

Using the Minor Projects Programmatic Agreement



What does the Minor Projects PA Do?

1. Exempts a set of common INDOT projects from the normal Section 106 review process.
2. For projects that DO require a full Section 106 process, this PA delegates some authority to INDOT for tasks that FHWA previously implemented.

Minor Projects Are...

- 1) Activities in which INDOT routinely utilizes Federal Aid Highway Funds
- 2) Consist of Minor Projects that generally do not affect historic properties.

How does the PA streamline the Section 106 Process?



1. Less review time
2. Less documentation & paperwork
3. Information will be reviewed by ONE agency – INDOT-CRS

Minor Projects...

- 3) None of the Minor Projects listed in the PA require consultation with or review by the SHPO, *provided* the project:
 - is limited to the activities specified
 - is not part of a larger project
 - is on an existing transportation facility
 - Occurs in soils previously disturbed by vertical and horizontal highway construction activities
 - Has no known public controversy based on historic preservation issues



Minor Projects: Categories

Minor projects fall into two (2) categories:

1. **CATEGORY A:** Minor projects that do not require review by INDOT Cultural Resources Staff (CRS)
2. **CATEGORY B:** Minor projects that do require documentation and review by INDOT-CRS to assess the likelihood that historic properties exist within the project area.



Application of the Minor Projects PA:



- If Category A of the PA applies to a project, then no further work needs to be produced for review under Section 106 by SHPO or FHWA.
- If Category B of the PA applies, then INDOT-CRS **must** be contacted to determine the type of documentation INDOT-CRS staff will require for review.
- Concerns about the application of the PA to a specific project, or any questions regarding the PA in general? **INDOT-CRS should be consulted.**

B-6 Projects

- Other minor actions if deemed appropriate for coverage under this PA, by consultation and mutual agreement between INDOT, FHWA, and the SHPO.

Category B projects

- Submit information to CRS:
 - Construction plans
 - Project area descriptions/data sheet
 - Project area photographs
 - Aerial photographs
 - Previous archaeological documentation

B-6 Projects

- Send previously mentioned info to CRS
- CRS reviews & sends to SHPO & FHWA
- SHPO & FHWA must both agree to applicability


Additional sources consulted at CRS for Category B Determinations:

- Interim Reports
- Soil Survey Data
- Bridge Inspection Reports
- Previous Archaeological Documentation
- Site Visit for B-7 projects



Some B-6 Project Examples

- BikePort installation
- Land acquisition
- Small structure (pipe) relocation 10' to the north of existing



Added Categories--B-10

Slide and slope corrections, and similar erosion control measures, in undisturbed soils.

- Can't be near NRHP eligible or listed property
- Some archaeology work will be needed

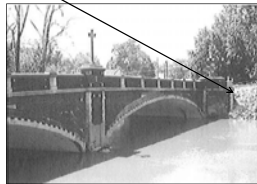
Category B Projects

- CRS review within 2 weeks of receipt (B-6, B-7 = 2 months, if site visit by CRS)
- CRS sends back determination form
- If PA applies, no further work needed
- If PA does not apply, full Section 106 will ensue

The image shows a 'Minor Project PA Project Assessment Form'. It includes fields for 'Date', 'Project Bridge/Structure Number', and 'Route Number'. The 'Project Description' field contains text about slide and slope corrections. There are several checkboxes for 'Previous compliance on this project', 'Previously completed National Register project', and 'Full survey data'. A 'Bridge Inspection Information' section is also present. At the bottom, there is a signature line for 'MAY KENNEDY, State Historian' and a date '1/28/2010'.

Added Categories--B-11

- Scour protection projects for bridges that are eligible for listing in or listed in the National Register of Historic Places
- Gabion walls or other retaining devices is not allowable
- If ground excavation-the project must take place in previously disturbed soils.



Remember...



- Not an exemption from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- NEPA documentation must list PA applicability

Added Categories--B-12



- Replacement, widening, or elevation of the superstructure on existing bridges under the conditions listed below:
- The project takes place in previously disturbed soils.
- Can't be near NRHP eligible or listed property
- The bridge is less than 45 years old
- OR --
- If the bridge is over 45 years old, the bridge was determined not National Register eligible in the historic latest bridge inventory.

Monitoring




- Monitoring of 3 INDOT Districts per year by FHWA & INDOT
- If project does not meet the PA requirements, normal Section 106 requirements must be fulfilled

INDOT/FHWA Best Practices for
Minor Projects PA Projects:

- Cultural Resources Manual, Appendix S
- CATEGORY B projects--provide clear aerial and ground-level project photographs 
- No submittal to SHPO 
- Questions? Contact INDOT-CRS

Minor Projects PA

- The Minor Project PA is available in the Cultural Resources Manual and is posted at: <http://www.in.gov/indot/7287.htm>



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