

LHTAC/ACEC LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

March 24, 2026 at 3:00pm MT
3330 W Grace St. Boise Idaho 83703
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COMMITTEE ATTENDEES:

LHTAC:

☒ Laila Kral
☒ Karissa Nelson

☒ Matt Koster
☒ Kevin Kuther

☐ Scott Wood
☒ Ken Kanownik

Consultants:

☒ Angela Comstock (JUB)
☒ Barry Miller (STRATA)
☒ Gabriel Burgess (CONSOR)
☐ Heather Carroll (Jacobs)
☒ Mariah Fowler (Forsgren)
☒ ACEC Board Liaison:
Tim Blair (JUB)

☒ Justin Schwalbe (WSP)
☒ Jeff Hunter (Horrocks)
☒ **Luke Meyers** (HDR)
☒ Jeff Werner (DEA)
☒ Whitney Ciani (CHE)
☒ ITD Committee Liaison:
Ryan Van Leuven (Shannon Wilson)

☒ Jeff Sorenson (Keller)
☒ Richard Sanders (NV5)
☐ Joel Parks (KPFF)
☒ Joel Grounds (Precision)

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Introductions (All)
2. Review and Approve December Notes (Angie) - **Notes approved and ready for website posting; Angie to make sure committee has access to Committee's Sharepoint site**
3. Old Business/Ongoing Reporting:
 - a. Environmental Update – **Karissa Nelson**
 - **New FHWA NEPA specialist (covering Idaho and Montana), Joe Weigand....FHWA Ops Engineers are still the NEPA signatories: joseph.weigand@dot.gov**
 - **ITD HQ has a couple of new hires to start soon and will be fully staffed**
 - **Joe Collins starts mid-April. Stormwater SME**
 - **Liz Nahach starts mid-June. Architectural Historian**
 - **ULT Training for protocol level qualification requirements from USFWS April 3 at 11am (MST) [Uinta Basin and Central Utah Rare Plant Training Registration - 2026](#)**
 - **[2023 Rare Plant Survey Training Recording](#)**
 - **Julie's provided ITD HQ ESA Impacts flow chart**
 - b. LILB Update – **Ken Kanownik**
 - **92 bridges complete; anticipating over 100 really soon with spring re-starts to pave/seed/complete**
 - **58 active in construction and 86 in design**
 - **Rebalance late summer/early fall to evaluate adding a few more, pending budget' \$200M spent to date**

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- Quarterly updates on website soon – please email Ken with start up or completion photos for including in the update
 - Ken will email category leads to remind them to submit invoices with cover sheet that includes agreement number and progress report so they are trackable and consultants are paid in a timely manner
- c. Federal Discretionary Funding Application Update – **Ken Kanownik**
- See attachments for updates on awards and applications
- d. Construction group update – **Matt Koster**
- Updated CE&I SOW (Jeff Sorenson) – tabled until June
 - LHTAC to host WAQTC prep class as trial based on feedback from consultant and local community about the need for this; first class Asphalt II announced through ACEC: June 1, 2, 3 (classroom) and 4 (hands on); fee includes voucher to take test; Lori Copeland instructing and 10-14 spots available; \$1500 for consultant/contractor ad \$1300 for locals; looking at if this is worth increased investment and expanding to other locations; if you are interested but can't attend or send people, let LHTAC know. Sign up through T2.
 - Reminder to update the LILB tracking sheet on SharePoint monthly – this information is important to have on hand for council and other updates LHTAC provides; reflects poorly on the program if these are not updated regularly
 - LILB agreements are still targeting 50-60% on site time, but as bridges get larger and more complex, this is can increase and discussions can be had in negotiations regarding certain cases
 - Survey control item in scope is intended to include lead inspector or PM time to review and verify the contractor is constructing in the correct location; rod and level, not a PLS and crew on sit; although site survey may be warranted if initial review reveals concerns, that is not the intent during scoping
- e. Fed-Aid Design group update – **Kevin Kuther**
- Utility push backs where permits are allowed in ROW – tabled until June
 - Funding applications approved at March council; posted to website; if you want copies of applications, LHTAC prefers to request from sponsor or at least get their permission, otherwise use public records request route
 - All FY26 OA is released and RFPs are out or on their way out; seeing 7-8 proposals and some consultants are not noticing changes in questions – make sure to review
 - CAU staff changing and may result in contracting delays due to training
 - ITD is pushing back at time of bidding to ensure BABA compliant designs and other horrors are unfolding in construction if BABA requirements cannot be met. Non-BABA-compliant material cannot be incorporated into FedAid projects. Consultants are required to determine if the materials in their designs are available and meet BABA. Heavy discussion around the feasibility of this with signal equipment, illumination, fiber, hydrants, waterlines, irrigation materials and what is the correct due diligence and level of effort. **This item will be relayed to ITD committee for further discussion and clarifications.**

