

Bridge Inspections and Being an ERC

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Objectives

- **Purpose of Bridge Inspections**
- **LPA Guidance Document**
 - Role of ERC in Bridge Inspections
- **Consultant & INDOT Contracts**
- **Inspection Reports**
 - BIAS (Bridge Inspection Application System)
- **Bridge Inspection Resources**
 - INBridgesHelp@indot.in.gov



Purpose of Bridge Inspections

- 1. To ensure public safety**
- 2. To provide for the efficient use of resources in maintaining the serviceability of Indiana's bridges and small structures**
- 3. To comply with all federal and state laws, rules, and policies**



Bridge Inspections

- **Bridge inspections are required by FHWA**
- **INDOT allows Local Bridge Funds from the Federal Aid Program to be used**
- **Reimbursable and matching program**
- **Maintaining the Bridge Inspection Program in compliance with FHWA And INDOT regulations, laws, and standards is Expected**
- **Compliance dates have been set for all 92 counties**

Failure to comply may result in loss or repayment of county's federal aid



Before We Jump In

- **New Federal Requirement in 2014**
 - Bridges with condition ratings of equal to or less than 4 require 12 month inspections
 - Adds additional phases to Bridge inspection
 - New Phases; 1, 1A, 2 and 2A
- **Lots of changes to better meet this requirement**



Guidance Document

Chapter 13*: County Bridge Inspections

- **Role of the ERC**
- **Consultant Selection and RFPs**
- **Contracts– Consultant and INDOT**
 - 4-year Phased Contracts
 - 80/20 Federal Aid Program
- **Bridge Inspection Schedule**
- **Technical Issues**
- **Revisions are in process**

***Guidance Document Revised 2/2015**



Role of the ERC

- **Manage Inspection Process-Documentation**
 - Consultant Selection
 - Financial
- **Manage the Bridge Inspection Schedule**
 - Timely Inspections (Compliance dates)
 - Timely Reports
 - Quarterly Tracking (ITAP)
- **Educate Yourself**
 - National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS)
 - Bridge Inspection Manual (BIM)
 - Bridge Conference



Role of the ERC

■ Financial requirements

- Manage the timing and execution of bridge inspection contracts
- Must ensure the work is included in the TIP & STIP
- Request FMIS Approval– Any work that occurs prior to FMIS Authorization (NTP) will result in all costs being paid 100% by the LPA
 - FMIS request letter required for all Phases
- Issue the Notice to Proceed (NTP)
- Review and submit related invoices
 - This is a **reimbursement program**– proof of payment is required with your invoice



Consultant Selection and RFP

- **Critical component in inspection process**
 - **Start one year before first phase due**
- **Must be prequalified with INDOT**
- **No letting or contractor**
 - All work on contract done by consultant
- **ERC responsible for writing and submitting RFPs as outlined in Guidance Document**
 - New RFP and Checklist on website



Consultant Selection and RFP

- **New RFP and Selection checklist:**
- **<http://www.in.gov/indot/files/LPARFPTemplateforBridgeInspections.docx>**
- **<http://www.in.gov/indot/files/LPASelectionReviewChecklistforBridgeInspections.docx>**



NEW LPA-Consultant Contract

- **New Boilerplate contract is on the INDOT LPA Consultant Information website and must be use for all new contracts**
- **Maximum fee not to exceed**
- **MUST be reviewed by INDOT before LPA signs to ensure compliance and reasonable fees**
- **Bridge inspection specific contract review checklist on INDOT's website**
- ***You have the right to negotiate your contract fees and activities.***



LPA-Consultant Contract

Lets take a look at
the new contract

[http://www.in.gov/indot/files/LPA_ContractingContractf
orCountyBridgeInspections.docx](http://www.in.gov/indot/files/LPA_ContractingContractf
orCountyBridgeInspections.docx)



Include with Consultant Contract

- Use Bridge inspection specific **LPA-Consultant Contract Review Checklist** and include with contract
 - Ensures a complete contract package
 - Found in consultant section on LPA website
- **Consultant Prequalification Letter**
 - Sub-consultants letter as well



