



**Request for Qualifications for Services
related to a Bridge Conceptual Design
for the Hood Canal Bridge Ecosystem
Impact Assessment**

RFQ No. LLTK_HCB-25-003

Statement of Qualifications Due June 19, 2025

Long Live the Kings

**2125 Western Ave., Ste. 300
Seattle, WA 98121**

Request for Qualifications for Services related to a Bridge Conceptual Design for the Hood Canal Bridge Ecosystem Impact Assessment

Long Live the Kings (LLTK) is soliciting Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) from firms to provide professional engineering services for a conceptual design of a new Hood Canal Bridge, the “Services” for this RFQ. The Services will include a conceptual design (<10% design completion) that incorporates considerations for fish passage and addresses community and environmental impacts. The Services outlined above will inform the broader Hood Canal Bridge Ecosystem Impact Assessment (“Assessment”), a multi-faceted initiative addressing the ecological and community impacts of the current bridge and potential redesign.

Through the contract, LLTK will oversee and coordinate the Services as a subrecipient of a grant awarded to the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe (PGST) from the *Restoring Priority Tribal Fish Passage through Barrier Removal* program administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries). In its role as project manager, LLTK will ensure alignment across the involved entities, including PGST, Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), the Hood Canal Bridge Assessment Team, the Management Committee and a Project Steering Committee. These entities will provide LLTK with critical input throughout the project’s development.

Consultants will be considered for the following Project. LLTK intends to contract with the entity considered to be most qualified pursuant to this Request for Qualifications (RFQ). This collaboration is critical to supporting the long-term ecological and community benefits of the Hood Canal Bridge project.

Project Background

Long Live the Kings is seeking design and engineering services from a qualified firm, or team of firms, to support the development of a high-level conceptual design (<10% design completion) for a new bridge across the Hood Canal that permanently resolves the fish migration barrier while delivering broader ecosystem and community benefits.

LLTK will coordinate the services with WSDOT, which is the current bridge owner (see included letter of support). The selected consultant will work closely with a **Project Steering Committee**, led by LLTK, and comprising representatives from WSDOT, PGST, U.S. Navy, and other essential project partners. This work will be supported by the project **Assessment Team** and **Management Committee**, with LLTK managing the effort through a sub-award from the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe. The selected consultant will also coordinate with the consultant team selected for the community needs assessment, which will identify the needs and priorities in relation to the Hood Canal Bridge of potentially affected communities, especially those not usually included in infrastructure planning.

The primary goals of the current phase of the Assessment are twofold:

1. **Implement interim fish passage solutions** to improve salmon and steelhead survival at the Hood Canal Bridge.
2. **Initiate the long-term process** of designing a new bridge that eliminates the significant fish passage barrier and supports broader ecological and community needs.

The Hood Canal Bridge plays a critical role in the lifecycle of salmon and steelhead originating from Hood Canal rivers. Juvenile salmonids must navigate the bridge as they migrate to the Pacific Ocean, while adults face the same challenge during their return to spawn. The Bridge significantly contributes to juvenile steelhead mortality by delaying fish passage and facilitating predation. Achieving long-term recovery of threatened salmon and steelhead in Hood Canal necessitates progress on a Bridge design that facilitates unimpeded fish passage.

Given the Bridge's scale and importance, an evaluation of bridge re-design is essential to building support and momentum towards a formal redesign process, such as WSDOT's Corridor Studies and Type, Size and Location Reports. The services described in this RFQ reflect consultation with WSDOT regional leadership and planners. This evaluation of bridge re-design will enhance WSDOT's existing infrastructure assessment methods by offering a comprehensive understanding of a redesigned bridge's potential to address salmonid impacts while delivering benefits to surrounding communities. Additionally, this evaluation will clarify the urgency of replacing the bridge. The deliverables outlined in this RFQ will inform a *Hood Canal Bridge Replacement Evaluation Report* developed by LLTK to provide actionable information to state, county, and Tribal decision-makers responsible for evaluating the need for Bridge replacement.

