

**From:** [Indiana Department of Transportation](#)  
**To:** [Bales, Ronald](#)  
**Subject:** Environmental Review for Community Crossings  
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Good afternoon!

Please see below for guidance on environmental review for INDOT's Community Crossings program.

Community Crossings projects funded with only state and local money are not federal actions and therefore NEPA does not apply. The recipient unit of government is the project proponent and is responsible for documenting how the project meets the requirements of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). Many projects will be exempted under the rule.

- Check 327 IAC 11-1-3 <http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/T03270/A00110.PDF> for exclusions and the INDOT CE Manual (2013) pg. 10 [http://www.in.gov/indot/files/ES\\_2013CEManual.pdf](http://www.in.gov/indot/files/ES_2013CEManual.pdf) for exemptions. If the project meets either of these requirements, document this in a memorandum to the project file. This documentation may be required later in project development.
- Projects that are not exempted or excluded will require a SEPA document. Please contact Ron Bales, Environmental Policy Manager, INDOT Environmental Services Division at [rbales@indot.in.gov](mailto:rbales@indot.in.gov) to discuss further.
- Compliance with NEPA or SEPA does not excuse a project's compliance with state historic preservation laws. Included here is a link from INDOT's Cultural Resources Manual that highlights those state regulations that are most likely to apply to transportation projects- [http://www.in.gov/indot/crm/files/Chapter\\_1-Overview.pdf](http://www.in.gov/indot/crm/files/Chapter_1-Overview.pdf). Projects that are limited to existing roadway footprint, such as resurfacing or patching, would likely not impact any historic properties and therefore not require coordination. If a Community Crossings project goes beyond the existing footprint or there are questions about impacts to historic properties, the project sponsor or consultant can send INDOT's Cultural Resource Office (INDOT-CRO) a project description and aerial map, and INDOT-CRO will provide guidance on any actions that should occur concerning state preservation law compliance. Contact Anu Kumar, Cultural Resources Manager, at 317-234-5168 if you have questions.

A project's federal permits are actually a **separate federal action by the permitting agency, and that agency (e.g. USACE) is the lead agency for that federal action**. Follow the federal agency's requirements for investigations and documentation to meet their requirements. This will likely include demonstrating compliance with Section 106 and Endangered Species Act, and possibly other federal laws. It is the project proponent's responsibility to identify the need for federal permits early in project development, demonstrate compliance with these federal laws, and execute any required mitigation. Contact Sandy Bowman, Ecology and Waterway Permitting Manager, at 317-233-5568 if you have questions.

Thank you!

Laura

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