



Florida Department of Transportation

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JARED W. PERDUE, P.E.
SECRETARY

FORECASTING AND PERFORMANCE BULLETIN 26-03

OFFICE OF DESIGN BULLETIN 26-03

FHWA Approval: N/A

DATE: October 20, 2026

TO: District Directors of Transportation Operations, District Directors of Transportation Development, District Design Engineers, District Construction Engineers, District Maintenance Engineers, District Consultant Project Management Engineers, District Geotechnical Engineers, District Traffic Operations Engineers, District Program Management Engineers, District Drainage Engineers, District Materials Engineers, District Specifications Engineers, District Estimates Engineers, District Safety Engineers, District Safety Administrators

FROM: John Krane, P.E., Interim Director, Office of Forecasting and Performance
Will Potter, P.E., Director, Office of Design

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SUBJECT: **Independent Project Cost (IPC) Documents**

This bulletin announces the release of the ***IPC Handbook*** and resources. All projects with construction costs of \$100 million or more require IPC reviews to be performed at every phase of the project through the Forecasting and Performance Office. If multiple projects are let together in a proposal and the total of the construction costs for all projects is \$100 million or more, all projects in the proposal are included in the IPC review. The IPC process is designed to ensure accurate and comprehensive construction project cost development and to establish the programming amount.

In addition, this bulletin releases the ***Engineer's Project Cost Handbook***, which provides consistent processes and technical guidance and techniques for developing Engineer's Project Cost on all projects. Engineer's Project Cost is required on all construction projects at every phase of development.



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COMMENTARY

The ***IPC Handbook*** outlines standard procedures and methodologies for development of an IPC. It provides key steps, milestones, and considerations along with required meetings and deliverables.

The ***Engineer's Project Cost Handbook*** outlines the standard procedures and methodologies for development of the Engineer's Project Cost. The handbook identifies required deliverables and interactions with the IPC Team.

The ***Project Document Checklist*** provides a list of documents used for development of an IPC. The Project Manager will ensure these documents are submitted with the best available project information identified. Any information required to clarify conflicting information among the documents must also be provided.

The ***Project Cost Checklist*** provides prompts to help ensure the full project scope is considered and to document project elements that must be accounted for in Project Unknowns in the Engineer's Project Cost.

The ***Risk Register Template*** must be used to document the project risks on projects with construction costs of \$20 million and more.

The ***Design Confidence Report*** conveys the degree of certainty that the project scope, design and project elements are considered in the Engineer's Project Cost.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Designers must submit the construction project cost to the District at every phase of the project in accordance with the ***Engineer's Project Cost Handbook***.
2. Designers must prepare and maintain Risk Registers for all projects with construction costs of \$20 million or more.
3. Designers must provide to the District all relevant project information for IPC reviews, respond to questions, and clarify any inconsistencies in the project documentation for all projects with a construction cost of \$100 million or more.
4. Districts must coordinate with Designers and Central Office, review IPC deliverables, reconcile District Project Cost with the IPC, and program the approved IPC amount in the Work Program for all projects with a construction cost of \$100 million or more. The programmed amount for each project with a construction cost of \$100 million or more



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must match the official IPC. Districts shall not modify the programmed amount for projects with a construction cost of \$100 million or more without direction from the Forecasting and Performance Office. The programming requirements will be incorporated into the December ***Work Program Instructions*** Supplement.

5. Central Office Forecasting and Performance Office owns the IPC and is responsible for scheduling and conducting all IPC Reviews, coordinating with the Districts throughout the review process, and ensuring the approved IPC amount is properly programmed.

IMPLEMENTATION

These requirements are effective immediately. Scope of Services and Staff Hour Estimation Guidelines have been updated with these requirements. The edits to the FDOT Design Manual (FDM) Section 123.1 and 901.3.4(6) attached are effective with this bulletin and will be incorporated into the 2027 FDM.

