



COUNTY HIGHWAY REPORT

January, 2006

A Newsletter for the Indiana Association of County Highway Engineers and Supervisors

A Message from the President

By Brett Cating,
President of IACHES Montgomery
County Highway Supervisor

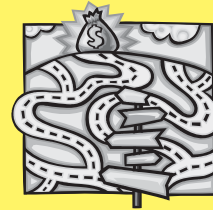
First of all I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. In Montgomery County December was a crazy month. The snow and cold made for a long month. The year end makes for money moves and stretching budgets.

I would like to thank everyone that helped with the IACC Conference. We had a great turn out of members and I hope you liked the sessions. We elected Bob Young our new Secretary/Treasurer. On behalf of the board I would like to welcome Bob to the Board of Directors. Bob is LaPorte County Highway Supervisor and I know Bob will do a great job. A long held tradition has been broken by our VP Jodi Coblenz. The big wooden board has been replaced by a lightweight new board. If you get a chance at your next conference you attend stop and look at the new display because Jodi did a great job on our modern board.

I am looking forward to road school and the year of 2006. Less highway workers and money but more demands from the public. My presidential platform will only consist of one issue. That is to be able to stay in office for my full term. I for one am hoping to fulfill the commitment I started 2 years ago. Also, it will let Jodi and Bob sleep easier at night. Lastly, I would like to thank Cheryl Mencsik and my administrative assistant Beth Page because without their hard work I would not be able to look like I know what I'm doing.

What's this about OUR Consultant Selection Procedures?

Jodi M. Coblenz, P. E.
IACHES Vice President
Cass County Highway Engineer



Just in case you've been under a rock and haven't heard, INDOT and FHWA have stated that LPA's are going to have to change the way they chose consultants for projects that have ANY federal aid money involved. This will include projects where the County pays for the PE and R/W and then gets credit for it in the construction phase. This procedure will NOT apply if the LPA pays for PE and/or R/W and does NOT take the 10% credit in construction. The consultant selection procedure would then need to be applied when choosing a consultant for construction inspection.

There have been a lot of questions and rumors flying around and at the IACC conference in December Robert Tally from FHWA and John Morton from INDOT were available to explain the procedures and answer questions. They spoke to the Commissioners in the opening session and then again at the IACHES session and it was a great opportunity to hear directly from these key decision makers. Their presentation can be found at www.state.in.us/dot/business/consultants/index.html. I've been trying to keep up with what's going on and I thought I would try to summarize some of the key issues as I see it from the Cass County Engineer's position. There are certainly others who have more information on the subject and can site the actual laws so please keep that in mind as you read this article.

We already have an approved process on file with INDOT. Why can't we just use that? Because according to FHWA, it's wrong. Over the years and with the different generations of the transportation bill, the rules have changed and there aren't any of us who seem to be in compliance. One of the primary issues everybody's talking about is compliance with the Brookes Act; but the procedures must also meet with several other FHWA issued rules and regulations. For a complete listing visit www.state.in.us/dot/div/legal/rfp/qbs.pdf and read Robert Tally's "Qualifications Based Consultant Selection" presentation from the IACC conference in December.

Why does it seem that INDOT's trying to tell us who to work with and which consultants to select? Well, they are and they aren't. INDOT has developed a procedure in conjunction with FHWA that meets and exceeds all of the requirements that FHWA has. INDOT has said that they want this plan implemented by February 1, 2006 and that everybody should be meeting the FHWA requirements by that time. (Note I say "should") INDOT has "offered" to allow LPA's to adopt their procedure. LPA's DO NOT have to use the INDOT procedure. LPA's can adopt their own procedure but it MUST be approved through FHWA and that could take a substantial amount of time. It's my hope that IACHES, IACC, ACEC, IACT, LTAP, AIC, and the rest of the group working with Bill Hann can come up with a few standards that might work best for counties. Then we can get that adopted as a group and if the LPA still wants to vary from that they could but would have to go through the adoption process themselves.

