

YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR

**IF THAT MAKES SENSE,
THEN SO DOES THIS:**

QBS
QUALIFICATIONS BASED SELECTION

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QBS Colorado Newsletter

Fall 2006

QUALITY AND VALUE ARE KEY BENEFITS OF QBS

By: Bob Freudenthal, President, American Public Works Association and Deputy General Manger;

Hendersonville Utility District, Hendersonville, TN

Those of us involved in building and maintaining public works infrastructure here in Tennessee and throughout the nation understand how important it is to ensure quality and value for every project. That is our commitment and indeed our responsibility as members of a profession dedicated to providing the infrastructure and services on which all of our communities depend for their quality of life.

The American Public Works Association (APWA) is a unique organization, a mix of 27,000 public and private sector members working in concert to educate, advocate and provide information to the public on the critical role we all play in assuring a robust infrastructure and support for economic growth.

APWA has long supported quality in all public agency activities with a focus on economy, safety, efficiency, sound construction, serviceability, maintenance and operations. Along with the members of ACEC, we have long encouraged and supported the role of Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) and believe that the public interest is best served when governmental agencies select engineers, architects and related professional services and technical consultants for projects and studies through QBS. It fosters greater creativity and flexibility and minimizes the potential for disputes.

Since passage of the Brooks Act in 1972, federal agencies, most states and many local communities use QBS procedures. The QBS process recognizes that engineering and design professionals play a critical role in

the building of our public infrastructure. And those who use QBS understand that a significant advantage derives from its facilitation of client and consultant collaboration, which maximizes quality, value, cost-effectiveness and usefulness. It is in the best interest of taxpayers to have the most qualified firms selected to do the work.

We know that through the QBS process public agencies can be confident of consistently achieving optimum costs for studies, planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance of publicly funded projects. Because it supports creativity, alternative options, innovation and value, QBS is key to achieving smooth joint efforts by agencies and firms toward the common goal of a successful project.

In addition to our common support and encouragement of QBS, ACEC and APWA are working together on many other shared issues through a formal partnership dating back to 1993. Our two organizations jointly support increased investment in our nations infrastructure at the federal, state and local levels of government and are working to educate lawmakers and the public about the need to close a widening infrastructure investment gap. Support for passage of the recently enacted, and long overdue surface transportation law, SAFETEA-LU, was also an important objective for all of us.

A well-maintained, adequately funded public infrastructure is one of our nation's most important assets. We look forward to continuing and strengthening our cooperative work in support of QBS and all our common goals.

RECENT QBS COLORADO PRESENTATIONS

Our Board of Directors have been busy this year promoting the positives of following Qualifications Based Selection. The Directors have met with the staff from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, the City of Colorado Springs, the Water Authority, Colorado Department of Public Health, American Public Works Association

(APWA) – managers meeting, APWA Board of Directors and in November we have scheduled a presentation for the Northwest Facilities Managers Association.

Qualifications Based Selection (QBS)
“When quality and value matter.”



QBS/DOLA PRESENTATION SUCCESS

In May of this year, Board members Greg Sekera, PE and Rick Coldsnow, PE, along with Joe Tamburini, PE met with the Director and a number of employees of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). A QBS presentation was given educating the Department's employees on the many benefits of following the Qualifications Based Selection process when hiring engineers, architects and other professional services. The

presentation was followed by a lengthy question and answer session. Our representatives were so knowledgeable that DOLA requested Mr. Tamburini to make comments/changes to DOLA's *Contracting for Professional Services* document. The QBS Board of Directors' comments were also incorporated into the revised document was returned to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs for review and comment.

QBS NOTEBOOK REQUESTS

Several years ago QBS Colorado compiled a very informative and educational notebook, *Essential Tools for Successful Projects*. This notebook is a great resource for agencies and municipalities. When our Directors make presentations they always have a few of the books for those that are interested. At times, we receive requests to send a book. The requests come from members of our

sponsoring organizations, from an individual that attended a presentation or someone wanting to learn more about the QBS process. In addition to the notebooks that were handed out at presentations we have supplied books to the following: City of Thornton, Town of Poncha Springs, Colorado Division of Wildlife and the City of Ft. Lupton.

RFP RESPONSES

When price-based Request For Proposals are brought to the attention of the QBS Colorado Board we make immediate contact with the agency and the contact person. A letter along with one of our brochures is mailed. A follow-up phone call is later placed.

This year we have responded to RFP's issued from the following agencies: City of Brighton, Town of Berthoud, Boulder – Utilities Department, Northglenn and the Douglas County School District.

NEW DISPLAY BOARDS

Special thanks to Brian Calhoun, AIA for the design and finished product of our new display board. Mr. Calhoun incorporated the clean contemporary -look of our brochure into a table-top size freestanding display featuring photographs of what can happen if you don't follow the Qualifications Based Selection process. Each of our

sponsoring organizations have a board for their office.

Please peruse our updated website www.acec-co.org/qbs for meeting reports, commonly asked questions with answers, an overview of the process, sample forms, form letters and other information.

QBS COLORADO DIRECTORS

AIA/CO: Brian Calhoun (Vice Chair) – 719.471.7566
Tom Wuertz – 303.295.1717
Carolyn Hunter – 970.247.9082

ACEC/CO: Greg Sekera (Chair) – 303.985.3636
Scott Beck – 303.433.8486
Bill Barreire – 719.632.3593

PEC: Rick Coldsnow – 303.458.5550
Paul Bakken – 303.721.0736
Dave Hughes – 303.843.3050

CAGE: Al Claybourn – 303.742.9700

Administrative Directors:

ACEC/CO Sondra Donnel – 303.832.2200
PEC Erin Erickson – 303.480.1160

AIA/CO Sonia Riggs – 303.446.2266
QBS/CO Coordinator: Sue Bertram 303.722.4664

QBS TIP



It is fact, according to AIA's January 18, 2006 newsletter, "80% of voters believe that architects and engineers who are hired by government agencies to design and construct public buildings should be awarded by selecting the best qualified firms and then negotiating the best possible fee. Only 17% of those polled favored hiring architects and engineers for public projects based on low bid." This is a resounding public affirmation in support of Qualifications Based Selection at the federal and state levels in public procurement.