

An estimate is required to be justified by the designer if the estimate is higher than the low bid by more than 10% or if the low bid is higher than the estimate by more than 5%. See [FDM 19-5-5.6](#). Justification emails use contact information from the plan letter and PMP. If information is missing or inaccurate, Bureau of Project Development (BPD) may send the justification emails to the incorrect individuals. BPD works to ensure information is correct, and processes are updated regularly, but mistakes may still occur. If the wrong individual is emailed, please reply to all in the justification email with the correct contact.

Emails will be sent to the following individuals when bid justification is required:

- Design Engineer
- Project Manager or Local Program Project Manager
- Region Design QA Engineer
- Supervisor
- Design Chief and Planning Chief

Please send the Justification when it is complete before noon on Thursday. You do not need to wait for concurrence responses before sending the Justification. Bureau of Project Development can ensure no additional information is needed for the Justification before the Letting review and the proposal may be awarded as soon as the concurrences are received.

## Justification Responses

Simply saying that a bid is higher or lower than expected bid prices is not enough. Differences between the estimate and bid(s) need more thought out reasons in the justification.

Focus on bid items that caused the proposal to require a justification. You do not need to list reasons why all estimate item prices are different from the bid.

Short justifications do not require a separate attached document. Simply embed responses in different colored text within the original email text for the justification. Otherwise, justification attachments can become lost in replies.

## Chief Concurrences

Chief concurrences are only required when the bid is higher than the estimate. BPD needs the emails from the chiefs to award the proposals. These emails can be forwarded or emailed as an attachment.

## Local Concurrence

**Local concurrences are required when the project has a State Municipal Agreement with local funds included in the funding of the project.**

## Admin Review

The WisDOT administrator's office thoroughly review proposals that are bid significantly higher than the estimate, and the difference between the estimate and low bid is greater than 20% or the bid is more than \$2 million over the estimate. Explaining the proposal's need, scope, and program schedule and reasons why the proposal should be awarded is vital in the admin review. BPD highly recommends that the designer place a deliberate effort for thorough responses in the email justification for projects where the bids are higher than the estimate.