What doesn't work for LPA's with the INDOT process? Each county is going to have to determine what they like and dislike but I can try to point out some things that I've noticed and that I've gathered in conversations with other counties.

The first problem is the number and timing of the advertisements. INDOT intends to only advertise for projects three times a year and they

hope to know what projects will be on the list at LEAST a year in advance. This could extend the process significantly when it comes to LPA's. For LPA's we often don't know if we'll have the funding until INDOT announces the federal aid projects or the council adopts the budget and then we want to get started immediately because of the long lag times with projects.

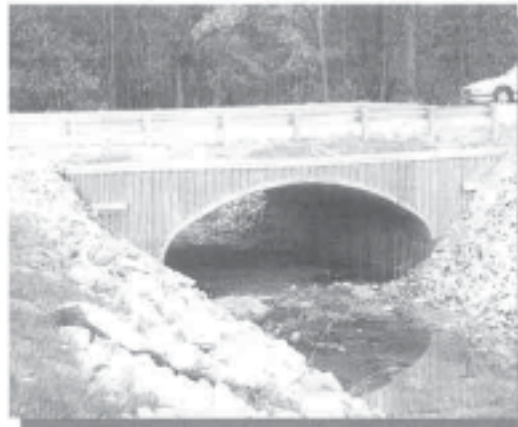
The second issue for some may be the training or qualification of people to select the consultants. INDOT is proposing that at least three people from the LPA take an on-line training course before they can rate a consultant. Some Commissioners feel that the engineer/supervisor is the only one who needs to make the decision. Some don't have Commissioners that want to take this type of course; they simply want to be able to make the decisions. And finally, not all projects necessarily have the same type of people that make the decision. For example, a trail project that wishes to use TE money may have a very different panel of experts selecting a consultant than a standard bridge project.

Another issue that I ran into is simply the scoring sheet. The sheet can be found at www.state.in.us/dot/div/contract/pubs/ConsultantAgreementProcess.pdf under the "New Consultant Selection Process." Cass County recently sent out an RFP and I tried to use INDOT's form to rate the consultants. I wanted to see just how this process that INDOT has come up with might work. The database that INDOT is using to rate quality and project management can't really apply for locals. This information will come from a County's knowledge of the consultant. Since there probably aren't too many of us who have a database with a lot of projects and ratings to choose from, the category has to be modified. I took the rating sheet and added a few more categories in order to take into consideration some areas that meant a lot to me. I added historical performance in the county, references, familiarity with the project, quality of proposal and other items that I felt might better help me chose a consultant. For this particular project I received five proposals and I rated them very

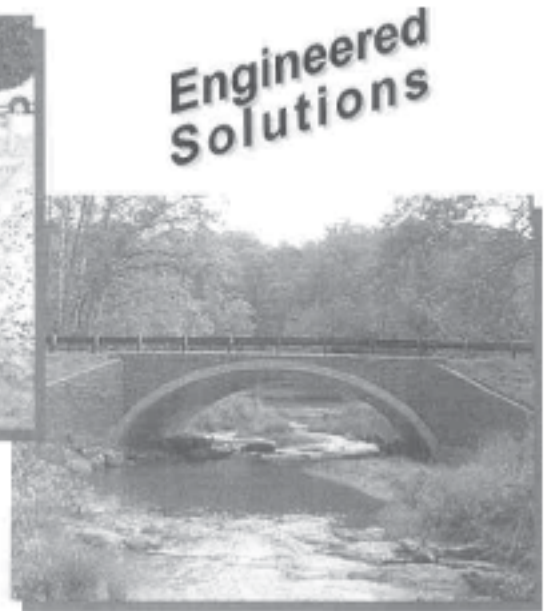


2900 Mitchel Rd, PO BOX 249, Bedford, IN 47421
 Ph: (800) 367-4205 or (812) 275-4473
 Fax: (812) 275-8789

- ◆ Steel, Plastic & Aluminum Culvert Pipes
- ◆ Geotextile Fabrics
- ◆ Retaining Walls
- ◆ Aluminum Box Culvert
- ◆ All Steel Bridge
- ◆ Culvert Rehabilitation
- ◆ Concrete Boxes and Arches



