

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Design-Build Services for a 150-Foot Pedestrian Suspension Bridge

Carter Falls, Wilkes County, North Carolina

RFP No.: BOD-1

Issuing Agency/Owner: Elkin Valley Trails Association, LLC (EVTA)

Project: Carter Falls Pedestrian Suspension Bridge

Location: Carter Falls, Wilkes County, North Carolina

Issue Date: 10/15/2026

Proposals Due: 12/01/2026

Anticipated Selection: January 11, 2027

RFP Documents and Updates: elkinvalleytrails.org/bridge

1. NOTICE

Elkin Valley Trails Association is soliciting proposals from qualified firms or design-build teams interested in providing **design-build services for a new 150-foot pedestrian suspension bridge at Carter Falls, North Carolina.**

The selected Design-Builder will be responsible for providing professional design, engineering, permitting support, procurement, construction, testing, and related services necessary to deliver a complete and operational pedestrian suspension bridge at Carter Falls in Eastern Wilkes County, NC.

This "Request for Proposal" is intended to identify the most qualified Design-Builder(s). The Owner reserves the right to request additional information, conduct interviews, negotiate with the highest-ranked proposer, or issue a subsequent Request for Proposals ("RFP"), as permitted by applicable North Carolina law and the Owner's procurement requirements.

2. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project consists generally of the design and construction of an approximately 150-foot-long pedestrian suspension bridge at or near Carter Falls, in Wilkes County, North Carolina. The structure will accommodate pedestrian traffic only with NO vehicular or equestrian loading.

- EVTA seeks an “iconic” design with structural towers of steel, fiberglass polymer resin, stone or wood beams (not telephone poles). Blueprints for a previously designed bridge are available for download at elkinvalleytrails.org/bridge. (Please note that quotes on these previous plans were beyond our budget. We desire new designs and materials that will be less expensive.)
- The Design-Builder shall recommend an appropriate suspension-bridge configuration based upon site conditions, engineering analysis, constructability, lifecycle cost, environmental constraints, and the Owner's functional requirements.

The anticipated project includes, but is not necessarily limited to:

- Approximately 150 feet of suspended pedestrian bridge span, 4 feet wide;
- Bridge towers, anchorage systems, main suspension cables, suspenders, and associated structural components;
- Pedestrian walking surface/deck system;
- Guardrails, handrails, safety barriers, and fall-protection features;
- Foundations and anchorage systems;
- Drainage and erosion-control measures associated with the project;
- Clearing and site preparation to the extent required;
- Environmental protection and restoration;
- Required signage and safety features;
- Inspection, testing, commissioning, and final acceptance;
- All other work reasonably necessary to provide a safe, code-compliant, durable, and fully functional pedestrian bridge.
- The final design must be submitted and approved by the NC State Construction office.

3. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposals should include firm information:

1. Name and location of the firm, including email address
2. Contact person
3. Examples of past projects of similar nature and scope

4. Proposed project schedule
5. References

Proposals should also include specifics of the design, materials, estimated costs and estimated time schedules, to include:

- Major materials used for towers, tread, anchoring, and side rails/cables
- Estimated cost of the turnkey project (not to include construction access roads)
- Estimated time for all design and construction*
- Estimated project schedule*
- Estimated start date for design and for construction*

*Plans must be submitted and approved by the NC State Construction office, with a possible 90-day review process.

How to submit: Submit proposals as a single PDF by email to bob.hillyer@elkinvalleytrails.org no later than December 1, 2026.

4. PROPOSAL SCHEDULE

EVTA will receive proposals beginning 10/15/2026. Submission deadline: 12/01/2026.

October 15, 2026	RFP issued; EVTA begins receiving proposals
November 12 and 13, 2026	Site inspections (other dates upon request)
December 1, 2026	Submission deadline
December 1–7, 2026	Staff review of submissions
December 8, 2026	Staff recommendations to EVTA board of directors
December 2026	Consultations with Wilkes County and NC State
January 2027	Award contract and notice to proceed

The Owner may conduct interviews with shortlisted firms or teams. If interviews are conducted, the Owner may use the interviews as part of the final ranking.

The Owner is not obligated to select the firm submitting the lowest price or the firm with the greatest number of years in business. The selection will be based on the qualifications and demonstrated ability of the Design-Builder to successfully deliver the project.

