



PEPS PRECERTIFICATION PROGRAM UPDATE

February 2018

Discussion Topics

A What is the precertification program?

B What has been done on this project?

C What is the ideal outcome?

D How will this benefit the consultant community and TxDOT?

E What is the project timeline?

F What is the implementation plan?

G What's going to change?

H What are the next steps?

What is the precertification program?

- The program is defined under Title 43 TAC, Rule §9.33
- A vital part of the TxDOT professional services contracting program
- A requirement for individuals who want to be eligible to work on TxDOT professional services contracts
- An acknowledgement of individuals meeting minimum qualifications
- A way to eliminate the submittal of lengthy qualification information in response to each solicitation
- A process that involves input from multiple program areas
- A process that is being refined and improved through restructuring of the work categories

Precertification program statistics

Precertification work category stats:

- ❑ 16 work groups
- ❑ 78 work categories
- ❑ 30 standard NLCs

Program stats:

- ❑ 871 active firms
- ❑ 7,006 precertified individuals
- ❑ 40,694 unique precertifications for the referenced individuals

There are 1,688 inactive firms.

Precertification work category format

- Category description
 - basic description of type of work
- Certification requirements
 - professional qualifications
 - experience
 - education

Note: these are the minimum technical requirements

What has been done on this project?

TxDOT assessed the precertification program to:

- Evaluate the existing categories and required qualifications
- Incorporate the standard non-listed work categories (NLCs)
- Incorporate NLCs that have been used frequently

These changes represent the most significant changes to the program since its creation in 1997.

Work category changes

Existing	Proposed
16 work groups	18 work groups
78 work categories	111 work categories
30 standard NLCs	No standard NLCs

Notes:

- Some existing categories will be combined or merged.
- 21 existing categories will expire.
- 52 new categories are being added.

What is the ideal outcome?

- The procurement process will be more streamlined and efficient
- Some existing work categories will be combined or merged
- New work categories will be incorporated into the precertification program
- Use of NLCs will be eliminated except in rare cases
- The answers to the SOQ questions will be used to differentiate between firms with focus on specialized skill sets, rather than basic qualifications

