#### Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) in Michigan

#### **AESLC Committee**

Presenters:

Ron Brenke, PE QBS Manager Larry Fleis, PE Chairman, QBS Board

## **Todays Agenda**

- What is QBS?
- The QBS Selection Process
- QBS Confirmed to be Best Practice
- Trends Threatening the QBS Process
- QBS Coalition
- Michigan QBS Legislation



## What is QBS?

## Federal "Brooks Bill" Definition

Sec.902. The Congress hereby declares it to be the policy of the Federal Government to publicly announce all requirements for architectural and engineering services, and to negotiate contracts for architectural and engineering services on the basis of demonstrated competence and qualification for the type of professional services required and at fair and reasonable prices.

## **Brooks Bill Implementation**

- All projects involving federal funds are to use the QBS process.
- SRF/DWRF projects in Michigan will have to follow the QBS process as of October 1, 2014 to conform with recent federal legislation.

## **Status of QBS Statutes by State** 46 States have QBS laws (2013 ACEC survey)

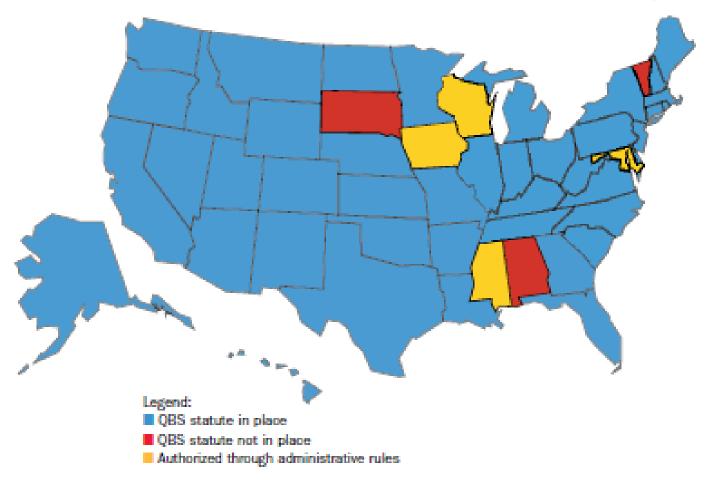


Figure 3-1: Current status of QBS statutes by state (AIA 2006).

## Michigan

- In 1987- Concurrent Resolution No. 206 urges state and local agencies to utilize QBS for selection of design professionals.
- In 2002 PA 504 requires the Department of Management and Budget to use a competitive QBS process for hiring design professionals.



## **The QBS Selection Process**

## **QBS Process – Selection**

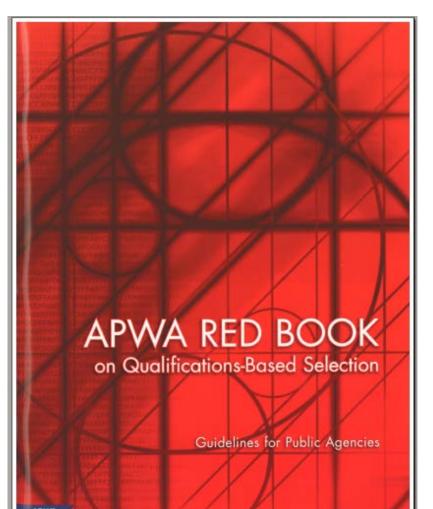
- 1. An owner establishes a selection schedule and criteria.
- 2. A request for qualifications (RFQ) is issued.
- Statements of qualifications are evaluated and the owner creates a short list of qualified firms to be interviewed.
- 4. Interviews are conducted and the firms are ranked.

## **QBS Process – Negotiations**

- 1. The owner and highest-ranked firm jointly define the detailed scope of work.
- 2. The design firm submits a fee proposal based on the agreed-upon scope of work.
- 3. If the fee proposal is not acceptable to the owner, the owner and designer work together to modify the scope of work, schedule, and budget to determine if an agreement can be achieved.

## **QBS Process – Negotiations**

- 4. If an agreement cannot be achieved, those negotiations are ended and the owner begins negotiations with the next-most-qualified firm.
- 5. An agreement covering the scope and fee is executed.
- 6. Firms involved in the selection process are notified of the selection and provided post-selection feedback, when requested.





