As we roll into 2019, we would like to provide you an update of progress on Integrated Project Delivery (IPD), highlight some tools and processes that will support your current efforts to deliver our program, and solicit your feedback.  If you have ideas or suggestions on areas of improvement please submit your thoughts by visiting the Project Management webpage on Connect NCDOT.

## Project Scoping Reports

The Project Scoping Report is a new two-phased process intended to provide a summary of information on a project that may be used to:

- promptly get a project manager, technical staff, and/or industry partners up to speed on the context of a project and the required scope
- initiate conversations with the public/local officials to confirm direction of the project
- facilitate a project scoping meeting with resource agencies (where agreements may be made on purpose and need and alternatives eliminated/to be evaluated)
- assist in meeting the Secretary's expectation on final environmental document/documentation delivery with 12-24-36 months.

Phase I, the **Express Design** evaluation:

- Identifies the preliminary purpose and need (if not provided)
- investigates initial conceptual design option(s) to provide cost estimates needed for the prioritization process
- utilizes readily available GIS data
- is prepared through coordination with the Division

If the project does not score well in the prioritization process, no additional effort is required; however, should a project score well, then the Project Scoping Report is compiled.

Phase II, the **Project Scoping Report:**

- summarizes the basis for the request to evaluate the project for inclusion in the STIP
- summarizes the project's context, history, and status in MPO/RPO planning
- summarizes alternatives previously considered and alternatives evaluated in the Express Designs evaluation
- allows for early identification of data/surveys/analysis needed for the project development phase
- includes qualitative answers to the Categorical Exclusion (CE) Checklist to identify potential issues that may require consideration during the project development phase
- is the initial step and does not replace the need to prepare an MCDC, CE, EA/FONSI, or EIS/ROD

The North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) Division of Planning and Programming is responsible for reviewing candidate State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) project ideas. Changes have occurred since the Strategic Transportation Investments Law (STI) has been enacted, so here are a few things you need to know:

- **Feasibility Studies** will continue to be prepared as requested for major projects that may cross multiple jurisdictions, to evaluate new or innovative concepts, or to investigate initial alternatives for complex projects.
- With STI, the majority of projects submitted for prioritization are primarily upgrade existing facilities, thus requiring less and less feasibility studies.
- A new methodology was required to better clarify the scope of a projects and provide more accurate cost estimates for use in the prioritization process.  The new two-phase process (Express Design evaluation and Project Scoping Report) has been created to fulfill these needs.

The Feasibility Studies Unit has been the lead unit in preparing Express Designs and Project Scoping Reports, through the use of Limited Service Contracts with over 36 industry partners already under contract and with Notices to Proceed issued.  Guidance has been

developed that outlines the standardized Express Designs and Project Scoping Report process, which will be available on Connect NCDOT. This guidance will be updated as needed to reflect refinements over time, including a major update anticipated when Project ATLAS (Advancing Transportation through Linkages, Automation, and Screening) comes on line later this year.

## Project Development Process Maps and Deliverables Guide

Over the last year, many project managers have asked for information showing the existing process map of steps required for Project Development and project deliverable requirements. The Project Development Process Maps and Deliverables Guide (available on Connect NCDOT) has been created for a Type III CE project given the majority of projects currently in the Project Development phase are either MCDC or CE. We encourage you to review this Guide and offer your ideas and suggestions on how processes can be improved and each deliverable could be developed more efficiently.

## Next Steps

**Our immediate attention** (and overall purpose) for IPD is to re-envision a streamlined and seamless Project Delivery Process (from Long Range Planning to Letting) for all types of projects. This storyboarding (of a _new_ Project Development Process Map) will be accomplished over the next several months through outreach to project managers and technical staff to obtain direct input on Project Delivery Process improvement needs. Once the storyboarding of a _new_ Project Development Process Map is established, the devil is in the details. We will work over the remainder of the year to create a detailed integrated process, associated guidelines, and training for project managers and technical staff.

## Support

As you use these tools, if you have questions, need assistance or have suggestions, please submit your request through the Project Management webpage using the Contact Form on Connect NCDOT (note: over the next month, an IPD website will be created on Connect NCDOT, which will be located beside the Project Management tab; however, we will continue to monitor comments submitted via both tabs).