




Design Bureau Update

ACEC-IA / Iowa DOT / FHWA Transportation Conference



September 25, 2015




So, what's new?

- Design Bureau Staff
- Design - General
- Preliminary Survey
- Soils Design
- Upcoming RFPs
- Remodel

DESIGN BUREAU UPDATE

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Introduction

Kent Nicholson
Design Bureau Director

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IOWA DOT

Preliminary Survey

- Specification Update
- Partnering Committee
 - Identification of survey workflow gaps
 - Opportunities for project efficiency
 - Update of documentation



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Soils Design

- Consultant S-event Submittals Process
- Intermediate S3 and S4 events
- Soils Design Manual revision
 - est. Spring 2026
- Geotechnical Design Data Collection and Review



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IOWA DOT

Source: Draft Report on Geotechnical Design Data Collection and Review, HNTB, 2025

Summary of State DOT Guidelines for Geotechnical Investigations

Application	AASHTO FHWA	IL	MO	MN	NE	WI	ND	IN	SD*	AR*
Bridges (Deep Foundations)	↔	↔	↗	↔	↔	↗	↔	↔	↔	↔
Retaining Walls	↗	↘	↗	↗	↔	↔	↗	↘	↗	↗
Slopes Embankments	↔	↗	↔	↘	↗	↔	↗	↔	↔	↔
Culverts	↗	↗	↔	↔	↗	↔	↗	↗	↗	↗
Roadway	↔	↔	↔	↘	↗	↔	↗	↔	↔	↔

↗ IADOT guidelines indicate more investigation than a given state or standard
 ↘ IADOT guidelines indicate less investigation than a given state or standard
 ↔ IADOT guidelines are similar

*State does not have a published geotechnical manual. It is assumed these states follow AASHTO

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Upcoming RFPs

- Aerial Imagery and Airborne LiDAR Services
 - 2025 September
- Geotechnical Engineering Full Services On-Call
 - 2026 1st Quarter
- Highway Design On-Call
 - 2026 1st Quarter

OPEN REQUESTS FOR PROPOSAL

ABOUT CONSULTANT RFPs

View lists and details of RFPs for consultant services the Iowa DOT is currently soliciting or recently completed.

Search by work type: Search

#	RFP TITLE	CLOSING DATE	WORK TYPE
296	Right of Way Acquisition Services - Limited	12/7/2026	Other
304	Limited On-call Right of Way Valuation Services	3/1/2026	Continuous Service

Showing 1 to 2 of 2 entries

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Remodel

- NW Building Remodel
- North Entrance



DESIGN BUREAU UPDATE11

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Questions?

Jason Holst
515-239-1856
jason.holst@iowadot.us
iowadot.gov

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