The ***IPC*** and ***Engineer's Project Cost Handbook*** and ***resources*** can be accessed via the following address: <https://www.fdot.gov/fpo/fpc/publications/handbooks>.

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123 ~~Engineer's~~ Project Cost Development Design Estimate Process

Commented [AA1]: Modified

123.1 General

~~Establishing complete and accurate construction project cost is a critical aspect of project development. The designer is responsible for developing and submitting Engineer's Project Cost to the District at every phase of a project in accordance with the **Engineer's Project Cost Handbook**. Ensure all scope and risk items are included and accounted for in the construction project cost. For lump sum items, provide detailed justification of included items and cost. The construction cost estimate (Authorization Estimate) is one of the last activities performed during the design phase.~~ Use the following items to develop a construction project cost at every phase of the project, as available estimate:

Commented [AA2]: Modified

- (1) The contract plans set, including all component sets, e.g., structures, architectural.
- (2) The specifications, including the supplemental specifications and technical special provisions.
- (3) The **Standard Plans** referenced on the key sheet of the contract plans.
- (4) The current [BOE Manual](#).
- (5) The Estimated Quantities Report.

Modification for Non-Conventional Projects:

Delete **FDM 123.1** and replace with the following:

123.1 General

~~Establishing complete and accurate construction project cost is a critical aspect of project development. The designer is responsible for developing and submitting Engineer's Project Cost to the District at every phase of a project in accordance with the **Engineer's Project Cost Handbook**. Ensure all scope and risk items are included and accounted for in the construction project cost. For lump sum items, provide detailed justification of included items and cost. The construction cost estimate (Authorization Estimate) is one of the last activities performed on design projects prior to beginning the procurement process.~~ Use the following items to develop a construction project cost at every phase of the project estimate:

- (1) The Concept Plans including an Estimated Quantities Report, if available.
- (2) The Request for Proposal ~~or Request for Qualification~~.

Commented [AA3]: Modified

Commented [AA4]: Modified

123.2 Basis of Estimates

The [Standard Specifications](#) establish the method of measurement, basis of payment, and pay items for work specified for road and bridge construction. The **BOE Manual** contains design aids, notes, the pay item structure, a list of currently open pay items, and computation information to aid the engineer in ~~preparing~~developing the ~~project cost estimate~~.

Commented [AA5]: Modified

123.3 Designer Interface for AASHTOWare Project Preconstruction™ (formerly Trns•port)

The Designer Interface, available through the ~~Program Management~~[Forecasting and Performance](#) Office webpage via the Webgate login, is used to build categories and to add pay items and quantities to categories. Contact the District Estimates Office for more information.

123.4 No changes

123.5 No changes

123.6 Alternative Contracting Practices

Modification for Non-Conventional Projects:

Delete the previous paragraph and replace with the following:

The Construction Office web page defines various contracting techniques used by the Department (<https://www.fdot.gov/construction/AltContract/AltContract.shtm>). When design-build contracting method is called for by the Department, coordinate ~~the estimate project cost development~~preparation with the FDOT Project Manager.

Commented [AA6]: Modified

901 Sequence of Plans Preparation

901.3.4 Phase IV Submittal

Typically, the work to be done during this phase is the following:

- (1) Address Phase III review comments.
- (2) Update the Work Program Administration (WPA) system (see **FDM 111.2.1**) to reflect the begin and end project mileposts.
- (3) Finalize all plan sheets, including:
 - (a) Place the assigned Construction Contract Number on the Key Sheet.
 - (b) Update the Work Zone Traffic Control pay items based on the established construction duration.
- (4) Finalize the models to be contained in the BIM.zip file.
- (5) Finalize the Estimate of Quantities Report and update quantities in Designer Interface for AASHTOWare Project™ Preconstruction. Submit the Estimated Quantities Report with the Phase IV submittal.
- ~~(6) Provide an EOR's construction cost estimate to the Department Project Manager (when requested).~~

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