The vision for a re-designed Hood Canal Bridge reflects over a decade of research and ongoing actions to improve fish passage and ecosystem function in the area around the Hood Canal Bridge. These investments aim to mitigate the risks and impacts of the Bridge and improve habitat for salmonids, which are vital to the cultural and economic health of PGST. Beyond ecological concerns, critiques of the current bridge design include its limitations regarding military readiness, tourism, emergency response, and traffic congestion.

It is important to note that a new Hood Canal Bridge is not funded or programmed by WSDOT at this time. This study is the first effort to begin the long-term planning discussion about a possible replacement of the SR 104 Hood Canal Bridge.

Prior to advancement of a Bridge re-design concept, WSDOT or a project sponsor will ultimately complete planning, environmental, permitting, and preliminary engineering processes at some point after conclusion of this study. In preparation for these future activities, and outside of the services in this RFQ, LLTK is conducting a community needs assessment. As part of this effort, LLTK will engage with key stakeholders, rightsholders and duty-bearers within the Management Committee, including Tribal Councils, County Commissioners, and State and Federal Agency leadership, to identify their needs and priorities associated with the Bridge.

The engineering services consultant will develop a high-level (i.e., 1-10%) Bridge design for unimpeded fish migration. This process will incorporate:

1. **Scientific insights** synthesized by the project Assessment Team.
2. **Findings from the Community Needs Assessment study**, ensuring that the design addresses the priorities and concerns of Tribes, local residents, commuters, businesses, and stakeholders.

The professional engineering services consultant will produce one or more drafts of Bridge conceptual designs, including bridge approaches and connections to the existing transportation system, and rough cost estimate(s) and present these to the Project Steering Committee and Management Committee for review. Based on Committee feedback, the consultant will refine and finalize the preliminary conceptual Bridge design. This finalized design will include:

- A **visual representation** of the proposed bridge.
- A detailed **description of design limitations**.
- A proposed **timeline** for implementation.
- Estimated **costs** and **benefits** of the fully realized design.

LLTK will use this design as the foundation for the *Hood Canal Bridge Evaluation Report*, which will incorporate community input, conceptual design details, cost estimates, identified co-benefits, and a potential replacement timeframe. The Evaluation Report will be shared with the public, organizational stakeholders, and decision makers. This conceptual design will also serve as a critical steppingstone, expediting WSDOT's or a project sponsor's progress in leading the formal assessment and planning process.

Project Objectives

The conceptual bridge design will aim to achieve the following:

- **Fish Passage:** Resolve fish passage issues identified in the [Phase 1 Assessment Report](#) and [summary report](#), reducing the time it takes salmon and steelhead to pass the bridge.
- **Community Needs:** Address the needs of surrounding communities including, but not limited to military readiness, vessel passage, tourism, emergency response, multi-modal connectivity, and traffic congestion.
- **Environmental Restoration:** Mitigate the impacts of bridge structure on currents, salinity, and temperature in the Hood Canal, as documented in the Phase 1 report.
- **Climate Resilience:** Proactively address climate change and projected sea level rise.
- **Tribal Treaty Rights:** Ensure the design does not infringe on treaty-protected Tribal rights in usual and accustomed (U&A) fishing areas, and protects related WSDOT infrastructure, and any culturally significant landmarks.
- **Compliance:** Aligns with WSDOT policies, planning procedures, and design standards.
- **Vessel Passage:** Assure continued passage of all marine vessels authorized to use the Hood Canal consistent with all applicable state and federal laws.

If any of these criteria cannot be accomplished through bridge re-design, the consultant must clearly explain the limitations preventing addressing these criteria.

Scope of Services

Long Live the Kings is seeking a professional engineering services consultant or consultant team to complete a high-level conceptual bridge design (i.e., 1-10%). The following Basic Services are those expected to be completed by the consultant or consultant team. The final scope of work will be mutually agreed upon.

