There has been much emphasis on long-term funding for Indiana’s highways, bridges and local roads. Behind the scenes, ACEC Indiana is also vigorously working on behalf of member firms that perform professional services in these arenas on many business practices and policies used by INDOT and LPA’s, as well. Before we dig into the specifics, ACEC Indiana’s guiding perspective is that INDOT, Locals and Consultants need to work together for program success. Below is a snapshot of some of the critical issues that your association is engaged in right now:

**Consultant Administration Manual:**
INDOT shared a new draft with ACEC for review. Three areas of significant concern have been identified and meetings are underway on: E&O Provisions; Conflict of Interest; General Business matters including independent man-hour fee justifications.

**ECI for FY ’17:** Annual meeting scheduled between INDOT and ACEC to adjust for negotiated labor rate contracts, effective July 1st, 2016. ACEC IN conducted Salary Survey to help establish realistic benchmark of industry wages, for firms to use.

**P3 and Design/Build Projects:** ACEC IN recently formed working group with ICI on these issues, to tackle deficiencies in laws/regs governing these delivery methods, and develop recommendations for INDOT as a team.

**Hydraulic Scoping:** Recent contracts resulted in concerns raised by member firms about “Standard of Care” issues and impact on professional liability insurance coverage. ACEC spearheaded effort to preserve and protect these important standards, with positive response from INDOT.

**LPA related issues**

**Fed-Aid Projects and New Local Grant Program:** Initial concern was that consultants would not be able to help with application preparation or with Asset Management Plans, but through discussion with INDOT, a reasonable interim solution was found. More work to do on “conflict of interest” related to initial scoping and later design work.

**LPA Applications and INDOT project management:** ACEC strongly urged that INDOT continue to allow LPA’s manage their projects stemming from new federal funding, rather than INDOT assuming the PM role. INDOT continues to take the pulse of LPA’s on this issue and share response with ACEC as we work together towards timely project completion.

**Bridge Inspection LPA consulting contracts:** ACEC sent a memo to INDOT a few months ago outlining key concerns with updated contract language perceived to commoditize this work, and expect to receive some information soon.

**ECI inserted on LPA contracts caught the attention of ACEC and after discussion with INDOT, it was removed.**

**INDOT’s Profit Matrix** suggested for LPA contracts continues to be of concern to ACEC; we have consistently stressed the vital role of the Consultant to help its client complete projects on time and budget, and be paid a reasonable profit commensurate with the effort.

“**Duty to defend**” indemnification language was recently inserted into LPA bridge inspection contracts by INDOT that conflicted with legislation passed in 2008, but ACEC succeeded in getting the language removed across the board.

**Future of federal aid LPA rural program:** INDOT is having preliminary discussions with ACEC regarding their desire to not use federal funds on LPA projects and convert the program over to a state funded program. Legislative action would be needed to make this happen. ACEC has stressed that QBS should be used for selection of these Professional Services and construction inspection is important and will continue to work diligently to make sure language is inserted into any new law to require QBS and inspection.

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**Attend the Annual Recognition Luncheon – June 9 in Indianapolis**

Join ACEC Indiana as we recognize Engineer of the Year, President’s Award, Special Contributors, Members of the 2015-16 Board of Directors and graduates of the Engineering Leadership Program.

Click here for details and registration.