

March 5, 2025

City of Knoxville Purchasing Division
City/County Building
400 Main Street, Room 667-674
Knoxville, TN 37902

**POINT-OF-CONTACT**

Jeremiah Davis, PE, CPESC, PLSIT
jdavis@rkk.com | 865.209.9486

RE: Request for Qualifications, CEI Services for N. Cherry Street Stormwater Improvements

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP (RK&K) is delighted to present our Letter of Interest and credentials in reply to the City of Knoxville's (the City) request. Recognizing the abundance of choices available for your project, we emphasize that by selecting the RK&K Team to deliver for construction engineering and inspection (CEI) services for the N. Cherry Street project, you engage a comprehensive engineering consulting firm with over a century of experience. Our history includes successful collaborations with local, state, and federal agencies, where we have consistently crafted innovative and sustainable solutions for diverse infrastructure challenges. Opting for our services grants you access to our extensive pool of 1,750+ resources, including our latest office conveniently located in the City.

Work Experience in the Required Disciplines with the City, TDOT, and Other Clients:

Nearly 40% of RK&K's operational focus is dedicated to CEI for transportation improvement projects. With decades of proven expertise, our firm has a track record of successfully delivering CEI services for project-specific contracts within and around the City's regional geographic area. Notable examples supporting the City include serving as the prime for the Rock Pointe development; acting as a subconsultant for the Cured-In-Place Pipe (CIPP) Stormwater Infrastructure Rehabilitation project; serving as a prime consultant for the City of Morristown Master Professional Services Agreement; and serving as a prime consultant for TDOT on both the Region 2 CEI on-call and the \$80M I-75 Interchange project in Chattanooga. Additionally, we have served as a subconsultant on various TDOT contracts across the state and collaborated with the Eastern Federal Lands on the \$31M Foothills Parkway project. Our involvement extends to the \$263M I-26 reconstruction in Asheville, among many other endeavors.

Experience of Proposed Team Assigned to the Project in the Required Disciplines:

We understand that this project will require a team capable of providing engineering inspection associated with the removal of 1,000 linear feet of corrugated metal pipe and the construction of new concrete box culvert along the east side of N. Cherry Street. Our team has not seen the plans for this project, but we have visited the site and we have provided a team experienced in traffic control, erosion control, sub-grade preparation, steel reinforcement inspection, concrete testing, utility coordination, and project stakeholder involvement. Our team will ensure all work is completed per the City's plans and specifications. Each team member is locally based from our Knoxville office. Project Manager, Jeremiah Davis, PE, CPESC, PLSIT, brings recent and relevant experience from the projects referenced above. A familiar face to the City, Senior Inspector Neal Engel contributes nearly 15 years of experience, including time as a City employee overseeing daily inspections for City-administered capital improvement projects. Quality Assurance Field Manager Derrick Queen, CMIT, will conduct quality control and assurance reviews throughout the contract, at no additional cost to the City. This team works closely together and contains the required experience and certifications to deliver this project.

To enhance our field services, RK&K will leverage the expertise of Engineering & Testing Solutions (ETS), a certified local Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE). ETS will provide materials testing and laboratory services on an as-needed basis. This strategic approach serves as a cost-saving measure, ensuring the use of support staff only when required.

Relevant Licensures and Certifications:

RK&K has **UNLIMITED prequalification on file with TDOT, valid through January 12, 2026**. As summarized in the *Key Project Personnel Qualifications & Experience* section of this proposal, our team's certifications exceed those required in the scope of services and those necessary to administer and inspect all elements of work.

We are excited for the opportunity to continue serving the City as a prime consultant. Choosing the RK&K Team means securing not just a proficient and accessible CEI team, but also benefiting from local, dedicated management, inspection, and quality services.

Our team's undivided attention is solely devoted to the City, ensuring there are no distractions from other commitments within the City's work program. More information about our qualifications, availability, and approach is provided in the following pages. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Jeremiah Davis at the phone number or email address provided above.

FIRM QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE ON SIMILAR CONTRACTS

What distinguishes us from other firms is our capability to oversee projects ranging from small assignments to mega-projects valued at \$2.5B. Our consistent success in all facets of project management is evident through our repeated selection to deliver CEI services for local, state, and federal clients. In Tennessee, we have progressively taken on greater responsibilities from TDOT. Initially engaged as a subconsultant on an on-call contract, we have advanced to the role of prime consultant on subsequent on-call projects. The same trajectory applies to our provision of project-specific CEI services, where we transitioned from a subconsultant to now serving as the prime consultant on a significant I-75 interchange project. Below is a sampling of experience on similar contracts.



