

Hershey Rail Package
Bid Questions and Answers – Addendum 1
8/18/2026

1. Will the contractor provide the testing and material specs for the subballast?
 - a. Yes. Contractor will test to ensure subballast material meets UPRR specifications. Results will need to be submitted to UPRR for approval.
2. Will GFT provide the approved vendors list for UPRR materials?
 - a. The approved UPRR vendors list is located at [6003-Default](#)
3. Will grade 4 cross ties be allowed?
 - a. Grade 4 cross ties will be allowed for industry owned and maintained track. Grade 5 cross ties are required for UPRR owned and maintained track.
4. Will any of this have to meet Buy America?
 - a. No. There are no Buy America requirements for this project.
5. Would we be able to get the CAD files for this project? Would need the existing and finished surface file.
 - a. The contractors who are awarded the project will receive the appropriate files.
6. Will the SWPPP permit be the responsibility of the contractor? Please clarify whether the contractor is responsible for developing the final SWPPP, selecting and designing all BMPs, obtaining permit coverage from the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE), and maintaining compliance throughout construction.
 - a. GFT has begun the SWPPP permit process. Civil contractor will be responsible for completing the process and obtaining the SWPPP permit. SWPPP permit will need to be transferred to the track contractor once the civil scope of work is completed.
7. Can materials be imported to the site by rail?
 - a. Contractors will need to coordinate the shipment of materials with UPRR to the project site. The Port of the Plains will allow the use of their existing tracks to stage and unload materials. Port of the Plains has a car mover, transloading equipment and operators for owner's equipment. Contractors to coordinate materials, storage, unloading and use of owner equipment and operator with the Port of the Plains personnel.
8. What are the contractors' responsibilities for testing?
 - a. Contractors to use UPRR's specifications for testing requirements for the project. Testing results will need to be provided to UPRR.
9. Contractors requested a sample contract be provided prior to the bid. Can NIPP provide a copy of the proposed construction contract, including all general conditions, supplementary conditions, insurance requirements, and special provisions that will govern the project?
 - a. The owner will work with legal counsel to provide sample contract prior to bidding. With the limited time frame prior to the bid, there's no guarantee a sample contract will be available prior to the bid's due date.
10. The owner has existing building facilities available for rent/lease during construction.
 - a. Building use cost are not available at this time.

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11. Can the contractor utilize the existing pavement for off-loading construction materials for the project?
 - a. Yes. The contractor will be required to repair any of the pavement areas if they are severely damaged during the construction process.
12. What specification are to be followed for subballast?
 - a. The subballast used for the project should be a material that meets UPRR specifications that have been identified in the plans on page 6.
13. What is the payment schedule on this project? Will it be monthly with pay apps and lien waivers?
 - a. The contractor shall provide monthly invoices based off materials on site and work completed. Invoices will be reviewed and once approved, payment will be authorized, along with a lien waiver.
14. Will materials (rail) be billable upon award of project? Obviously, materials will be in the millions of dollars.
 - a. Invoices for materials can be provided to the owner once they are on site and secure. Material tickets will need to be included with the invoice. The invoice should be for the materials and transportation only.
15. Is there any applicable wage rate? Is this project subject to any federal, state, or local prevailing wage requirements? If so, please identify the applicable wage determination, reporting requirements, and funding source.
 - a. No specific wage determination is incorporated into this project. This project is funded with Nebraska State Funds through a Site and Building Development Act Subaccount. In accordance with Nebraska Revised Statute Section 73-102, all bidders are required to file a statement that the bidder is complying with, and will continue to comply with, fair labor standards in the execution of the contract. **This statement should be included with all bids to avoid disqualification.** Nebraska Revised Statute Section 73-104 defines fair labor standards as such a scale of wages and conditions of employment as are paid and maintained by at least fifty percent of the contractors in the same business or field of endeavor as the contractor filing such statement. All contracts awarded through this bid letting will include a provision requiring the contractor and subcontractors to continue to comply with the fair labor standards requirements.
16. Please provide anticipated review durations for Union Pacific and/or third-party reviews, including submittals, engineering reviews, material approvals, testing reports, work plans, and requests for track occupancy. How will contractor schedule impacts resulting from these review periods be addressed?
 - a. Review durations for submittals, engineering reviews, material approvals, and testing reports can take from 1 to 2 weeks.

