



IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

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February 2, 2015

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Attn: Carol Legard, FHWA Liaison
Old Post Office Building
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 803
Washington, DC 20004

RE: 2015 Revision of the First Amended Programmatic Agreement between the Idaho Transportation Department, the Federal Highway Administration, the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding Minor Highway Improvement Projects

Dear Ms. Legard,

In August of 2006, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), and the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (Idaho SHPO) entered into a programmatic agreement regarding minor highway improvement projects in Idaho. This document was the first amended agreement between these agencies and replaced an earlier agreement.

In 2009 and again in 2013, revisions, additions, and alterations to the 2006 document were necessary, and several clauses were added, updated, or revised per Stipulation IX of the agreement which states:

Any party to this Agreement may request a revision to Appendix A. Revisions to Appendix A may be made and will go into effect upon the written agreement of the signatories to this PA. Such revisions do not require that this PA be formally amended; however, ITD shall provide a clean copy of the revised Appendix A, clearly identifying the date it became effective, to the signatories for their files.

Additional changes to Appendix A have once again been made. These changes are limited to Clause A of the document to allow ADA ramp improvements as long significant site features are not removed or adversely impacted.

Per Stipulation IX, you will find enclosed a clean copy of the revised Appendix A. This revised appendix becomes effective on February 2, 2015.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at marc.munch@itd.idaho.gov or 208-334-8449.

Thank You,

Marc Münch
State Highway Archaeologist

Enclosure

Cc: Tricia Canaday, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office
Brent Inghram, Federal Highway Administration, Idaho Division Office

APPENDIX A
Revised and Effective February 2, 2015

I. Project Review – Minor Transportation Projects

The majority of ITD Minor Transportation Projects are unlikely to affect historic properties. In general, these projects have a limited Area of Potential Effects (APE), are unlikely to contain historic properties, occur largely at-grade within the existing roadway prism, do not introduce new structural or visual elements or require only nominal ground disturbance.

Minor Transportation Projects will be reviewed for Section 106 purposes by qualified ITD HQ Cultural Resources staff, without further review by the Council, the SHPO, or FHWA, provided that;

- a. Proposed projects meet criteria outlined in Section IV below; and
- b. ITD bases its review upon information adequate to identify historic properties and assess project effects on historic properties consistent with 36 CFR Part 800; and
- c. ITD consults with the SHPO pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(c) on all properties which are considered potentially eligible for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places; and
- d. ITD finds that there are no properties that may be affected by the undertaking or that the undertaking by its nature will have no effect on historic properties.

II. Project Description

A project description, map(s), photo(s) of APE are provided by the District to the ITD HQ Cultural Resources staff for review prior to their determination whether the project is exempt from review in accordance with this PA.

III. Minor Transportation Projects requiring standard review pursuant to 36 CFR 800

- A. FHWA, with the assistance of ITD, shall carry out the requirements of 36 CFR Part 800 for all Federally funded or approved minor transportation projects not listed in Section IV below.
- B. FHWA, with the assistance of ITD, shall carry out the requirements of 36 CFR Part 800 for all Federally funded or approved minor transportation projects included in Section IV that do not meet the requirements of Section I: a., b., c., and d.
- C. If at any time, ITD determines that an undertaking reviewed under this PA may affect a historic property, it will so notify FHWA and FHWA will initiate appropriate actions consistent with the requirements of 36 CFR 800.

IV. Projects exempted from standard review

The following Minor Transportation Projects will be reviewed by qualified ITD HQ Cultural Resources staff.

A. Curb, Gutter, and Sidewalk Improvements

Project actions include installation, replacement/reconstruction (with similar design), and/or rehabilitation of curbs, gutters, and sidewalks, or installation of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant ramps, insofar as such activities cause only minimal ground disturbance and do not remove or adversely impact significant site features (e.g., planting/parking strips, corner grassy areas, etc.).

B. Roadway Guardrail Replacement and Upgrades

Project actions include replacement and upgrades of safety barriers and non-historic guardrail, including guardrail posts, within the existing roadway prism or previously surveyed segments of right-of-way. Guardrail installation or replacement involving a National Register eligible bridge or crossing structure is not exempt from standard review.

C. Improvement of Existing Railroad Crossings

Project actions include minor improvements to approaches, signals, signage, and railroad crossing reconstruction where the highway alignment crosses an at-grade railroad alignment. All ground disturbing activities are confined to the existing railroad or railroad bed prism.

D. Intersection Improvement

Project actions include intersection improvement, maintenance, and installation of traffic signals, lighting, signs, pavement markings, interconnection devices, railroad warning devices, improved crossing surfaces, and landscaping maintenance, insofar as such activities cause only minimal ground disturbance and National Register eligible properties are not located within the APE.