CEI SERVICES FOR CURED-IN-PLACE PIPE (CIPP) STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE REHABILITATION |

CITY OF KNOXVILLE

RK&K served as a subconsultant, providing CEI services for this stormwater project consisting of 4,000 linear feet of damaged CIPP storm drain throughout the City. RK&K's inspectors provided daily oversight and reporting of contractor progress and payment tracking. RK&K's CEI staff worked daily with City's stormwater staff to ensure all construction, including traffic control measures during construction, was completed in accordance

with City standards and specifications.

Key team involved: Jeremiah Davis, Project/Contract Manager; Derrick Queen, QA/QC; Miriam Kronisch, Partner-in-Charge



CEI ON-CALL SERVICES | KNOX COUNTY

RK&K is the prime consultant, providing CEI inspection services, including density testing, concrete testing, traffic control, and stormwater, to ensure all work performed by various contractors conforms to Knox County and TDOT specifications. This effort includes recording all details/quantities in a daily inspection report; reviewing/approving pay applications, and performing all necessary environmental inspections. To date, RK&K has completed one intersection improvement project along Murphy Lane and multiple site project inspections.

Key team involved: Jeremiah Davis, Project Manager; Derrick Queen, QA/QC; Miriam Kronisch, Partner-in-Charge



ON-CALL CEI SERVICES, REGION 1 | TDOT

RK&K is serving as the prime consultant to provide project specific CEI services for the emergency re-build of two bridges located over the Nolichucky River. Both the SR-107 (Greene) and SR-81 (Washington) bridges are being inspected per TDOT specifications and requirements. RK&K is providing inspection services that include inspections of bridge and roadway features, cut/fill operations, stormwater installation, utility inspections, ADA compliance (sidewalk and driveways), erosion prevention and sediment control (EPSC), surveying, density testing, concrete testing, administrative assistance, and project management.

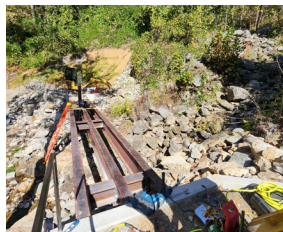
Key team involved: Jeremiah Davis, Project Manager; Neal Engel, Senior Inspector; Miriam Kronisch, Partner-in-Charge



ON-CALL CEI SERVICES, REGION 2 | TDOT

RK&K is providing CEI services **as the prime consultant** for this on-call contract, including inspections of roadway features, cut/fill operations, stormwater installation, utility inspections, ADA compliance (sidewalk and driveways), EPSC, surveying, density testing, concrete testing, administrative assistance, and project management. To date, RK&K has provided staff on 18 individual task orders and multiple projects throughout Region 2.

Key team involved: Jeremiah Davis, Project Manager; Derrick Queen, QA/QC; Miriam Kronisch, Partner-in-Charge



REPLACEMENT OF CUMBERLAND GAP CREEK WILDERNESS ROAD TRAIL BRIDGE | NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The project consisted of the construction of a new pedestrian bridge and associated trail way within the Cumberland Gap National Historic Park. **As a subconsultant, RK&K** provided surveying, CEI services, materials testing and foundation engineering analysis, including establishing site control, limits of disturbance painted, excavations pinned for footing formwork, bridge approach grade stakes and handrail field survey for shop fabrications, final as-built, and testing and inspection of soils, concrete, and imported fill compaction.

Key team involved: Jeremiah Davis, Project Manager; Neal Engel, Senior Inspector; Miriam Kronisch, Partner-in-Charge

PROJECT APPROACH/METHODOLOGY

Our firm's approach and methodology was crafted by examining your advertisement to confirm that we possess the essential qualifications and experience required for the specified scope of services. Once this criterion was met, we proceeded to examine the plans and project site to enhance our understanding of the N. Cherry Street project. Armed with this knowledge, we then assembled a proficient team with the expertise necessary to execute the project and fulfill the outlined scope of services.

Should we have the privilege of being chosen, we will employ a comprehensive “in the box” strategy to execute effective performance management for our team and deliverables. This means we will rely on our “tried-and-true” approach to CEI services—using what works, while remaining open to innovations which increase efficiency and quality. This approach has yielded successful results for our teams and our clients for decades.