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17. Are the bid earthwork quantities based on existing ground elevations prior to stripping or on stripped subgrade conditions? Please identify the basis used for the provided cut/fill quantities.
- a. Yes, bid earthwork quantities are based on existing ground elevations prior to stripping or on stripped subgrade conditions. Earthwork quantities were figured from existing surveyed ground to proposed subgrade and are based off neat line quantities with no shrink.
18. Geotechnical information indicates much of the excavated material may be unsuitable for structural fill, with the exception of areas near borings TK-04 and TK-05. Will the Contractor be permitted to stockpile, stabilize, and reuse excavated material elsewhere on NIPP property, or must unsuitable material be disposed of offsite?
- a. Yes, the contractor will be able to stockpile, stabilize, and reuse excavated material elsewhere on NIPP property. If unsuitable material is not used on site. The contractor will be permitted to stockpile it on site, with the location to be determined by the owner.
19. An offsite borrow source is required, will NIPP assist with obtaining any Special Use Permits or local approvals through Lincoln County Planning and Zoning? If permitting delays occur, how will schedule impacts be addressed?
- a. The contractor will be responsible for obtaining any special use permit that may be required. It is not anticipated to have permitting delays. If delays do occur, impacts will be reviewed and coordinated between the contractor and the owner.
20. If identified as the apparent low bidder, may the Contractor begin borrow source approval activities, permitting, and material testing prior to issuance of the Notice to Proceed in order to minimize schedule impacts?
- a. Once the owner provides the selected contractor with a notice to proceed, the contractor can begin this process. If the contractor proceeds with this upon being the apparent low bidder, that will be the contractor's decision.
21. The plans indicate a 24-inch steel casing pipe installed by jack-and-bore beneath Track 802 with approximately 1.7 feet of cover from top of pipe to top of tie. Given the limited cover and existing soil conditions, would NIPP and Union Pacific consider an open-cut installation during an approved track outage or work window as an acceptable alternative means and method?
- a. If this is something the contractor would like to pursue, the owner does not have an issue with this, however the contractor will be responsible to coordinating this change, and getting it accepted by the railroad prior to proceeding this direction.
22. Does Union Pacific have an anticipated schedule for its scope of work, including turnout installations, mainline tie-ins, inspections, and final track connections? Please provide any known milestone dates.
- a. Union Pacific currently doesn't have an anticipated schedule for its scope of work.

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23. Will Union Pacific provide railroad flagging services directly, or will flagging be provided through a third-party contractor? If third-party flagging is required, please provide estimated staffing levels, rates, and lead times.
- a. Flagging can be provided by RailPros or National Railroad Safety Services. More information on third-party flagging can be found at [Third Party Flagging Policy | Union Pacific](#).
24. For delivery of continuous welded rail (CWR), is temporary storage permitted at the toe of ballast adjacent to the proposed track alignment, or must the rail be staged north of the existing access road.
- a. CWR may be stored at the toe of ballast adjacent to the proposed track alignment.
25. Please clarify the full extent of construction surveying and staking required by the Contractor, particularly for track tie-ins. Beyond centerline of track, points of switch, and turnout geometry, are there additional staking requirements anticipated by NIPP or Union Pacific?
- a. Construction staking is determined by what the contractor needs.
26. Given the long procurement periods for rail, turnouts, structural steel, and culvert materials, will there be any provisions for material price escalation or owner-caused procurement delays?
- a. No.
27. Please provide the average daily train counts for Mainlines 1 through 4, including freight, passenger, and any other train classification required for Railroad Protective Liability insurance underwriting.
- a. According to the FRA crossing inventory for North Sand Road dated 08/30/2025, there are 35 thru trains from 6 AM to 6PM and 35 thru trains from 6 PM to 6 AM.
28. For RPL insurance application purposes, can Union Pacific provide an estimate of the payroll exposure associated with railroad employees performing installation, inspection, supervision, or other railroad-related work under this project?
- a. Not available at this time.
29. Please provide the appropriate Union Pacific representative or risk management contact who can assist with Railroad Protective Liability insurance underwriting questions and required application information.
- a. Contact Adam Engelkamp with LJA Railroad Services. Cell: 402-968-2731. Email: aengelkamp@ljarail.com.
30. Please provide Atlas Geotech's contact information.
- a. Contact Jeff Tidyman. Office phone: 308-221-5273. Cell: 308-340-8054. Email: Jeff.Tidyman@oneatlas.com.
31. Will a project manual with detail or specification be released prior to bid submission?
- a. Project specifications are included in the plans.

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32. How is the contractor intended to answer the following from bid form?
- a. (b) Required Contractor Proof of Railroad Protective Liability Insurance in the form.
 - i. Contractor will not purchase RPL policy prior to award. Will GFT provide a form of will a standard COI be acceptable?
 - 1. A standard COI will be acceptable.
 - b. (c) Statement that contractor is complying with and will continue to comply with, fair labor standards in the pursuit of its business and in the execution of the contract on which he is bidding.
 - i. Will a form be supplied? If not, what form are you expecting to satisfy requirements?
 - 1. It is not intended to provide the contractor a form at this time. A form can be developed meeting the owner's needs with the contractor as this progresses.