

Fall 2021 LAP Symposium Survey FAQs

These are the summary results of the LAP Symposium Survey, circulated to contacts at all local public agencies in late fall 2021. Our intent was to gather feedback and comments on areas for improving the LAP program. Responses to the survey questions and concerns were presented at the 2022 FHWA/GDOT LAP Symposium on March 23, 2022. The information below is a synopsis of the responses, grouped by category:

A. Communications to locals on new program information and/or requirements

Q1. How does the LAP team help ensure that new program requirements are communicated in timely fashion?

A1. The team maintains a database of all Local Public Agencies (LPAs) in the program, which we use to send new and/or updated program information, most often via email. Email allows us to get information out quickly to a large number of recipients quickly. This email distribution will often include the District Planning and Programming Liaisons (DPPLs), other GDOT staff to keep them informed. Updates are also posted to the LAP webpage, and to the LAP Manual as appropriate.

Q2. How can we get advance notice of upcoming trainings?

A2. The schedule of trainings for the next calendar year are issued and distributed in fall of the previous year. It is also posted to the LAP webpage, where it can be referenced at any time.

B. Increased coordination with and consistency between GDOT offices and staff, especially project managers and district construction staff

Q3. On occasion, different GDOT staff will provide different information about project delivery requirements, certification, audits, etc.

A3. Based on this feedback, the LAP Team is increasing coordination with other GDOT offices so that their staff can provide consistent and accurate information to LPAs. For example, the Offices of Program Delivery and Project Control have developed a coordinated workflow to guide project managers and staff through audit milestones.

C. Amount of Required Training for LPA certification/recertification

Q4. Why is recertification required every three years? Can it last longer, or can there just be a "refresher" training offered, rather than require LPAs to take the full LAP training?

A4. Recertification is required every three years to help ensure that any updates to federal or state requirements and/or procedures for local project delivery are communicated to LPAs in a formal training setting by our subject matter experts. As part of GDOT's oversight responsibilities for the use of federal and state funding, it has been determined that there is no feasible way to provide a protracted, "refresher" course for such a complex process and still ensure that LPAs are sufficiently prepared for project delivery.

Q5. Can the notification of imminent certification expiration be provided in advance of the expiration date, i.e., one year in advance.

A5. The LAP team understands that notifying an LPA of imminent certification expiration could be a benefit to the LPA and has been providing those reminders of upcoming expirations to LPAs since early 2021. The advance notice is to serve as a reminder that there are several trainings that need to be taken to maintain certification.

D. Feedback on effectiveness of LAP training classes and the LAP Manual

Q6. Will you offer more dates for training classes?

A6. At this time, the LAP team is not considering offering additional trainings. The training calendar consists of dates for all of the five required LAP classes. Each of these trainings involve the time and commitment of several GDOT subject matter experts. The LAP team encourages LPAs to register for their required classes in advance before the maximum attendance is reached.

Q7. We prefer the convenience and cost-savings of the virtual trainings, but if we do return to in-person trainings, can you please consider regional locations in addition to Forsyth?

A7. Yes, regional locations for future in-person trainings will be considered, assuming we can identify state-owned/operated facilities that can accommodate all attendees.

Q8. Can an Executive Summary be added to the LAP Manual?

A8. The LAP Manual includes a Purpose Statement that serves as an Executive Summary and includes an overview of important information regarding the LAP program.

E. Lessons Learned

Q9. What are some common, frequent lessons learned for challenges to the local project delivery process?

A9. Your GDOT project manager (PM) is your first-line resource when questions arise, but here are some common challenges to on-schedule, on-budget local project delivery to be aware of:

- GDOT office review times and obtaining approval signatures for documents
- Utility coordination, ROW and environmental reviews can be lengthy
- Effective cost estimating, especially items like steel and concrete with prices that tend to fluctuate
- Not holding regular team status/coordination meetings – these are helpful to keep all involved on-schedule and on-budget