Innovation

RK&K is known for adopting cutting-edge technology to streamline CEI costs and optimize resources in comparable contracts. Specifically, in the role of Project Manager, Jeremiah Davis has been instrumental in introducing drone technology for monitoring and documenting erosion and sediment control. Our team has been successful in sharing these drone-captured images with regulatory agencies to substantiate project compliance. Likewise, with regard to maintenance of traffic (MOT) control, our team has employed drone technology imagery to effectively document MOT setups and validate pay quantities.

Furthermore, if the contractor chooses to implement GPS/Automated Machine Guidance systems on their equipment, RK&K's team has been successful using rovers for inspection purposes.

Progressive Cost Saving

RK&K places a strong emphasis on developing a highly-versatile, cross-trained team—ultimately translating into cost savings for your project. As an example, Jeremiah Davis can offer utility coordination to support Neal Engel. Additionally, Neal can handle the EPSC inspection, negating the necessity for additional personnel to perform this inspection throughout the project. ETS will be engaged as-needed, delivering materials and test support whenever contractor activities require additional CEI assistance.

Furthermore, **we will ensure proactive quality assurance through the expertise of Derrick Queen**, who serves as our Quality Assurance Field Manager. Derrick's primary role involves conducting quality control inspections of our personnel in alignment with contract policies, procedures, and specifications. He also performs quality assurance reviews of project documentation and deliverables necessary for payment and project closeout. This quality performance management, **provided at no cost to the City**, guarantees compliance with both the CEI and construction contract documents. Additionally, it allows Jeremiah and Neal to concentrate on their respective responsibilities and oversee the day-to-day project management.

RK&K's accumulated experience has demonstrated that employing an “in the box” approach allows us to effectively leverage our construction management tools, ensuring the construction of a high-quality project within the specified time frame and in adherence to the contract documents. This approach further allows us to introduce innovation and progressive ideas—in alignment with the project's requirements—to meet the expectations of the City.





KEY PROJECT PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

RK&K is a comprehensive engineering consulting firm with over a century of experience. Our contract management team is both TDOT local programs certified and experienced in the successful delivery of similar projects in the Knoxville, Nashville, and Chattanooga areas.



MIRIAM "MIMI" KRONISCH, PE, CCM | PRINCIPAL-IN-CHARGE | AS NEEDED

As one of RK&K's Partners, Mimi is responsible for oversight of the firm's CEI assignments in Tennessee. She also provides strategic direction, resource allocation support, and quality control. Mimi brings more than 28 years of experience in the CEI industry, including extensive project management experience for major transportation projects throughout the Southeast and mid-Atlantic. She began her career working for a heavy civil contractor, managing roadway and bridge construction projects.

Certifications: Professional Engineer: TN (#121947), Certified Construction Manager



JEREMIAH DAVIS, PE, CPESC, PLSIT | PROJECT MANAGER | 50%

Project Manager Jeremiah has administered infrastructure improvement projects totaling more than \$250M in eastern Tennessee. His responsibilities have included a wide range of engineering assignments from survey, design, and construction management on federal, state, municipal, and commercial projects. Serving as the City's primary point of contact, he will be the conduit for company and team resources, ensuring adequate project staffing, training, delivery of all other scope of service items, and other administrative services for the contract, including invoicing, vehicles, equipment, supplies, and incidentals. He will also coordinate with the City and contractor to focus on the daily workflow decisions for the project.

Certifications: Professional Engineer: TN (#113334); 10-Hour OSHA; TDEC Level 1; TDEC Level 2; Primavera P6; Concrete Field/ACI Grade 1; Work Zone Traffic Control/Flagging; CEI Level 2 Local Programs Training; Local Government Guidelines Manual and ROW Training; and Certified Project Management Professional.



NEAL ENGEL | SENIOR INSPECTOR | 100%

Neal will serve as the senior inspector for this project, conducting daily inspections and documenting all project-related activities. He brings valuable expertise to the City. Previously, he served the City for seven years as a civil engineering technician, overseeing daily inspections for city-administered capital improvement projects. In this role, Neal ensured compliance with City standards and expectations, as well as meeting all relevant specifications and standards.

Certifications: 10-Hour OSHA Construction Safety; TDEC Level 2; HMA Certified Roadway Inspector; Asphalt Plant; Concrete Field/ACI Grade 1; Hazardous Materials; Work Zone Traffic Control/Flagging; and Soils and Aggregate.



