**Frequently Asked Questions for**

**ON-CALL ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CONSULTANTS FOR USDOT DISCRETIONARY GRANTS**

1. How do I use LTAP to select an on-call consultant to get my NEPA documents reviewed?

Contact Jen Sharkey at [jlsharke@purdue.edu](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cchudson%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CWJ6YJIJ8%5Cjlsharke%40purdue.edu) with LTAP.  Jen will work with locals to select a consultant for their NEPA review.

1. What type of grants qualify to use these NEPA on-call consultants?

INDOT has selected these on-call consultants to assist locals who are applying for USDOT Discretionary Grants. Locals may not use the on-call consultants for ‘normal’ federal aid projects.

1. Who will review my NEPA documents?

Consultants will review all NEPA documents.  No NEPA reviews will be completed by INDOT or LTAP.

1. Do I have to use these on-call consultant as NEPA reviewers?

No, however these consultants were selected through INDOT’s RFP process and if a local is awarded a discretionary grant, using the on-call consultant will shorten the time frame to get your final NEPA document approved.  After award, the local will need to sign a grant agreement with FHWA.  Only after that grant agreement is signed and a notice to proceed is given can a local receive the 80% reimbursement for their expenses.  Using the on-call consultant will expedite the process and allow locals to receive federal funding sooner.

1. Is there a fee for the consultant to review the NEPA document?

Fees are determined through negotiations between the local and the on-call consultant.

1. What can be expected from the outcome of the on-call consultant review?

The consultants have in-depth knowledge of the NEPA Process and can help locals with any questions or required documentation that is needed. While this review will not get a NEPA document approved, it will give locals a great start.

1. Is the local’s preparer of the NEPA document required to address comments given by the on-call consultant?

Yes, the preparer who is working for the local should be prepared to respond to comments from the on-call consultant since they are very knowledgeable of the NEPA process.

1. Can the local’s preparer ask the consultant reviewer clarifying questions about their review?

Yes, both the consultant and the local’s preparer should work together on these questions.

1. Can the local’s preparer get general guidance from the consultant reviewer?

Yes, the local’s preparer can get general guidance, but the local does not necessarily have to follow such guidance.

1. Can the preparer submit the revised document for a second / multiple reviews?

Depending on the contract that the local has negotiated with the on-call consultant, it could be reviewed several times. If the local would like to use a second on-call consultant, they can choose to negotiate a contract with another on-call consultant.

1. Will my NEPA document be scored by the reviewer?

No, reviewers will assist locals with the review and preparation of the NEPA documents.

1. Who will approve the locals NEPA document?

FHWA will approve the NEPA document after the grant award is announced.

1. Is a local’s NEPA document guaranteed to be approved by FHWA if it is reviewed through these on-call consultants?

While there is no guarantee that a local’s NEPA document will be approved by FHWA, INDOT believes by having the NEPA document reviewed the local will have positioned themselves to get NEPA approved sooner by working with these on-call consultants.