



Illinois Department
of Transportation

FHWA and Illinois Department of Transportation

JOINT PROCESS REVIEW PROGRAM

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- ✘ Overview of **Joint Process Review Program**
 - + Program intent and process
 - + Past reviews and outcomes

- ✘ Discussion of **Local Public Agency (LPA) Phase 1 Approval Process Review**

JOINT PROCESS REVIEW PROGRAM

- ✘ FHWA/IDOT program
- ✘ Risk-based topic identification/selection
- ✘ Team member selection
- ✘ Team develop Purpose, Scope, Schedule
- ✘ Interviews/Data collection/Field reviews/
- ✘ Review Closeout/Final report
- ✘ Implementation of Resolutions and Follow-up

PAST REVIEWS

- ✘ Roadway Signing – 2004
- ✘ Road Safety Assessment (RSA) – 2005
- ✘ Accessible Public Rights-of-Way Requirements (ADA) – 2011
- ✘ Safe Routes to School (SRTS) – 2011
- ✘ Pre-cast Three-sided Structures - 2014



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of Transportation

Process Review

LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY PHASE I APPROVAL PROCESS

WHY?

Concerns with the
timeliness of agreement
reviews by IDOT

Concerns with the
timeliness of
environmental processing



TEAM MEMBERS

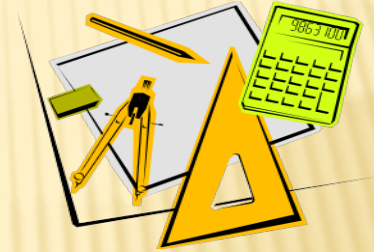
Mike Staggs	Co-coord., FHWA	Holly Ostdick	CMAP
Greg Lupton	Co-coord., IDOT	Gary Galecki	IDOT
Jeff Blais	FHWA	Jason Nelson	IDOT
JD Stevenson	FHWA	Laura Connolly	IDOT
John Donovan	FHWA		
Tim Zahrn	Sangamon Co. Engineer		
Duane Ratermann	Knox Co. Engineer		
Carl Schoedel	Kane Co. Engineer		
Bill Gray	City of Urbana		
Al Goepfert	Oats and Associates		
Jim Moll	Hanson Professional Services		

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE

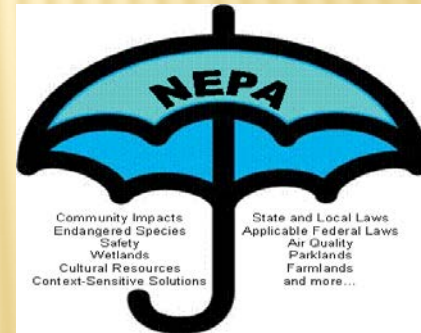
Review and evaluate the Federal-Aid engineering agreements and environmental processing of Phase 1 (preliminary engineering) for federal funded Local Public Agency (LPA) projects. The review will identify barriers and develop appropriate actions to expedite the cost-effective and timely completion of LPA projects.

AREAS OF REVIEW

✘ Engineering Agreement Processing



✘ Environmental Processing (NEPA)