DERRICK QUEEN | QUALITY ASSURANCE FIELD MANAGER | 25%

Derrick holds the Construction Manager In-Training (CMIT) designation from the Construction Management Association of America and brings over 18 years of CEI expertise on hundred-million dollar interstate projects, as well as those similar to this project. His job is to serve as quality assurance field manager overseeing our team's field performance. He will serve as more of a mentor than a manager, ensuring consistency during construction and ensuring that the project is delivered in compliance with the applicable contract documents.

Certifications: 10-Hour OSHA Construction Safety; TDEC Level 1; HMA Certified Roadway Inspector; Asphalt Plant; Concrete Field/ACI Grade 1; Hazardous Materials; Work Zone Traffic Control/Flagging; and Soils and Aggregate.



CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS TESTING/LAB (ETS) | ON-CALL

ETS, a local DBE-certified firm, provides geotechnical and construction testing services to the greater Knoxville area and the surrounding region. They are staffed with experienced licensed professional engineers, drillers and engineering technicians. With offices in Knoxville and Sevierville, their service area includes East Tennessee and the

surrounding states. ETS has teamed with RK&K on multiple projects within Tennessee, and they offer the City a dependable, cost effective, and local testing firm who is familiar with the City's testing requirements.

FIRM'S AVAILABILITY

RK&K's workload in Tennessee is not taxed, which means the firm and proposed staff are available for immediate assignment through project completion. They are able to meet with City personnel or conduct site visits as required.

Staff	Location	Availability/Dedication to this Project
Jeremiah Davis, PE, CPESC, PLSIT	Knoxville, TN	50%
Neal Engel	Knoxville, TN	100%
Derrick Queen	Knoxville, TN	25%
Miriam "Mimi" Kronisch, PE, CCM	Fairfax, VA	As Needed

**WHY RK&K?
RK&K IS THE IDEAL CEI TEAM FOR SEVERAL
KEY REASONS:**

- **Unmatched Work Experience:** We have seasoned leadership with significant CEI experience in the City and throughout Tennessee.
- **Local Office:** We opened a Knoxville office in 2023, proving our dedication to the betterment of the City.
- **Local Team:** Our local staff and resources are currently available to work in conjunction with City inspection staff—including our 100% dedicated Senior Inspector Neal Engel.
- **Progressive QA/QC:** Our Quality Assurance Field Manager Derrick Queen will ensure high-quality CM/CEI services on this project are met.
- **Progressive Cost Control:** We are utilizing ETS materials testing and laboratory services on an as-needed basis. This strategic approach serves as a cost-saving measure, ensuring the use of support staff only when required.



Respectfully Submitted,

Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP (RK&K)

Jeremiah Davis, PE, CPESC, PLSIT
Project Manager

Submission Affidavits and Certifications

We Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP
(Bidder/Proposer Company Name)

do certify that on the

CEI Services for N. Cherry Street Stormwater Improvements
(Solicitation Title/Project Name)

we are in receipt of the following checked items and do hereby certify or affirm as follows:

☒ **SUBCONTRACTOR/CONSULTANT STATEMENT**

Please select one:

☒ **Option A: Intent to subcontract using Diverse Businesses**

A Diversity business will be employed as subcontractor(s), vendor(s), supplier(s), or professional service(s). The estimated percentage of the amount that we plan to pay is:

5 %

Total Estimated Percentage of Subcontractor Service:

Diversity Business Enterprise Utilization			
Description of Work/Project	Percentage	Diverse Classification (MBE, WBE, SBE, SDVBE, PDBE)	Name of Diverse Business
Materials Test/ Lab	5%	DBE/SWaM	Engineering and Testing Services, Inc.

☐ **Option B: Intent to perform work “without” using Diverse Businesses**

We hereby certify that it is our intent to perform 100% of the work required for the contract, work will be completed without subcontracting, or we plan to subcontract with non-diverse companies.

☐ **Option C: Intent to self-perform work as a Diversity Business Enterprise**

We intend to self-perform 100% of the work required for the contract as a Diversity Business Enterprise.