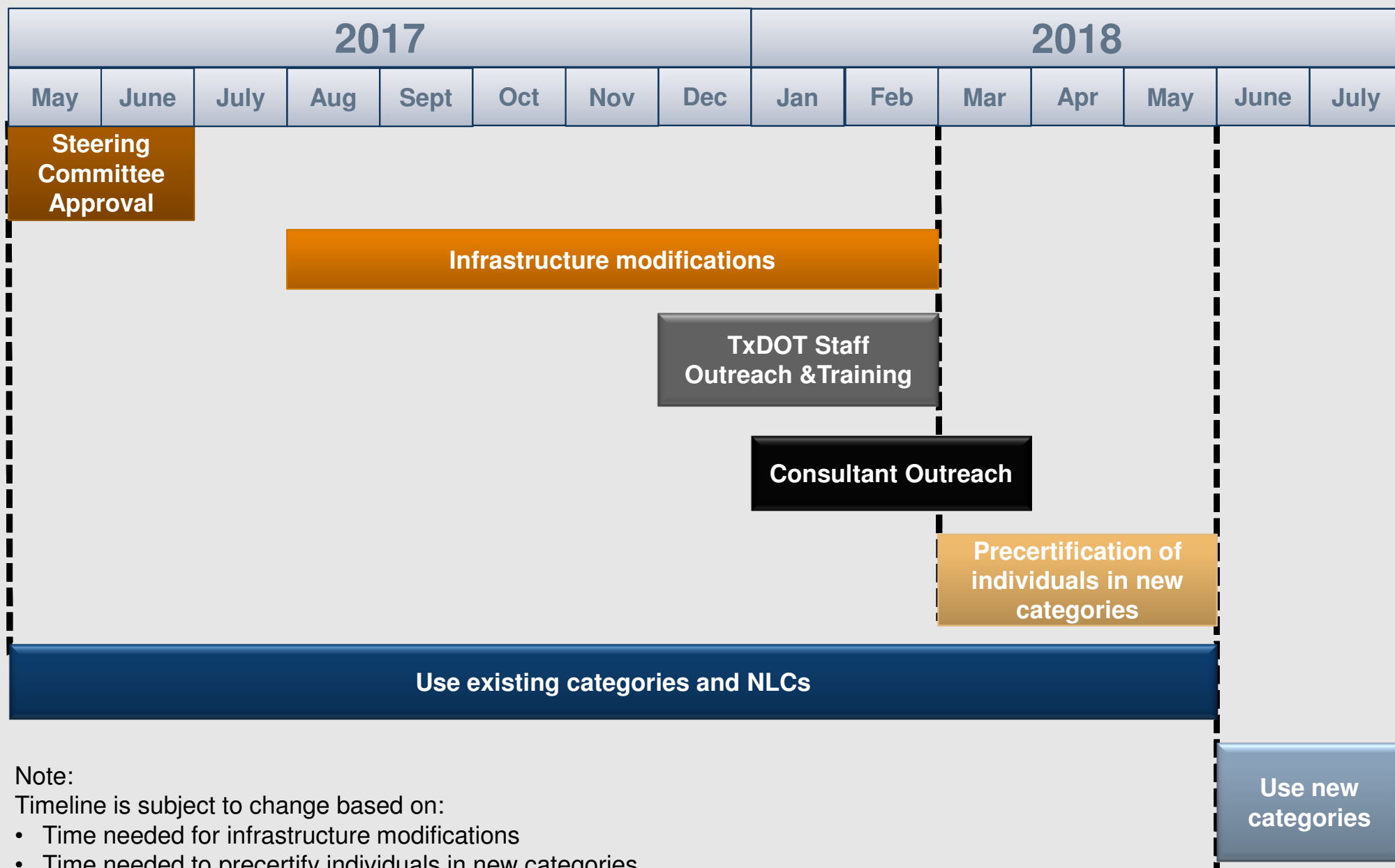
How will this benefit the consultant community?

- Individuals only have to go through the precertification process once
- Where categories are merged, individuals that are already precertified will be “grandfathered” and remain precertified
- New categories will be phased in over time to allow individuals time to apply for precertification
- Firms will save time because they no longer have to respond to the NLCs every time they are used on TxDOT procurements
- Fewer firms will be disqualified due to inadequate NLC responses

How will this benefit TxDOT?

- New categories will be used instead of common NLCs
- New categories will be phased in over time to allow TxDOT's review officers time to review precertification applications
- Review of precertification applications would be done only by designated review officers, resulting in improved consistency
- NLC usage will be rare and limited to very specialized work
- Consultant Selection Teams (CSTs) will save time because they won't have to review NLC responses for common work types
- Fewer firms will be disqualified due to inadequate NLC responses

What is the project timeline?



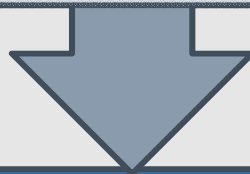
Note:
 Timeline is subject to change based on:

- Time needed for infrastructure modifications
- Time needed to precertify individuals in new categories

What is the implementation plan?

Activate the new categories

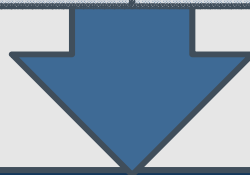
After computer modifications are done, start accepting applications in new categories



Continue using the existing categories and NLCs

Process applications in the order of receipt

Continue processing applications until the initial “surge” of new applicants has ended



Start using the new categories.

Include new categories in contracts

Archive expired categories and don't use on new contracts

Stop using the “standard” NLCs

What's going to change?

In general:

- Most categories will remain the same.
- Some categories will be changed to revise the title, description, and/or requirements.
- Some new categories are being added.
- Some categories will expire and will not be used in the future.

