

**Indiana Department of Transportation  
Office of Geotechnical Engineering**

**Policy for Geotechnical Investigation or Geotechnical Waiver**

**Purpose:** To establish a uniform policy regarding the need for a geotechnical investigation or a geotechnical waiver on a State or Local Public Agency (LPA) project utilizing Federal-Aid Funds.

**Policy:** Each project requires a geotechnical investigation with a few exceptions noted below. The Office of Geotechnical Engineering or a Department-approved geotechnical consultant will conduct all Geotechnical Investigations. The Office of Geotechnical Engineering must approve a consultant report before the report is used in the design.

**Exceptions:** A project meeting the following conditions may qualify for a geotechnical waiver. However, subgrade recommendations may still be required.

1. Preventative-Maintenance Type Project.
  - a. Chip Seal, Crack Sealing, Microsurface, Single Lay HMA Mill and Overlay, or Functional HMA Overlay.
  - b. PCCP Joint Sealing, Retrofit Joint Transfer, etc.
2. Rehabilitation-Type Project: Shoulder widening up to 2 ft (0.6 m) on existing pavement with less than 2 ft (0.6 m) of cut or fill.
3. Bridge maintenance or repair that does not include foundation work.
4. Pipe structure smaller than 36 in. (900 mm) diameter or pipe extension of shorter than 5 ft (1.5 m) length.

However, if the project is in an area that contains known isolated problematic soils such as peat, marl, etc., or if the project includes fills of greater than 2 ft (0.6 m), no geotechnical waiver will be given.

**Waiver Request:** The project manager or the LPA design consultant must submit a request for approval with the supporting data to the Office of Geotechnical Engineering, no later than the preliminary field check.

The waiver request will include the following:

1. Project Scoping Report;
2. plans and cross sections – one set; and
3. six to ten existing pavement photographs.

**NO Geotechnical Investigation or Waiver is Required:** The following types of projects will not require geotechnical investigations or geotechnical waivers.

1. Bridge Painting;
2. Pavement Marking;
3. Landscaping/Enhancement;
4. Traffic Signals;
5. Guardrails;
6. Small Signs;
7. Wedge and Level;
8. Mowing;
9. Lighting Maintenance; or
10. any other project with NO earthwork, foundations, or retaining walls.

**Approval:** The Manager of the Office of Geotechnical Engineering will either approve or deny the geotechnical waiver in writing to the project manager within 5 days.