



**State of Indiana  
Department of Transportation  
Request for Information (RFI)  
Bat Species Identification  
RFI# 1907**

**Issuance Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2019**

**Response Due Date: Tuesday, October 29, 2019**

**Time Due: 1:00 pm (Indianapolis, Indiana Time)**

**Submit responses to the RFI to: [ContractsRFP@indot.in.gov](mailto:ContractsRFP@indot.in.gov).**

## I. Purpose of Request for Information (RFI)

This RFI is being issued by the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) to solicit essential information for potential professional services providers to identify bats to the species level from a composite or pooled guano sample.

## II. Background

INDOT must occasionally determine whether ESA listed bat species are roosting un bridges or buildings affected by our capital improvement projects. Identification from genetic material in guano is useful when visual identification is impractical (e.g. very tall structures) or impossible (bats are not currently present). We are interested in identifying regional potential contractors who could perform this work. The methods reference is:

Walker FM, Williamson CHD, Sanchez DE, Sobek CJ, Chambers CL (2016) Species from Feces: Order-Wide Identification of Chiroptera From Guano and Other Non-Invasive Genetic Samples. PLoS ONE 11(9): e0162342. <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0162342>.

## III. Presentation of Information

INDOT would like interested parties to submit a short technical brief (five page maximum) addressing:

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- A. Can you perform the species identification method generally outlined in Walker et al. (2016) to 90% or better accuracy?
  - B. What is your sample collection protocol and will a collection kit be provided?
  - C. How will sample identity be maintained through storage, analysis, and reporting?
  - D. What is the turnaround time for providing results?
  - E. What is the average time to process from receipt of sample to report?
  - F. What happens if a sample is inconclusive?
  - G. How many samples could you process on a regular basis? What is the minimum number of samples you would need to process a year to provide the service?
  - H. How will the lab monitor trends in accuracy of species identification?
  - I. Who will be responsible for resolving problems?
  - J. The State of Indiana has certain types of billing and payment procedures INDOT must adhere to? What are your billing and payment procedures?

## IV. Questions

All questions, inquiries and/or request for information related to this RFI shall be directed to: [ContractsRFP@indot.in.gov](mailto:ContractsRFP@indot.in.gov). All questions, inquiries and/or request for information relating to this RFI must be in writing and received no later than **10:00 a.m. (Indianapolis, Indiana Time) on Thursday, October 24, 2019.**

Questions and answers will be posted on INDOT's website at: <http://www.in.gov/indot/3119.htm>.

After the deadline for submitting questions, inquiries and/or request for information passes, INDOT will review the questions, inquiries and/or request for information received, but INDOT reserves the right to determine whether to respond and post the questions and answers on INDOT's website.

INDOT will not respond to telephone or other oral questions, inquiries and/or request for information for this advertised RFI.

**V. Agency Liability and Confidential Information**

This Request for Information (RFI) is only a request for information about potential services and no contractual obligation on behalf of INDOT whatsoever shall arise from the RFI process. It does not constitute a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), a Request for Proposals (RFP), or other solicitation, nor does it constitute the commencement of any other type of procurement process. Moreover, it does not represent a commitment to issue an RFQ or an RFP in the future. Therefore, those choosing to respond to this RFI will not, merely by virtue of submitting such a response, be deemed to be “bidders” in any sense, and no such respondent will have any preference, special designation, advantage or disadvantage whatsoever in any subsequent procurement process related to this RFI.

This RFI does not commit INDOT to pay costs incurred in the preparation or submission of any response to the RFI.

By submitting a response to this RFI, you grant to INDOT a fully paid-up, worldwide, royalty-free, irrevocable, perpetual, and nonexclusive license to use any idea, information, process, or other material submitted with your response, and regardless of whether such ideas, information, processes, or other materials are patented or subject to other laws governing the protection of intellectual property, including, without limitation, trade secret and unfair competition laws. Nothing in this RFI will impair this right of use on behalf of INDOT.

Respondents are advised that materials contained in their responses are subject to the Indiana Public Records Act, IC 5-14-3 et seq., and after the execution of a related contract, may be viewed and/or copied by any member of the public, including news agencies and competitors.