceability is required for steel, hardware, welding certification, weld X-rays, or other requirements that could increase cost, lead times, and administration?

Response: Because the project is expected to rely substantially on federal grant funding, Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) requirements and any grant-specific domestic preference requirements are expected to apply. The project team is still confirming the exact documentation, certification, traceability, and reporting requirements that will apply to bridge materials, steel, hardware, fabrication, welding, and related components. Respondents are encouraged to identify their experience with BABA compliance, recommended approaches, expected documentation needs, cost or schedule impacts, and any circumstances where a waiver or alternative approach may be available under applicable federal guidance. Future procurement documents will specify the required compliance documentation and contract requirements once confirmed.

Question 6

Are there fire permits or restrictions for welding onsite during burn bans that could prevent work and affect completion within schedule?

Response: Seasonal fire restrictions may occur depending on snowpack, weather, and Forest Service fire conditions. Onsite welding or other hot work may require additional approvals, safety measures, fire watch

procedures, or temporary restrictions. Given the project setting and proximity to water, the project team will coordinate with the Forest Service to understand whether site-specific authorization, waiver, or other accommodation may be available during fire restrictions. Respondents should identify how fire restrictions could affect schedule, mobilization, costs, and installation approach, including any risk of needing to remobilize.

Question 7

Will ECTA be using an engineering firm as a contract manager?

Response: ECTA would like to keep the process as streamlined and cost-effective as possible. ECTA does not currently have an engineering firm engaged beyond the work and materials that have already been shared. Ideally, ECTA is looking for a firm or team that can handle as much of the process as possible in-house or through qualified subcontractors, including coordination, design, fabrication, installation, and any required technical support. Future solicitation documents will define any contract management, engineering oversight, inspection, or project administration requirements.

General Reminder

Responses to the RFI remain non-binding and will be used for planning, budgeting, and future procurement development. Firms should clearly state any assumptions, exclusions, recommended contingencies, and potential cost or schedule impacts in their responses.