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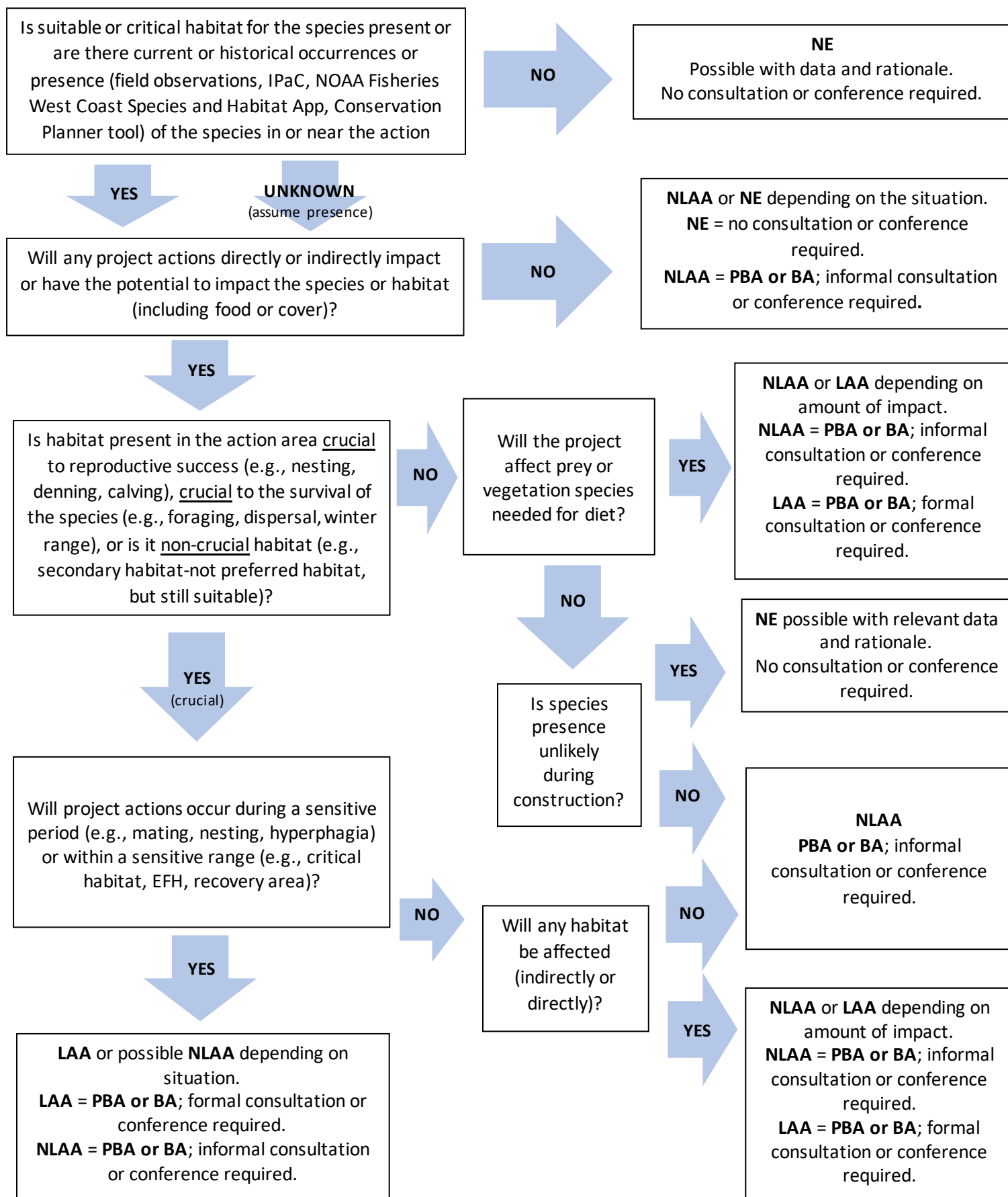
f. Legislative/LHTAC Board update – Laila Kral

- HB508 cleans up language and removes penalty for “persons”, just elected officials; allows for fed aid grant matching use of funds
- HB716 tracking – cleans up Hwy Distribution and increases money for local bridge inspection
- SB1300 passed out of committee – would make the ITD Director a Governor appointed position rather than Board appointed
- DOPL/IPELS – Starting to implement 5% random audits of PDHs; reminder to keep your log updated. A log template is available on the website
<https://dopl.idaho.gov/ipels/ipels-cpd/>

4. New Business – Angie Comstock

- ITD Committee Update (TBD) – Ryan – Meeting next month
- ACEC State/National update - no update
- 5-year-log discussion – LHTAC acknowledges and will clean up some varying languages used in RFIs/RFPs for 5 year log, but the intent is to list LHTAC, ITD and Federal-Aid experience; WFL work is ok if through DOT process; trying to gauge use of ITD specs and understanding of FA process and documentation requirements. If you have other experience, use the narrative portion of the proposal to elaborate. Remember to use the updated log format and if it’s not attached to the request, make that known with ITD or LHTAC.