E. Roadway Signage Installation

Project actions include improvement, maintenance, and installation of roadway signage insofar as such activities occur within the existing roadway prism or previously surveyed segments of right-of-way, insofar as such activities cause only minimal ground disturbance and National Register eligible properties are not located within the APE.

F. Bridge Deck Rehabilitation and Stabilization

Project actions include minor bridge rehabilitation (replacement of bridge decking and expansion joints), bridge rail repair or replacement, scour protection, or substructure alterations for bridges less than 50 years old or those structures previously determined ineligible for listing in the National Register due to a loss of integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling or association), insofar as the bridge is not National Register eligible.

G. Pavement Rehabilitation and Maintenance

Project actions include pavement rehabilitation such as overlay, sealcoats, milling, grooving, or resurfacing, including Cement Recycled Asphalt Base Stabilization (CRABS), of ramp, roadway, or parking lot surfaces within the existing roadway prism. In addition, brooming or other mechanical road

cleaning may occur. Some rehabilitation projects may include shoulder flattening and minor safety work within the existing roadway prism.

H. Paving or Minor Widening of Gravel Shoulders

Project actions include laying road surface over sub-base gravel within or adjacent to the existing roadway prism and shoulders where less than 1.5m (5 feet) of right-of-way on either side is required to widen the existing road surface insofar as such activities cause only minimal ground disturbance and National Register eligible properties are not located within the APE.

I. Bike / Pedestrian Pathways

Project actions include construction of bicycle and pedestrian lanes, paths and facilities within the existing right-of-way, insofar as such activities cause only minimal ground disturbance and National Register eligible properties are not located within the APE.

J. Landscaping

Project actions include installation and maintenance of minor landscaping, insofar as such activities cause only minimal ground disturbance and National Register eligible properties are not located within the APE.

K. Improvements to Rest Areas and Weigh Stations

Project actions include improvements to existing rest areas and truck weigh stations located along both the Interstate Highway System and the State Highway System insofar as such activities cause only minimal ground disturbance and National Register eligible properties are not located within the APE.

L. Minor Drainage Improvements

Project actions include minor drainage improvements adjacent to roadways, insofar as such activities cause only minimal ground disturbance and National Register eligible properties are not located within the APE. Actions may include:

- a. installation, replacement, or removal of culverts and headwalls that do not require the addition of fill material or surface grading outside of 1.5m (5 feet) of the existing roadway prism;
- b. installation, replacement, and extension of pipes;
- c. addition of pipe end sections or traversable grates;
- d. rip-rap in drainages associated with culverts and other features;
- e. mechanical and manual ditch cleaning.

M. Roadway Lighting

Project actions include installation of roadway lighting, insofar as such activities do not occur adjacent to or on a National Register eligible property, or within the boundaries of a National Register eligible historic district.

N. Equipment Staging and Material Stockpiling

Project actions include staging of equipment and/or machinery, temporary or long-term stockpiling of gravels and waste materials, and disposal of waste materials in areas where extensive ground disturbance has occurred, including but not limited to previously disturbed material source locations, graveled or paved parking areas, or other previously disturbed locations.

Staging areas or waste locations may be approved insofar as such activities do not occur adjacent to or on a National Register eligible property, or within the boundaries of a National Register eligible historic district.

O. Use of Previously Cleared Material Sources

Project actions include the use of previously cleared material sources for the same use insofar as no new expansion will occur laterally outside the previously cleared areas.

P. Fence Improvements

Project actions include installation, replacement, and/or upgrading of fencing (including snow fencing) within the existing right-of-way insofar as such activities do not occur adjacent to or on a National Register eligible property, or within the boundaries of a National Register eligible historic district.

Q. Installation of Underground Utilities

Project actions include installation of underground utilities (i.e. fiber optic cables, gas lines, etc) in previously disturbed locations insofar as such activities do not occur on a National Register eligible property, or within the boundaries of a National Register eligible historic district.

R. Rock Scaling & Slope Work

Project actions include rock scaling - the manual and mechanical removal of rocks, vegetation, and other debris on steep slopes adjacent to roadways. In addition, project actions may include blast scaling, which uses small charges of explosives to dislodge or reduce the size of larger rocks that cannot be dislodged manually. These actions can take place insofar as such activities do not occur on a National Register eligible property, or within the boundaries of a National Register eligible historic district.

S. Maintenance Facility Operations

Project actions include various continuing activities that occur at ITD maintenance facilities. These include, but are not limited to material stockpiling activities, vehicle and equipment washing, vehicle and equipment fueling, and liquid tank storage. These actions can take place insofar as such activities do not occur on a National Register eligible property, or within the boundaries of a National Register eligible historic district.

T. Geotechnical Investigation

Project actions include minimally disruptive subsurface exploration methods to obtain information on the physical properties of soil and rock in a specific location such as auger, rotary, or core drilling methods of nominal 8-inch diameter or less. These actions can take the place insofar as such activities cause only minimal ground disturbance and historic properties are not located within the APE.