



**Greenfield Engineering & Planning**

10 South State Street  
Greenfield, IN 46140  
Phone: (317) 477-4320  
Fax: (317) 477-4321

September 4, 2024

Board of Public Works and Safety  
10 S. State Street  
Greenfield, IN 46140


Re: Discussion of On-Line Bidding Processes

Dear Members,

Staff has been asked by a consultant on preferences for online bidding for an upcoming project (McKenzie bridge), specifically QuestCDN. City Engineer implemented QuestCDN at his previous employment and the Street Commissioner is amiable to trying out the process. The City Clerk and City Attorney have been consulted and may have additional comments at the meeting.

Attached are a list of features and benefits provided by QuestCDN. Staff understands that QuestCDN has limited municipal clients in Indiana as another online bidding platform is prevalent, but also understand that the costs to the bidders are significantly more with the competing platform, Repro-Graphix. This QuestCDN service is free to the Owner (City of Greenfield) and without additional fees charged by the Owner, QuestCDN would cost bidders \$42 to bid on a construction project, \$15 to bid on equipment, and \$5/project allows a bidder to download documents such as plans, specs, addendums, etc. Note that anyone may view documents for free.

Pending discussion and recommendations from City Attorney and City Clerk, recommended motion to authorize Staff to proceed with bidding the McKenzie bridge project as a trial project and report back to the Board on continuing process for other projects.

  
Glen E. Morrow, PE  
City Engineer



## Quest VirtuBid™ (vBid™) features and benefits

### Project Owners and their Solicitors

- ✓ Eliminate the possibility of bid rejection because of submission errors, omissions, and illegibility thus guaranteeing the lowest possible bid is accepted and opened.
- ✓ Receive more competitive bids because of the ease and reduced cost of bid submission.
- ✓ Bids can accommodate last minute price changes from subcontractors and suppliers that may save the owner 10s if not 100s of thousands of dollars on bid totals.
- ✓ Have easy access to your archived historical project bid data.
- ✓ Provides the opportunity to adopt an innovative, virtual bid letting process utilizing web conferencing attendance run by administrative personnel freeing up project manager time and physical meeting space.
- ✓ Optional control for permitted bid submission when prequalifying prime bidders for bidding.
- ✓ Evaluate bids immediately utilizing the online evaluator tool to compare bid values to the project estimate and the average bid values of the other bids to identify large variances, mistakes, and unbalanced bids.
- ✓ Create your own database of bid item descriptions, identity codes, and unit of measurements to establish consistency, ease the construction of bid proposals, and posture for future datamining and budget preparations.
- ✓ Work offline on bid estimate worksheets and then import them into the online vBid™ system.
- ✓ Manually input paper bid data and qualification information as part of the digital bid record for display of results and archiving.
- ✓ Immediately and automatically post the real time, preliminary bid results with the click of a button then post final award information. Automated email notifications are sent to planholders alerting them of new result information.



- ✓ Easily post and/or upload adjunct, mandatory bid qualification requirements including surety (digital bid bonds/Surety 2000) for bid inclusion.
- ✓ Eliminate physical paper bid delivery problems related to weather, traffic congestion, or other logistical issues.
- ✓ Receive real time bids with the highest level of security and audit trails/submission logs if ever required.

### **Prime Bidders**

- ✓ Completion and submission of their bids from the comfort and effectiveness of their office or from anywhere they have access to the internet.
- ✓ Logistical costs of submitting a paper bid package are eliminated for bid runners, vehicle costs, lodging, per diem, and communication mistakes.
- ✓ Eliminates the possibility of bid rejection for incomplete, inaccurate, illegible bid submissions and late delivery.
- ✓ The bid worksheet may be exported to a spreadsheet or into bid estimating software for work offline. Completed work may be imported back into the online bid system.
- ✓ Accessibility and permission levels may be set for employees working on the bid.
- ✓ Access is provided for the bidder to view past company bids.
- ✓ Last minute price revisions from subcontractors and suppliers are accommodated to insure competitiveness and provide the best possible bid to the owner.
- ✓ More project bids can be completed and submitted over a wide geography.
- ✓ The bidder may attend and witness an online bid letting (if offered) saving on travel time and expense.