

APPENDIX E

DOT&PF Cultural Resources Staff Qualifications and Training

This Appendix describes specific commitments made by the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) for conducting the Section 106 process for all Federal-Aid Highway Program (FAHP) activities. A series of training requirements to effectively implement the original September 14, 2014 agreement have already been carried out.

I. Professional Qualification Standards and PQI Responsibilities

Pursuant to the Agreement's Stipulation II *Professional Qualifications Standards* and Stipulation III.B *The DOT&PF Responsibilities*:

- A. The DOT&PF commits to employing professional staff meeting the Professional Qualifications Standards established by the Secretary of the Interior (48 FR 44738-44739) in the Statewide Environmental Office and Regional Offices. The DOT&PF staff who possess professional qualifications are referred to in this Agreement as a professionally qualified individual (PQI).
- B. All Section 106 consultation with the SHPO and determinations and findings made under this Agreement will be performed or approved by a PQI. The professional qualifications of the PQI responsible for actions taken in individual project reviews are to correspond with the resources being evaluated. As needed, the PQI will consult with another PQI having that area of expertise.
- C. There are PQI staff at the Statewide Environmental Office (SEO PQI) and PQI staff at the regional offices (Regional PQI). A reference to "PQI" for project review and/or consultation should be interpreted to indicate that such responsibilities can be fulfilled either by SEO PQI or Regional PQI. Should a Regional PQI not be available for processing documentation and consultation, another Regional PQI or SEO PQI will conduct the review.
- D. The SEO PQI will participate in consultations on findings of adverse effect (36 CFR 800.5), with resolutions of adverse effect (36 CFR 800.6), and resolutions of dispute (36 CFR 800.5(c)(2)).

II. Cultural Resources Training Requirements

Pursuant to Stipulation IX.B *Training*, ongoing training requirements to effectively implement this Agreement are as follows. Training may be provided through distance delivery options.

- A. Annual Training: Following the Annual Program Review meeting (Stipulation IX.C.2), the DOT&PF will invite SHPO to meet with the PQIs for annual training on implementation of this Agreement.

- B. Beyond Compliance: Historic Preservation in Transportation Project Development (National Highway Institute course number 142049). Initial delivery was completed under the 2014 agreement and is to be renewed once every three (3) years or earlier as may be required to maintain staff stewardship training requirements. A Section 106 Basics course is allowed as a substitute for the Beyond Compliance training. This training is required for the PQIs, the REMs, and Environmental Analysts. The DOT&PF, with assistance of the FHWA and the SHPO, may identify other required staff. Newly hired PQIs, the REMs, and Environmental Analysts should attend the course within one (1) year of hire.

- C. Advanced Section 106 course: Delivery to the PQIs was completed under the 2014 agreement, and is to be renewed once every three (3) years or earlier. This is a required course for the PQIs.

- D. Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) database training: (Training to be presented by the OHA – for each Regional Office. The DOT&PF shall schedule this with the OHA). Initial training was completed under the 2014 agreement and is to be renewed annually or earlier as may be required in the event of substantive staff changes. This is a required course for the PQIs, and is encouraged for the REMs, the NEPA Managers, and Environmental Analysts.

- E. In addition, the DOT&PF staff is encouraged, but not required, to attend any other cultural resources courses related advanced training, conference, or meeting opportunities that may arise. One such meeting is: OHA Annual Workshop (OHA – in Anchorage).