#### The Public Official's Guide to Municipal Infrastructure





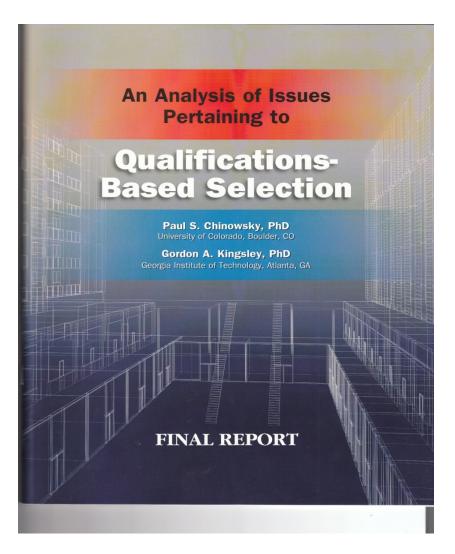
Enhancing Local Government Preparing Public Officials for the New Millenium





## QBS is Confirmed to be the Best Practice Following National Study

## **QBS** National Study



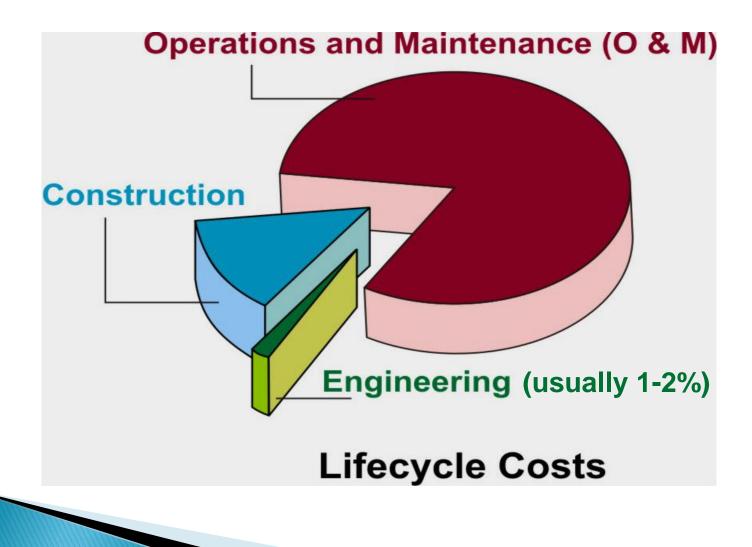
## QBS Works (APWA/ACEC National Study)

- Georgia Institute of Technology and University of Colorado reviewed over 200 projects across the USA
  - 93% of clients expressed high or very high satisfaction with consultants selected using QBS
  - QBS reduced construction cost growth by 70%
  - QBS reduced schedule slippage by 20%
  - QBS provided better ability to address societal issues or stakeholder concerns

# What's in it for the Owners?

- The right team for the right job
- Realistic schedules and budgets
- Fewer change orders and disputes
- Better business relationship between parties
- Better service, better quality & <u>better value for</u> <u>taxpayers</u>

#### Design Professional Fees are a Small Fraction of the Lifecycle Cost

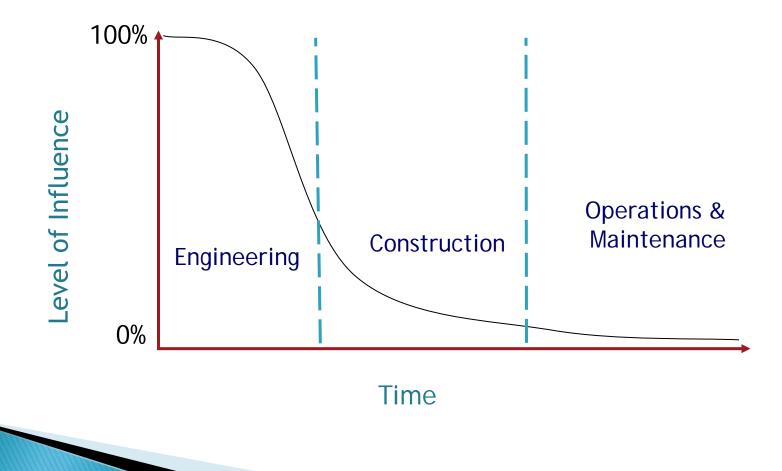


## Life Cycle Costs vs. Design Fees

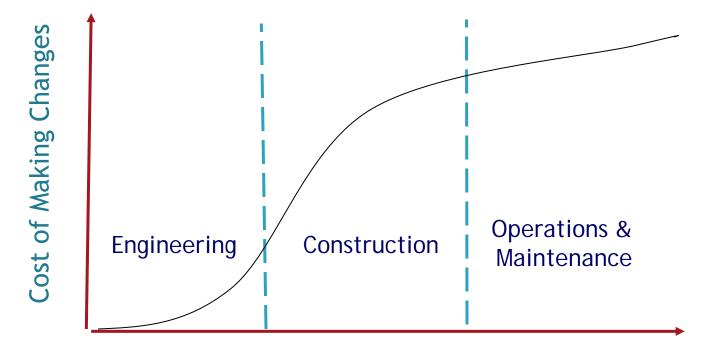
"Professional fees usually represent only 1 percent to 2 percent of a project's life cycle cost. Most consultants create savings or quality improvements, which more than offset their fees through their expertise and creativity."

