

LPA IN ALABAMA

Application and Certification Process



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Transportation Planning and Modal Programs
Montgomery, Alabama

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Foreword

The *Local Public Agency (LPA) Program*, as used in this presentation, is not to be confused with an existing County program and is a reference to a federal program that allows local governments to assume administration or management of certain federally-funded transportation projects, or phases of projects, under State DOT oversight.

The Alabama Federal-Aid LPA program was approved by FHWA for implementation in September 2013.

Certification Process

If a city, county, or other local government organization or authority wishes to be certified to administer a federal-aid LPA project in Alabama under Federal Highway Administration and Alabama Department of Transportation guidelines, they must:

1. Contact the Region Engineer.
2. Review or download project and process information from the LPA website.
3. Submit a Letter of Intent along with an LPA Application and Financial History, LPA Project Programming Request, and other information as may be required by the Region office.

4. Once the ALDOT Region has received and reviewed all requested information, the Region Engineer will schedule an interview with LPA principals.
5. The Region Engineer will approve or deny the application in writing. If the Project Programming Request is approved with all required signatures, the *Certification Letter* provides both state LPA certification to administer the project, and also project approval subject to agreement terms. In addition, if the Region Engineer determines the requested project meets FHWA requirements for an environmental *Programmatic Categorical Exclusion (PCE)*, the letter will so state and the project may proceed under those guidelines.

6. The project PS&E package is reviewed and approved by ALDOT, *with FHWA concurrence*, at a point between certification and project agreement.
7. If PS&E is approved, a project agreement will be executed under signatures of the Region Engineer and the LPA Responsible Charge (RC).

Note: The Region Engineer has considerable discretion in determining the limits of State and LPA involvement in project development. For example, the LPA may request to develop a project up to the point of letting, and then return the project to the State for the actual letting. Such an arrangement may be included in the project agreement, or if separate from the agreement, it must be approved by the Region Engineer in writing.

8. With a signed agreement, ALDOT (Region) will request federal project funding authorization from FHWA – Alabama Division in Montgomery.
9. The LPA administers a first project under probationary status. This may be extended to two probationary projects at the discretion of the Region Engineer.

Program Strengths

1. Division-based process with overall project authority with the Division Engineer
2. This program is web-based with forms and documents on the ALDOT LPA website
3. The program is streamlined to emphasize electronic communication and exchange of information, forms, and data
4. Forms and required documentation are standardized for statewide use by all Divisions

Program Limitations

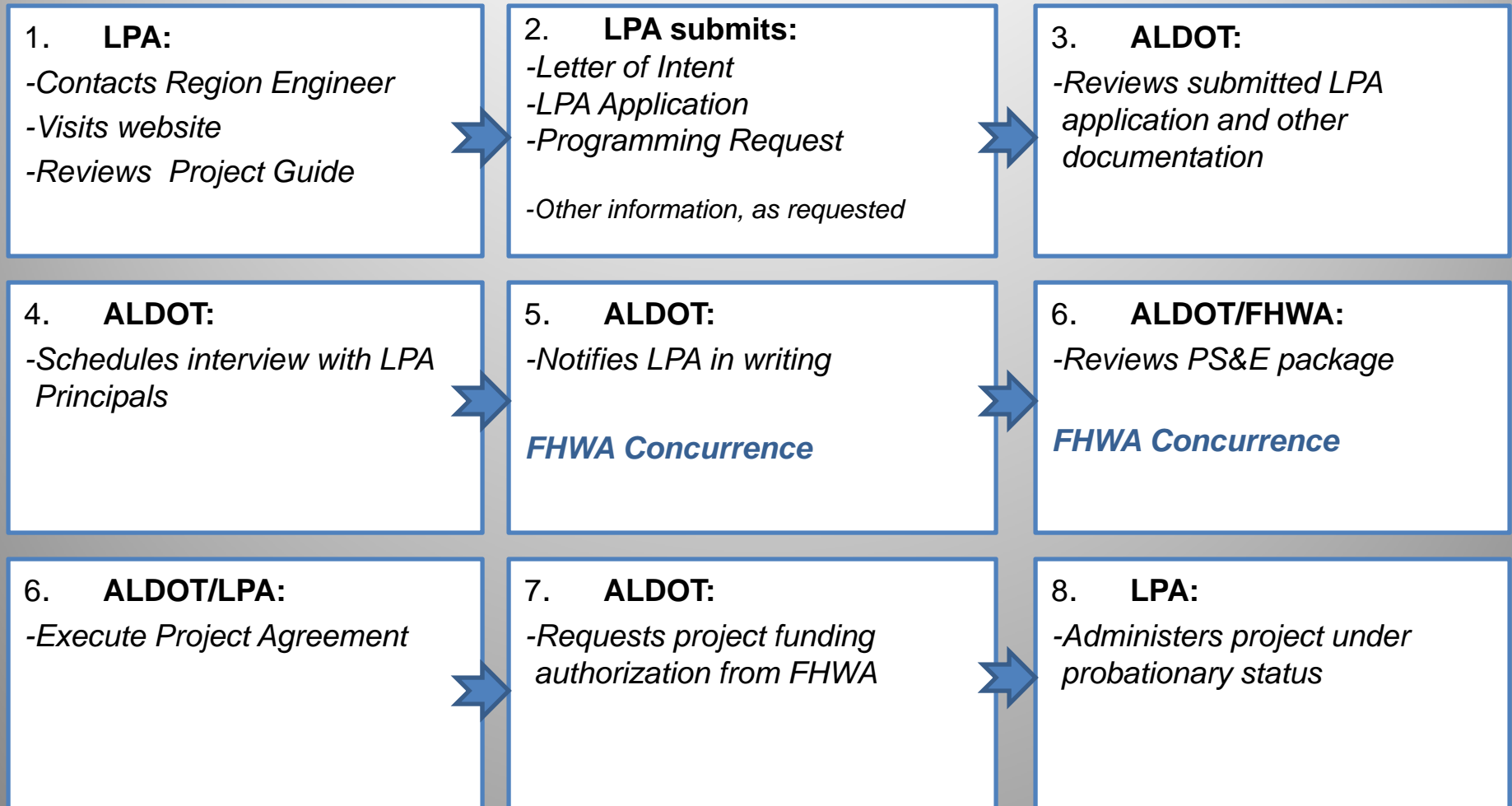
1. Applications will be accepted for all project types, but capacity projects (adding lanes), interchanges, or on-system bridges will require review and approval by the ALDOT Chief Engineer.
2. Projects that exceed \$2,000,000.00 in current estimated dollar costs will require review and approval by the Chief Engineer.

Transportation Alternatives Program

What types of LPA projects would be preferred in Alabama? The list varies by state, but generally this includes traditional enhancement projects, such as Safe Routes to School, intersection improvements, bicycle and pedestrian, landscaping, and *Complete Streets* concept projects. The Transportation Enhancement program has been discontinued, but projects have been rolled into the new *Transportation Alternatives Program* under MAP-21.

Work Flow

The following slide is a visual flowchart of the just described first steps and resulting actions. This certification process should be supplemented by close attention to the Project Guide, LPA Manual, and other documents available on the LPA website.



LPA Site Contacts

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