

Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology 402 W. Washington Street, W274 Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739
Phone 317-232-1646 Fax 317-232-0693 dhp@dnr.IN.gov

December 10, 2025

Matt Coon, Ph.D.
Cultural Resources Office
INDOT Environmental Services
100 North Senate Ave., N758-ES
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Re: Request for blanket authorization for qualified INDOT historians and archaeologists, and INDOT's qualified professional consultants to conduct phase Ia archaeological investigations and above-ground historical studies on properties owned by or leased by INDOT (DHPA #31638)

Dear Dr. Coon:

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology ("DHPA") has reviewed the plan to conduct field investigations (under Indiana Code 14-21-1-16) on property owned or leased by the Indiana Department of Transportation ("INDOT").

This plan covers:

- Phase Ia scientific archaeological investigation conducted by qualified INDOT archaeologists or INDOT's qualified professional archaeological consultants or sub-consultants on INDOT owned or leased property (see #1 below).
- Above-ground historic studies conducted by or under the supervision of qualified professional historians on INDOT owned or leased land.

The plan is acceptable with the following conditions:

1. The Principal Investigator for archaeology must meet the state qualification requirements (312 IAC 21-3-4 b). Currently, INDOT staff who meet this requirement are yourself (prehistoric, historic) and Dawn Alexander (prehistoric).

All archaeological investigations will be directly supervised in the field and laboratory by a qualified INDOT staff archaeologist or qualified archaeological consultant/sub-consultant meeting the supervisory criteria (field/laboratory supervisor or Principal Investigator) of 312 IAC 21.

2. Any scientific archaeological investigation other than Phase Ia [archaeological monitoring, Phase Ib, Ic, II, or III] will be conducted under an approved plan separate from this one.
3. All required reports and site forms resulting from investigations conducted under this approved plan will include the plan number listed below.
4. The methods and techniques for Phase Ia archaeology in the 2022 *Guidebook for Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory—Archaeological Sites* will be adhered to for all Phase Ia archaeological field investigations conducted under this approved plan. Artifact collection protocol will follow the 2022 *Guidebook*. Per the *Guidebook*, reports must be submitted within one year after the completion of fieldwork unless otherwise specified arrangements are made.
5. If any human remains dating before December 31, 1939 are encountered, the discovery must be reported to the IDNR within two (2) business days. The discovery must be treated in accordance with IC 14-21-1 and 312 IAC 22. In that event, please call (317) 232-1646. If human remains are accidentally discovered during field investigations or related laboratory analyses, and would be subject to the Native American Graves Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the investigating or curation facility shall assure NAGPRA reporting and compliance.

6. Any proposed revision of methodology must be submitted to our office, in writing, for review and comment prior to implementation.
7. The approved plan will be in effect beginning January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 and is non-transferable.

With these conditions, the plan for field investigations is approved (#2025056). A copy of this letter, along with proper identification, will be carried in the field. This will ensure minimal confusion should they be requested to produce proper identification in the field by law enforcement personnel. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact State Archaeologist Amy Johnson at 317/232-6982 or ajohnson@dnr.IN.gov.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth K. McCord". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Beth" being more prominent.

Beth K. McCord
Director, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

Emc: Matt Coon, INDOT