- **Review Key Reports:** Examine the Phase 1 and Phase 2 Assessment Reports, and other relevant documents as necessary.
- **Data Familiarization:** Develop a working knowledge of existing data, research, and reporting that may inform the study and design services.
- **Project Management:** Manage internal resources, coordinate external meetings, oversee any sub-contractors, and complete billings and reporting.
- **Baseline Data Collection:** Advance baseline data collection, as necessary, to support the project's objectives.
- **Conceptual Design Development:** Prepare conceptual design drawings and a report that includes: estimated costs, anticipated benefits of the new design, and expected timeframe for a replacement of the bridge and approaches, based on the alternative selected as the ideal conceptual design.
- **Community Needs Documentation:** Clearly document how the new bridge and approach design addresses identified community needs.
- **Communication Assets:** Create communication assets (images, diagrams, and renderings) that effectively demonstrate how the new conceptual bridge design aligns with community needs and is feasible from an engineering perspective.

If given the available funding (below under [Contracting](#)), you are unlikely to be able to complete the items listed above, we would still encourage you to submit qualifications. We are committed to finding a fair pathway considering our objectives, the level of effort required to accomplish our objectives, and the available budget.

LLTK intends to add the following optional Additional Services, to be mutually agreed upon, if and when LLTK receives anticipated funding for these services and exercises its option to include them in the contract.

- Cost-benefit analysis of current bridge operation, maintenance, and preservation costs compared to the cost of construction, operation and preservation of a new bridge design.

Project Schedule

The period of performance to reach completion of the conceptual design and related report is expected to be from 9/1/2025 – 12/31/2026. The period of performance for later Additional Services work phase is yet to be determined.

Qualifications and Experience

A successful applicant is expected to have demonstrated experience in the following areas:

- **Collaborative Design:** Working collaboratively with diverse partners and clients, including Tribes, First Nations and Indigenous groups, counties, state and federal agencies, and incorporating their feedback into designs.
- **Project Management:** Meeting project timelines and deliverables within estimated budgets.
- **Public Agency Standards:** Production of and/or familiarity with WSDOT's designs and standards, or similar public agency standards.
- **Bridge Design for Fjord Conditions:** Siting and designing floating bridges, and designing bridges for marine dynamics relevant to deep fjord environments.
- **Relevant Bridge Experience:** Designing and/or constructing bridges in environments or situations comparable to the Hood Canal setting. The professional engineering services should be performed or approved by a person licensed, registered, or certified to provide the services with respect to a highway construction project.
- **Geomorphology and Geotechnical Engineering:** Applying expertise in geomorphology and geotechnical engineering to bridge design and construction.
- **Ecological and Habitat Integration:** Designing and implementing infrastructure solutions that account for ecological and habitat function relevant to fish and wildlife.
- **Visual Communication Tools:** Utilizing a variety of visual tools to communicate a new bridge design and its benefits to public.

Evaluation

The Statement of Qualifications (SOQs) will be evaluated and ranked based on the submittals listed below. LLTK, PGST, and other members of the project Steering Committee reserve the right to give each aspect such weight as they deem appropriate. If interviews are held, they will be less than one hour in length. No more than three firms may be interviewed for final ranking. The final evaluation will be made after interviews, if any.

Qualifications Submittal

Qualified professional engineering services firms interested in providing the services described in this request are invited to submit qualifications (SOQ) by **5 pm P.S.T. on Thursday, June 19th, 2025**. Minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are encouraged to apply. Please submit by email or other electronic means in a pdf format to Shaara Ainsley, sainsley@lltk.org.

The SOQ should:

- a) Include a cover letter summarizing why LLTK should select your firm/team and outlining your understanding and approach to the project described above. [2 pages max.]
- b) Provide contact information (name, title, email address, phone number) for the primary point of contact. Identify the Project Manager and their office location. [1 page max.]

- c) Include resumes of up to six key staff detailing experience with design and engineering methods used on this project and coordinating with public transportation agencies and Indigenous groups (i.e., why are those particular skill sets important to the success of the project). [2 pages max. each resume]
- d) Detail the team's experience in managing up to three similar projects, including working with infrastructure that accounts for ecological and habitat function relevant to fish and wildlife and projects that involve floating bridges. [4 pages max.]
- e) Demonstrate experience managing bridge engineering design projects from design to implementation. [2 pages max.]
- f) Include contact information for three Past Performance references. [1 page max.]

Schedule

Listed below are the important dates and times related to this solicitation. LLTK may find it necessary to change any of these dates or times. All dates are subject to change.