INDOT-LPA Contract

- **Completed after INDOT has received signed LPA-Consultant Contract**
 - Importance of early RFP
- **Shows federal cap**
- **Will need to be returned to INDOT with signatures and fully executed by the Attorney General's office before FMIS can be requested**
- **INDOT will issue NTP, LPA will issue NTP to consultant and copy to INDOT**



Supplemental Contracts

- **Additional funding may be given**
 - Reduced Frequency Inspections
 - New Bridges
- **Supplemental Consultant Contract**
 - List of Bridges and fee's
 - INDOT approval needed before executed
- **Sample supplemental contract can be obtained through your PM**
- **Supplemental agreements should not be drafted until previous phase is completed**



Schedule

Bridge inspections shall be maintained on schedule-completed no later than the end of the month of the scheduled due date (per bridge basis).

- Late inspections do not change the schedule of any future inspection – ***Federal Regulation***
- **Late inspections = NON-COMPLIANCE**; penalties may include:
 - Losing part or all of the federal funds provided within the inspection contract
 - Losing part or all of federal funds for other projects, etc.
- **For schedule questions contact consultant, look at BIAS or contact INBridgesHelp@indot.in.gov**



Schedule

- **Bridges with condition rating less than or equal to 4 on any part require yearly (12 month frequency) inspections**
 - Items 58,59,60 and 62 on Report
 - Supplemental Contract
- **All other bridges inspected every 24 months**
- **Special Inspections could be on lesser cycle**
- **All inspections need to be maintained on schedule and completed by due date**
- **New bridges and non-scheduled inspections**
 - Supplemental Contract



Types of Inspections

- **Routine on all Bridges**
- **Additional Special Inspections:**
 - Fractural Critical
 - Underwater
 - Complex
 - Element level
 - Special
 - Define and give justification



- **In Contract: Attachment A-2**



Technical Issues

- **Most common issues:**
 - Scour Monitoring
 - Scour Critical Bridges (SCB)
 - Plan of Action (POA)
 - Load Rating
 - Included on EVERY BRIDGE
 - Critical Findings
 - Acted on within 30 days
 - New bridges
 - Add to BIAS



Inspection Reports

- Reports prepared by consultant
- Bridge Inspection Application System (BIAS)
- Reports uploaded into BIAS by consultant
- Need to Request access as ERC
 - Contact Consultant for access

<https://indot-it.bentley.com>



Key Report Takeaways

- **Condition Rating**

- **58:** Deck
- **59:** Superstructure
- **60:** Substructure
- **62:** Culvert

- **Load Rating**

- **Asset management Tool**

- Project/Maintenance Priorities
 - Not always worst rated bridge



Fatal Flaws

- **Bridges Inspected out of compliance with NBIS**
- **Not in TIP/STIP**
- **No quarterly Reports**
- **RFP process not followed**
- **Not completed on schedule**
- **No Scour Monitoring Plan**
- **Work before NTP**
- **No ERC**



Additional Information

- **Use your Consultant**

- Your first contact for Bridge Inspection questions and information

- **GovDelivery**

- Sign up to ensure notifications of important LPA and County Bridge information
- New policy information



FHWA Online Resources

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/nbis.htm>

National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS):

- 23 CFR 650C (NBIS) - regulation
- NBIS Q&A – guidance

National Bridge Inventory (NBI)

- National database of bridge inventory and inspection data
- NBI data is collected per the “FHWA Coding Guide”



INDOT Online Resources

INDOT Bridge Inspection Website:

<http://www.in.gov/dot/div/contracts/standards/bridge/bridgeinspect.htm>

INDOT Bridge Inspection Manual:

http://www.in.gov/dot/div/contracts/standards/bridge/inspector_manual/index.htm

Indiana Bridge Inspection Application System (BIAS):

<https://indot-it.bentley.com> (password protected)



Resources- People

INBridgesHelp@indot.in.gov

District Program Director - Funding

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Questions?

