INDOT Environmental Services Division - Public Involvement Update

Per INDOT executive decision, public involvement (PI) required for federal-aid projects is transitioning to a decentralized process led by INDOT Project Management (PM) under the leadership of our Capital Program Management Division (CMPD). The decision to decentralize PI is in line with what many departments of transportation have done and are doing to achieve optimal efficiency in project development and delivery.

The Office of Public Involvement (OPI) will continue to monitor, oversee and coordinate compliance of state and federal laws/regulations pertaining to public involvement and will work to facilitate the transition to a decentralized process. Please continue to include the OPI as part of Early Coordination.

In moving forward, the OPI will begin to focus on enhancing PI for various agency programs including our ADA, Title VI, Planning and STIP programs.

A general summary of the PI decentralization:

**Project Management**
- Coordinate public involvement activities including public meetings/hearings, advertising the hearings opportunity, documenting all activities undertaken during formal (required) public involvement
- INDOT PMs working to develop/modify scopes of work with consultant community to ensure PI activities when required are performed

**Consultant Services**
- Certification of public involvement, ensuring public involvement activities are conducted in accordance to federal regulations (per guidance provided by Office of Public Involvement), sign off on NEPA documentation indicating completion of public involvement
- Consultant Service Managers will begin certifying PI activities
- OPI is also certifying PI for projects, particularly those released for PI early in the year

**Office of Public Involvement (OPI)**
- Develop/facilitate PI training materials, develop resource and guidance materials including ADA and Title VI stakeholder engagement and support services, coordinate and deliver FHWA EDC-5 Virtual Public Innovation (VPI), complete public involvement procedures update (Spring 2020) coordinate joint approval of procedures

With regards to NEPA documentation, early coordination letters should be sent to Rickie Clark at rclark@indot.in.gov and the Certification of Public Involvement on the NEPA form will now be signed by the INDOT District's Consultant Service Managers moving forward.

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