☒ **NON-COLLUSION AFFIDAVIT**

- (1) Submitted proposal is genuine and is not a collusive or sham proposal;
- (2) Neither the said firm nor any of its officers, partners, owners, agents, representatives, employees or parties in interest, including this signatory, has in any way colluded, conspired, connived or agreed, directly or indirectly, with any other vendor, firm or person to submit collusive or sham proposal in connection with the contract or agreement for which the attached proposal has been submitted or to refrain from making a proposal in connection with such contract or agreement, or collusion or communication or conference with any other firm, or, to fix any overhead, profit, or cost element of the proposed price or the proposed price of any other firm, or to secure through any collusion, conspiracy, connivance, or unlawful agreement any advantage against the City of Knoxville or any person interested in the proposed contract or agreement; and
- (3) The scope of service outlined in the proposal is fair and proper and is not tainted by collusion, conspiracy, connivance, or unlawful agreement on the part of the firm or any of its agents, representatives, owners, employees, or parties including this signatory.

☒ **NO CONTACT/NO ADVOCACY AFFIDAVIT**

1. **NO CONTACT POLICY:** After the posting of this solicitation to the Purchasing Division's website, any contact initiated by any proposer with any City of Knoxville representative concerning this proposal is strictly prohibited, unless such contact is made with the Purchasing Agent (Penny Owens) or the listed point of contact. Any unauthorized contact may cause the disqualification of the proposer from this procurement transaction
2. **NO ADVOCATING POLICY:** To ensure the integrity of the review and evaluation process, companies and/or individuals submitting proposals for any part of this project, as well as those persons and/or companies representing such proposers, may not lobby or advocate to the City of Knoxville staff including, but not limited to, members of City Council, Office of the Mayor, Engineering, or any other City staff.

Any company and/or individual who does not comply with the above stated "No Contact" and "No advocating" policies may be subject to having their proposal rejected from consideration.

☒ **DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE AFFIDAVIT**

Bidder has personal knowledge of the policies of the above-named firm with respect to the maintenance of a drug-free workplace; and certifies that all provisions and requirements of the Tennessee Drug-Free Workplace Program, as established by Tenn. Code Ann. §§ 50-9-101 et. seq., have been met and implemented.

☒ **IRAN DIVESTMENT ACT**

CERTIFICATION OF NONINCLUSION

NOTICE: Pursuant to the Iran Divestment Act, Tenn. Code Ann. § 12-12-106 requires the State of Tennessee Chief Procurement Officer to publish, using creditable information freely available to the public, a list of persons it determines engage in investment activities in Iran, as described in § 12-12-105. Inclusion on this list makes a person ineligible to contract with the state of Tennessee; if a person ceases its engagement in investment activities in Iran, it may be removed from the list. A list of entities ineligible to contract in the State of Tennessee Department of General Services or any political subdivision of the State may be found here:

[https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/generalservices/documents/cpo/library/public-information-library/List_of_persons_pursuant_to_Tenn. Code Ann. 12-12-106 Iran Divestment Act updated with%20NY12.04.23.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/generalservices/documents/cpo/library/public-information-library/List_of_persons_pursuant_to_Tenn._Code_Ann._12-12-106_Iran_Divestment_Act_updated_with%20NY12.04.23.pdf)

By submission of this form, the proposer certifies that the above-named firm, under penalty of perjury to the best of its knowledge and belief, and any proposed suppliers are not on the list created pursuant to § 12-12-106.

☒ **NON-BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL**

For submissions with a total cost of \$250,000 or greater, the Signatory certifies that the proposed firm and any subcontractors or suppliers certify that the firms, subcontractors and suppliers are not boycotting Israel pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. §12-4-1 and will not during the term of any award.

Notarization of Affidavits

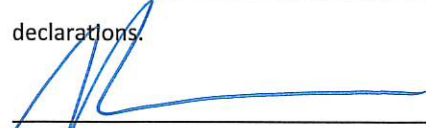
In order for a submission to be considered for award, the following section must be notarized hereby certifying or affirming that the Bidder/Proposer is in receipt and has acknowledged each clause in the [Submission Affidavits and Certifications](#) section above. At the discretion of the City of Knoxville Purchasing Division, a submission that has not been notarized may be deemed non-responsive.

State of Maryland County of Baltimore

Proposer's Name: Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP

Being duly sworn, deposes, and says that:

They are a principal officer of Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP, the firm submitting the attached proposal, their title being Miriam Kronisch, PE, CCM, Partner, and has authority to affirm and/or certify the listed declarations.

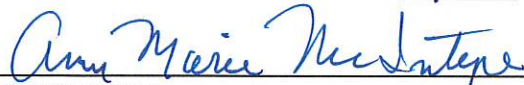


Signature

Partner

Title

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20 day of February, 2025.



NOTARY PUBLIC

JUNE 30, 2028

My Commission expires