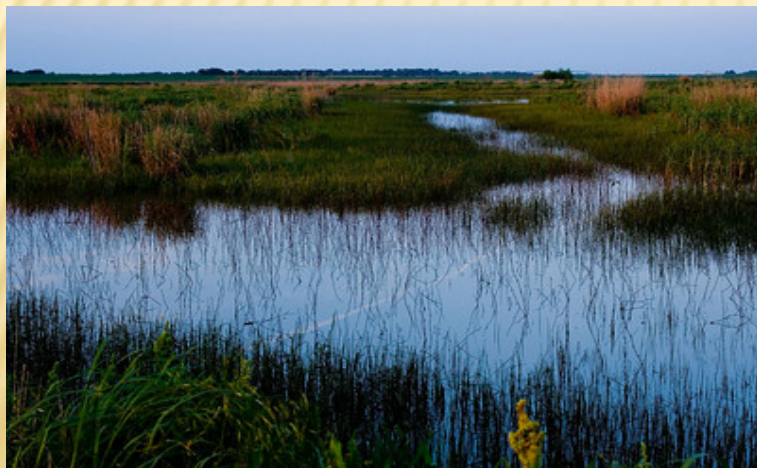
CONSTRAINTS

State

- × IHPA - SHPO
- × IEPA
- × IDOA
- × IDNR

Federal

- × U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- × U.S. Fish and Wildlife
- × U.S. Coast Guard
- × U.S. EPA
- × U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
- × U.S. Forest Service



L.U.S.T.
LEAVING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

- ✘ Evaluate current processes
- ✘ Interviews and Project Reviews
- ✘ Research other states procedures



THE PROCESS

- ✘ Observations made and documented
- ✘ Team recommendations made
- ✘ Resolutions implemented

OBSERVATION #1 – Agreements And Environmental Processing

- ✘ In general LPA's do not have a good understanding of federal requirements for Phase I processing.
- ✘ Approvals take too much time and expense to complete



RECOMMENDATION #1

- ✘ Develop flowcharts and set milestones
- ✘ Expand Phase I training
- ✘ Continue training of BLRS staff
- ✘ Coordinate all recommendations into the current BLRS Manual re-write

RESOLUTIONS #1

- ✘ Provided Training
- ✘ BLRS Manual re-write



OBSERVATION #2 - Agreements

- ✘ Inefficiencies exist in IDOT's processing of agreements



RECOMMENDATION #2

- ✘ Allow early federal authorization
- ✘ Eliminate redundant reviews of engineering agreements
- ✘ Reduce errors in funding agreements
- ✘ Share and implement best practices

RESOLUTIONS #2

- ✘ Early federal authorization implemented
- ✘ Redundant review eliminated
- ✘ Training conducted

OBSERVATION #3 – Agreements And Environmental Processing

- ✘ Unknown status of agreements and environmental clearances in the Central Office



RECOMMENDATION #3

- ✘ Modification of the Central Office MFT tracking system.
- ✘ Share District best practices
- ✘ Grant LPA's access to tracking systems

RESOLUTIONS #3

- ✘ Shared best practices



OBSERVATION #4 – Environmental Processing

- ✘ Preliminary Environmental Site Assessments (PESA) for projects impacting state ROW take a minimum of 6 months to process

RECOMMENDATION #4

- ✘ Submit Environmental Survey Request early
- ✘ Create flowcharts
- ✘ Review BLRS special waste policy
- ✘ Evaluate BDE procedure

RESOLUTIONS #4

✘ In progress



OBSERVATION #5 – Environmental Processing

- ✘ LPA's indicated some lack of clarity of processing requirements for the CE1, CE2, EA, and EIS classifications

RECOMMENDATION #5

- ✘ Provide Phase I training for LPA's
- ✘ Inform LPA's of changes to Categorical Exclusions
- ✘ Coordination Meetings

RESOLUTIONS #5

- ✘ Training
- ✘ Programmatic Agreement for CE's
- ✘ Coordination Meetings

OBSERVATION #6 – Environmental Processing

- ✘ LPA's indicated too much design (Phase II work) is required for Project Development Reports

RECOMMENDATION #6

- ✘ Process more projects as Group I CE
- ✘ Review/modify BLRS Manual

RESOLUTIONS #6

- ✘ Revised Forms
- ✘ IDOT/FHWA Programmatic Agreement for Categorical Exclusions
- ✘ Manual Update

BEST PRACTICES

- ✘ Training
- ✘ Early submittal of Environmental Survey Requests



BEST PRACTICES

- ✘ **Bi-Monthly Coordination** meetings keep projects active and progressing with **agency collaboration**
- ✘ **Project initiation meetings** were beneficial in getting projects started efficiently
- ✘ District 1 BLRS **Project Information (PPI) form**
- ✘ Several Districts had **project tracking systems**

QUESTIONS???