The following information has been posted on the TxDOT website:

- List of precertification categories
- Summary of the changes to the categories and how the precertified individuals in each category will be affected

<http://www.txdot.gov/business/consultants/architectural-engineering-surveying/getting-started/precertification.html>

Example – New list of precertification categories

Category	Group Description	
	Category Description	Certification Requirements
4.5.1	<p><u>Constructability Review</u> - This category includes providing independent quality review of the plans, specifications, and estimates (PS&E) package to ensure constructability of all roadway and structural elements. This work will include, but not be limited to: review sequence of work and traffic control plan, roadway and structure plans, temporary and permanent drainage, and storm water pollution prevention plan (SW3P); ensuring compliance with environmental permits, issues and commitments (EPIC); identification of utility conflicts; ensuring accuracy and appropriate use of bid items, quantities, general notes, standard and special specifications, special provisions, contract schedule, and standard sheets; and providing detailed comments in an approved format.</p>	<p>The firm must employ one licensed Professional Engineer with minimum of five years of experience in highway design and in providing oversight on roadway and bridge construction projects.</p>
4.6.1	<p><u>3-D Design Visualization Services</u> - This category includes services for the preparation of design-level mapping and topographically accurate 3-D visualizations and animation of transportation facilities for use in public presentations.</p>	<p>The firm must employ one individual with a minimum of three years of experience in developing 3-D visualizations and animations of transportation facilities for public presentations. In addition, this individual must have completed 3-D design visualizations and animations for a minimum of one urban freeway or interchange project.</p>
5	<p>Bridge Design</p>	
5.2.1	<p><u>Bridge Design</u> - This category includes the design of conventional and non-conventional, non-complex and complex bridges, bridge replacements, complex and simple bridge widenings, railroad overpasses and underpasses, non-complex and complex superstructure and substructure design, and pedestrian bridges. This category also includes the design of bridges with substructures requiring ship impact design, design of dolphins for bridge pier protection, and steel truss spans. This category includes non-standard retaining wall design, but cannot be the only project type listed to obtain 5.2.1 precertification.</p>	<p>The firm must employ one Professional Engineer with a minimum of five years of structural bridge design experience.</p>

Example - Summary of changes to precertification categories

Category Number	Category Title	Changes for the Category	Changes for the people
3.5.1	Major Bridge Layouts	This category will expire.	Precertification will be archived and cease to be used in the future.
3.6.1	Multi-Level Interchange and Exotic Bridge Layout	This category will expire.	Precertification will be archived and cease to be used in the future.
Roadway Design			
4.1.1	Minor Roadway Design	This category will expire.	Precertified individuals will be grandfathered and listed as precertified in Category 4.2.1.
4.2.1	Roadway Design	Title, description, and requirements have changed.	Precertified individuals will be grandfathered and remain precertified.
4.3.1	Complex Highway Design	This category will expire.	Precertified individuals will be grandfathered and listed as precertified in Category 4.2.1.
4.4.1	Freeway Interchanges	Title and requirements have changed.	Precertified individuals will be grandfathered and remain precertified.
4.5.1	Constructability Review	This is a new category.	All applicants must meet the new requirements.
4.6.1	3-D Design Visualization Services	This is a new category.	All applicants must meet the new requirements.

What are the next steps?

TxDOT will:

- Post an updated list of the precertification categories
- Provide a summary of how the changes affect:
 - the work categories and qualification requirements
 - the people precertified in existing work categories
- Provide project updates
- Notify providers when the new precertification work categories are available in CCIS
- Monitor the number of precertification applications received and processed
- Notify providers when TxDOT will start using the new precertification work categories on contracts

What are the next steps?

Providers should:

- Review the updated list of precertification categories
- Review the summary of changes and determine how the firm and its staff will be affected
- Ensure staff members submit precertification applications as soon as the new categories are available in CCIS
- Verify that precertifications are correctly shown in CCIS

Questions

For questions about Precertification or CCIS contact:

Paula McGinley

E-mail: paula.mcginley@txdot.gov



For questions about the updates to the precertification program contact:

Stacy James

E-mail: stacy.james@txdot.gov