Action	Estimate completion
Advertise RFQ	May 20, 2025
SOQ Due Date	June 19, 2025
Evaluation Committee Meets	June 25-July 2, 2025
Selection Announced	July 11, 2025

Contracting

After NOAA approval, LLTK intends to negotiate a contract with fair and reasonable compensation with the entity considered to be most qualified based on the submittals. The secured contract value to reach the conceptual design phase of this project is currently estimated at \$300,000; however, this value could increase depending on pending funding requests if LLTK exercises its option for Additional Services.

All costs for preparation of the SOQ incurred by the proposer, regardless of whether they lead to execution of a contract with LLTK, must be borne entirely by the proposer.

Long Live the Kings reserves the right to amend terms of this Request for Qualifications, to circulate various addenda, or to withdraw the RFQ at any time, regardless of how much time and effort consultants have spent on their responses.

Responses to Questions

This new RFQ covers only the bridge conceptual design. Another RFQ for the community needs study was released in February. A few questions have been received, and these are addressed below:

Q: What is the design level expectation? We are looking for a high-level conceptual design and are not expecting any detailed bridge engineering designs. The goal is to create a steppingstone towards a new bridge design. However, we acknowledge that developing a conceptual design will require some engineering work. The deliverable can provide information on the assumptions made about the structural bridge design constraints, the additional information needs that should be addressed, and the confidence level that engineers have in the feasibility of the conceptual design.

Q: How will WSDOT be involved? WSDOT staff have been participating for many years in the Assessment Team (technical advising) and the Management Committee (high-level guidance). The Management Committee, facilitated by Long Live the Kings, includes representation from the affected state and federal agencies, Tribes, Hood Canal Coordinating Council, the three Hood Canal counties, and the U.S. Navy. WSDOT will also have a staff member participating in the new Project Steering Committee, which will be a smaller committee, offering more specific guidance for this project (e.g., information on WSDOT bridge requirements and constraints).

Q: Does this include bridge modification concepts? If the engineers conclude that bridge modifications can address the community and ecosystem needs, then the deliverable can describe a conceptual design for a bridge modification, rather than replacement.

Q: How will this work relate to the Community Needs Assessment? The project was originally designed for the Community Needs Assessment activity to be completed and handed off to the bridge conceptual design team. However, with the delay in the RFQ process, there will necessarily be some overlap between the two efforts. We will plan for transfer of preliminary information from the Community Needs study to the bridge conceptual design process as the information becomes available.

Long Live the Kings Contact Information

All questions regarding this RFQ, the process, or contracting should be directed to Shaara Ainsley, Senior Project Manager at sainsley@lltk.org. Please submit questions before Wednesday, June 18, 2025.

Persons with disabilities may request this information be prepared and supplied in alternate forms by calling 206-382-9555 ext. 33.



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December 5, 2024

Long Live the Kings
Attn: Lucas Hall, Associate Director Government Relations and Special Projects
1326 5th Ave. Ste. 450
Seattle, WA 98101

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR LONG LIVE THE KINGS –
PRELIMINARY PLANNING STUDY FOR THE HOOD CANAL BRIDGE

Dear Mr. Hall:

On behalf of the Washington State Department of Transportation, I would like to express our support for Long Live the Kings' (LLTK) and the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's (PGST) planned study to conduct a preliminary socioeconomic and environmental justice study and identify a conceptual bridge design for a future Hood Canal Bridge replacement.

This project is a continuation of LLTK's and PGST's earlier work and commitment to advance fish passage at the Hood Canal Bridge. This will be the first effort to begin the long-term planning discussion about a possible replacement of the SR 104 Hood Canal Bridge and engage communities, interested parties, and work collaboratively with infrastructure owners and partners.

Therefore, based on the information provided to us to date, WSDOT is in support of Long Live the Kings' efforts to conduct this study, provided that these improvements meet all applicable WSDOT design and construction requirements, including all applicable American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, for any work that occurs on the SR 104 state highway system.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this Long Live the Kings project. If you have any questions, please contact me at (360) 357-2798 or email at SchuelJ@wsdot.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'JoAnn Schueler'.

JoAnn Schueler, P.E.
Assistant Region Administrator for Multimodal Development and Delivery

JS:lhbm