Excerpts from APWA Red Book on QBS Selection (August 2006)

#### **Opportunities to improve outcomes**



#### **Opportunities to improve outcomes**



Time

# Trends Threatening the QBS Process

What is Happening in Michigan Regarding the Selection of Professionals?

Electronic Age

- Owners and Managers talk to each other – share badly written RFP's/RFQ's .
- Examples shared more like requests for bids –
- Or they go through qualification process, then award based on lowest price from top three.

## This is Happening in Michigan

- Procurement by State agencies such as MDEQ
  - All our State agencies don't follow a true QBS process – some groups look at price as the final criteria for selection from prequalified firms



## **Trends in Michigan**

#### Electronic Age

 More engineering services are being advertised like a commodity on various web sites



Official Muskegon County Website OTHER SOLICITATIONS:

 $MICHIGan QDS COalition = S_1 I L_1 L O I H$ 

## **Trends in Michigan**

> Local elected officials change all the time.

- There is lack of education to the elected officials that make the decision on hiring of professionals.
- How would a local official know that the lowest bid professional may not result in the lowest cost project or the best designed project?
- There is no law requiring local officials to consider qualifications as the primary method to hire professionals.

### **Trends in Michigan**

The bottom line is that Michigan is going in the wrong direction for procurement of professionals. It would take multiple full time staff with large financial resources to reverse these trends – if they can be reversed.

A properly adopted QBS law would reverse this trend immediately.



## The QBS Coalition

#### **QBS** Coalition

- Formed in 1989 as a legal entity as a result of House Concurrent Resolution 206
- Only organization in Michigan dedicated to promoting QBS
- Almost every state has a QBS Coalition many formed with grants from ACEC/MSPE/ASCE

## **QBS** Coalition in Michigan

ACEC/Michigan AIA/Michigan **ASCE/Michigan** ASLA/Michigan APWA AGC/Michigan ESD **MSPE MSPS MWEA** AWWA/Michigan **American Council of Engineering Companies** American Institute of Architects **American Society of Civil Engineers American Society of Landscape Architects American Public Works Association Associated General Contractors Engineering Society of Detroit Michigan Society of Professional Engineers Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors Michigan Water Environment Association** American Water Works Association of Michigan

# **Vision Statement**

Five years from now, qualifications-based selection (QBS) will be known and accepted by owners, fellow design professionals, and the public as the best method to select design professionals.

# **Mission Statement**

Communicate the benefits of QBS and provide education and assistance to public and private owners/officials and fellow design professionals towards the implementation of a qualifications-based selection process for hiring design professionals in Michigan.

## **Strategic Goals**

- 1. Rebrand QBS: Clearly define what QBS is.
- 2. Define value of QBS: Cost savings, reduced risk, higher quality, defined scope, etc.
- 3. Market QBS Coalition "go-to organization for information on selecting professionals".
- 4. Promote a state QBS law.
- 5. Improve education tools on "the best way to select design professionals".
- 6. Monitor process for QBS on alternative delivery methods. (IPD, Design/Build, etc.).
- 7. Properly fund the Coalition.
- 8. Provide feedback to Coalition members on accomplishments, strategies, and value.
- 9. Collectively use QBS in the selection of professional services.

#### **QBS** Coalition

- Meets bi-monthly
- Revenue for activities from Coalition Members and Firms – operating with less than \$15k/year
- ACEC/Michigan manages Coalition; reimbursed for part-time staff

#### **QBS** Coalition Activities

- Exhibit at Owner/Client Conferences
  - MML, MTA, MPPOA, MADC, CRAM, MLGMA
- Produce Education Materials
  - QBS Brochure, Workbook, Study, Etc.
- Speak at Conferences and Meetings
- Meet one-on-one with Owners
- Website (<u>www.qbs-mi.org</u>)
- Author articles for publications

## Materials Prepared by Coalition





#### WHY VALUE OUTWEIGHS COST IN THE SELECTION OF ENGINEERING SERVICES

DETAILED WORKBOOK *for* QUALIFICATIONS-BASED SELECTION CONTAINING:

- » Step-by-Step Procedures
- » Examples
- » History

# Michigan QBS Legislation

## Michigan QBS Bill

- We have a sponsor
- Mirror Washington and Missouri Laws
- Copies of these states are provided

## Good QBS Laws in Other States

- Washington
- Missouri
- Ohio
- Indiana
- Minnesota
- Illinois
- Arizona
- North Carolina
- Texas



"We have to start getting some attitude folks. We're good. If you want engineering work anywhere in the world, why wouldn't you do it here?...We're not the cheap place to be; we're the value place to be."

-Governor Rick Snyder

## **QBS Coalition Wants to Help!**

# Questions?