Aluminum Box Culvert



Concrete Arch

For information or quotes, contact one of our qualified salespersons: Bill Asbery, Jeff Stamper, Jerrod Best, Kevin Greene or Darin Duncan.

independently and without biased towards particular favorites. When I added up all the scores I found two firms that scored identically high and three firms that scored identically low. Now I realize that once the scores were calculated I could go back and change one or two little ratings to distribute the scores better but that's not the point. The point is, with INDOT only having about 7 categories, if LPA's use this same form, consultants will likely consistently score the same and many will have the same score at the end. If this happens then ultimately INDOT will have the authority to determine which consultant you will use OR you can start the whole process over again and wait until the next advertisement. The process through INDOT is anticipated to take about 280 days. This, of course, is unacceptable for LPA's.

As you can tell there are still a lot of issues that need to be ironed out. Hopefully the groups working on this issue can find some middle ground. It looks like we have no choice but to change if you don't want to lose funding, but as I

Things that come back...

- A lost dog
- Your Mother-in-law
- Burritos



- Brush not treated by The Daltons

ALSO PERFORMING CUSTOM WEED CONTROL APPLICATIONS & GUARDRAIL TREATMENTS

THE **DALTONS**
 APPLYING EXCELLENCE IN CUSTOM CHEMICAL VEGETATION CONTROL

P.O. Box 1274, Warsaw, IN 46581-1274
 (574) 267-7511 • (888) 267-7511 • Fax: (574) 267-7043
 EMAIL: LDALTON49@EARTHLINK.NET

Lex Dalton, President (& Old Dog)

"But if you ain't the lead dog, the scenery never changes."

— Age old Yukon saying

said in my last article, hopefully things can be made easier instead of harder to get these federal aid projects off the ground.

A Message from the Secretary/Treasurer

By Bob Young
LaPorte County Highway Supervisor

Let me start by introducing myself to those of you that may not know me, my name is Bob Young and I am the Superintendent at the LaPorte County Highway Department. I have been with the Highway Department for a total of twenty-two years, eight of those years I have been the superintendent.

Let me share with you a couple of our most recent projects here in Laporte County which I plan to follow up on in future news letter articles. These projects will be our salt storage buildings and our asphalt storage tanks.

I was recently elected Secretary/Treasurer of IACHES. I am looking forward to serving on the board for the next few years and plan to serve to the best of my abilities. I look forward to seeing all of you at the bridge conference later this month and wish everyone a Happy New Year.

A Message from the NACE Director

By Jim Olson
Jefferson County Engineer

The New Year is well under way, and our annual IACHES membership renewals will be coming soon. IACHES renewal will also be an ideal time for joining or renewing membership in NACE. NACE membership paperwork and dues can be done along with your IACHES renewal.

The National Association of County Engineers (NACE) was founded in July 1956. Membership

is open to those who are in responsible charge of a county operation, such as highway superintendents and highway engineers. NACE has approximately 1,700 members (including associate members.)

The NACE 2006 Annual Meeting and Management and Technical Conference will be April 9th – 13th in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This is within driving range – a great opportunity to attend. Information about the conference is available at the NACE website - www.countyengineers.org. The conference is planned and hosted by our peers, volunteers of the County Road Association of Michigan, and will be entirely roadway related engineering and management subjects.

Michigan counties have an interesting arrangement with Michigan DOT. The counties contract and perform some of Michigan DOT's maintenance work, such as snow and ice control. The conference will be an opportunity to meet our peers from other states to hear first hand how things work elsewhere.

Visit our web site at www.iaches.org to stay informed on what is going on with our organization. If you have suggestions on what you would like to see on our website e-mail Cheryl Mencsik at webmaster@skyenet.net