Next Meeting: June 23, 2026 2:00PST – At JUB Office: 745 W Hanley Ave, Ste 301, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho



Federal Discretionary Applications for Local Agencies Federal Fiscal Year 2026									
Submittal Date	Award Date	LHTAC Submitted	LHTAC Technical Assistance	LHTAC Administered	Program	Sponsor	Intent (Sponsor)	Amount Requested	Status
10/1/2025		X	Application Development Application Submission	Intent	Innovative Finance and Asset Concessions	LHTAC	Bridge replacement and financial study of local bridges at risk of becoming poor or posted.	\$1,050,026	Pending
2/24/2026			Application Development Application Review	TBD	Better Using Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD)	Blaine County, City of Hailey, City of Bellevue	Transportation modernization planning and design effort in the Wood River Valley to improve safety, reduce traffic and connectivity throughout the Wood River Valley.	\$6,567,000	Pending
2/24/2026			NOFO Review Application Review	TBD	BUILD	City of Nampa	7th Ave reconstruction and bridge replacement.	\$23,000,000	Pending
2/24/2026		X	Application Development Application Submission	Intent	BUILD	Glenns Ferry Highway District, City of Glenns Ferry	A multi-modal transportation plan with replacement crossing alternatives analysis for the UPRR underpass.	\$800,000	Pending
2/24/2026			NOFO Review Application Development Application Review	Intent	BUILD	Valley County	Funding for the design of the West Mountain Corridor and parallel and regional alternative route to SH-55 connecting Donnelly and McCall.	\$4,771,500	Pending
2/24/2026		X	Application Development Benefit Cost Analysis Application Submission	Intent	BUILD	City of Blackfoot	Construction funding for the replacement of the Bridge Street Bridge over the Snake River in Blackfoot, ID.	\$25,000,000	Pending
2/24/2026		X	Application Development Benefit Cost Analysis Application Submission	Intent	BUILD	Lakes Highway District	Construction funding for the new bridge and alignment of Old US-95 over the UPRR connection to Parks Road and US-95.	\$9,700,000	Pending
2/24/2026			Application Development Application Review Application Submission Assistance	Intent	BUILD	City of Salmon	Planning, feasibility and preliminary engineering funding for a local Salmon River crossing in Salmon, Idaho.	\$1,628,000	Pending
2/24/2026			Application Review Benefit Cost Analysis Application Submission Assistance	TBD	BUILD	City of Payette	Construction funding for downtown revitalization, rebuilding sidewalks, parking and lane configuration to stimulate development and growth.	\$23,400,000	Pending
2/24/2026				Intent	BUILD	City of Ponderay	The City of Ponderay Lakeshore Connection project creates access to and construction of a railroad underpass.	\$23,505,000	Pending
2/24/2026				Intent	BUILD	HD4	Old Highway 30/West Plymouth Street Bridge Reconstruction	\$25,000,000	Pending
2026 Requested Funding								\$144,421,526	

LHTAC Grant Technical Assistance Summarized Services	
NOFO Review	Review the Notice of Funding Opportunity with the applicant to review eligible projects and activities and scope out a viable application for an unfunded need.
Application Development	Participate in completing the application with the local sponsor. This include hosting a kick-off meeting where all tasks to complete an application are delegated between Sponsor, Contracted Staff and
Budget Review	Review the project budget and ensure it meets that quality and expectations to not get assigned a medium or high risk by reviewers.
Benefit Cost Analysis	Complete a USDOT accepted benefit cost analysis and narrative. This includes ensuring data for the analysis will be accepted by the economist reviewing the benefit cost analysis.
Application Review	Review draft application and provide general comments. Conduct a schedule based risk analysis as documented in the NOFO. Conduct a pre-scoring review that matches the content in the merit
Application Submission	Submit application on behalf of the local sponsor to ensure it is complete and submitted ontime.
Application Submission Assistance	Meet with local sponsor to coach them through the grant.gov, Valid Eval or other submission portal to ensure they can submit an application.

Federal Discretionary Applications for Local Agencies Federal Fiscal Year 2025							
Submittal Date	Award Date	LHTAC Submitted	LHTAC Technical Assistance	Program	Intent (Sponsor)	Amount Requested	Status
1/30/2025	7/17/2025	x	NOFO Review Application Development	Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD)	Road rehabilitation and improvements (City of Bellevue)	\$1,923,600	Not Awarded
1/30/2025	7/17/2025	x	x	BUILD	Multijurisdictional transportation plan (City of Glenns Ferry & Glenns Ferry HD)	\$500,000	Not Awarded
6/26/2025	12/23/2025		x	Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)	Idaho Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Development Project Planning Grant to Develop a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (City of Jerome)	\$160,000	Awarded
6/26/2025	12/23/2025		x	SS4A	Planning Grant for the development of a Safety Action Plan(Idaho Falls)	\$500,000	Awarded
9/8/2025			x	Rural and Tribal Technical Assistance (RTA)	Planning and Engineering for Bean Lane K-12 School facility connection (City of Salmon)	\$282,600	Pending
9/8/2025		x	x	RTA	Citywide Street Rehabilitation and multimodal improvements (Bellevue)	\$1,923,600	Pending
9/8/2025		x	x	RTA	Planning Grant of a local crossing of the Salmon River (Salmon)	\$750,000	Pending