5. QUESTIONS AND COMMUNICATION

All questions regarding this request for proposal shall be submitted in writing to:

Robert Hillyer
Vice Chairman
Elkin Valley Trails Association
PO Box 91, Elkin, NC 28621
bob.hillyer@elkinvalleytrails.org
336-469-9979

Addenda and answers to questions will be posted at elkinvalleytrails.org/bridge. Respondents are responsible for checking this page before submitting.

6. OWNER-FURNISHED INFORMATION

The Owner anticipates making available, to the extent available, information such as:

- Existing surveys;
- Property information;
- Existing maps;
- Existing environmental studies;
- Existing photographs;
- Existing geotechnical information;
- Hydrologic or hydraulic information;
- Existing utility information;
- Previous planning documents; and
- Other information relevant to the project.

Respondents shall independently verify information necessary to develop their qualifications and proposed approach.

7. OPTIONAL VALUE-ENGINEERING PROPOSALS

Respondents are encouraged to identify innovative approaches that may improve:

- Construction efficiency;
- Durability;
- Visitor safety;
- Environmental protection;
- Long-term maintenance;
- Constructability;
- Schedule; or
- Overall project value.

Any proposed alternative shall maintain or improve the project's intended function, safety, durability, and aesthetic objectives.

8. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

The Owner reserves the right, in accordance with applicable law and its procurement policies, to:

- Reject any or all proposals;
- Cancel or modify the procurement;
- Issue addenda;
- Request clarification or additional information;
- Conduct interviews;
- Shortlist respondents;
- Negotiate with one or more respondents;
- Request additional proposals;
- Waive minor informalities;
- Modify the project scope;
- Award or not award a contract; and
- Take any other action permitted by applicable law.

Issuance of this RFP does not obligate the Owner to award a contract or reimburse respondents for costs associated with preparing or submitting a proposal.

9. PUBLIC RECORDS

Information submitted in response to this RFP may be subject to disclosure under applicable North Carolina public-records laws. Respondents shall be responsible for properly identifying information they believe is exempt from disclosure and for complying with all applicable statutory requirements.

The Owner makes no representation that information identified by a respondent as confidential will be exempt from disclosure.

10. ANTICIPATED CONTRACT

The selected firm or team will be expected to enter into a Design-Build Agreement with the Owner.

The final agreement is anticipated to establish:

- Scope of services;
 - Design requirements;
 - Construction requirements;
 - Contract price;
 - Schedule;
 - Payment terms;
 - Insurance;
 - Bonds;
 - Warranties;
 - Quality requirements;
 - Change-order procedures;
 - Liquidated damages, if applicable;
 - Permitting responsibilities;
 - Risk allocation;
 - Indemnification;
 - Dispute resolution; and
 - Other applicable contractual requirements.
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11. PRE-SUBMITTAL SITE VISIT

The Owner anticipates conducting a site visit at Carter Falls for interested Design-Builders.

Date: November 12 and November 13, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM

Meeting Location: Carter Falls parking area

Because site access and terrain may be challenging, attendees should be prepared for outdoor conditions and should wear appropriate footwear and personal protective equipment as directed by the Owner.

12. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

To be considered responsive, a Design-Builder must:

1. Be legally authorized to conduct business in North Carolina;
2. Demonstrate the ability to provide both design and construction services;
3. Have appropriately licensed North Carolina design professionals;
4. Demonstrate successful completion of comparable bridge projects;
5. Demonstrate experience with structural/cable-supported pedestrian bridges or similar structures;
6. Demonstrate acceptable financial and bonding capacity;
7. Maintain appropriate insurance;
8. Demonstrate an acceptable safety record; and
9. Not be barred, suspended, or otherwise prohibited from contracting with applicable governmental entities.

The Owner may establish additional minimum qualifications by addendum.

13. OWNER CONTACT

Elkin Valley Trails Association
Carter Falls Pedestrian Suspension Bridge Project

Procurement Contact: Robert Hillyer

Title: Vice Chairman

Address: PO Box 91, Elkin, NC 28621

Email: bob.hillyer@elkinvalleytrails.org

Telephone: 336-469-9979

Web: elkinvalleytrails.org/bridge