

## PEPS Fireside Chat Question & Answer Summary

*COVID Response – Lessons learned, best practices, process improvements*  
November 2020

- Q1: Related to the recent cuts in professional services, we heard Bill Hale mention an 11% cut in the budget. We understand that PEPS told the districts which projects to delay. Are there ways to influence which projects are delayed? For example, you may feel that a project is critical to prevent future scour damage and possible failure.
- A1: Each District Engineer and Division Director determined the workload for their Districts and Divisions. PEPS had no role in determining project portfolios.
- Q2: Given the slowdown in budget due to COVID, are you still able to procure \$1.15B for FY 21?
- A2: Yes. Most of the funds procured in FY2021 are for future years and not for current work.
- Q3: We've signed up for the bonfire account, but we're worried that there will be hiccups with notifications for the next round of solicitations. Could we request that PEPS send out some kind of confirmation email that accompanies the next/first round using this new site just so we make sure we signed up correctly?
- A3: All PEPS solicitations will be posted on the Electronic State Business Daily (ESBD) and in the TxDOT Procurement Portal in Bonfire. In the portal, current opportunities may be viewed in the Open Public Opportunities tab.
- Q4: When do you plan to post the projected list for 2022?
- A4: The FY2022 procurement plan is being finalized and will be released in January 2021.
- Q5: Can you explain the changes proposed to the evaluations again?
- A5: The change proposed in the prime provider evaluation process is to evaluate project managers at the work authorization level as well as at the contract level.
- Q6: Can you discuss best practices the Department may have observed in conducting virtual public meetings?
- A6: It would be better to contact the Districts that have held virtual public meetings for contracts to learn this information. PEPS Division does not have that detail.
- Q7: We have heard that some FY2021 solicitations are being planned to move to FY2022. Also, that the number of ID contracts will be reduced (considering more SD's instead). Is this the case?
- A7: The procurement plan is always being updated by our customers based on their needs. There is no planned reduction of ID versus SD contracts.

Q8: Upon completion of your portfolio review visits with Districts in November, do you anticipate updates to the FY 2021 Wave 2 - Wave 4 Projected Procurement List and a 2022 List?

A8: As stated previously, the procurement plan is always being updated by our customers based on their needs. As additional funds are assigned, I expect updates to the plan to occur.

Q9: You used the term Proposal, in place of SOQs. Can you describe the scoring system for the new version of Proposals? (for some, proposal implies costs are included - can you verify that costs are not provided for the proposals?)

A9: Proposals do not include costs. PEPS Division procures on qualifications only. The scoring criteria for all proposals are project manager experience, team experience, technical approach, project management planning, and past performance.

Q10: Is there an ETA when the PS-CAMS system will generate the individual PM score instead of us calculating it?

A10: The update to the PS-CAMS provider portal is scheduled to be completed in February.