§ 170.500 What program reviews do the Secretaries conduct?

(a) BIADOT and FHWA annually conduct informal program reviews to examine program procedures and identify improvements. BIA must notify tribes of these informal program reviews. Tribes may send representatives to these meetings at their own expense. These reviews may be held in conjunction with either a national BIA transportation meeting or an IRR Program Coordinating Committee meeting.

(b) FHWA, BIA, and affected tribes periodically conduct an IRR Program process review of each BIA regional office’s processes, controls, and stewardship. The review provides recommendations to improve the processes and controls of the following activities that a BIA Regional Office performs:

(1) Program Management and Oversight;
(2) Transportation planning;
(3) Design;
(4) Contract administration;
(5) Construction;
(6) Financial management; and
(7) Systems management and existing stewardship agreements.

(c) After the IRR process review, the review team must:

(1) Conduct an exit interview during which it makes a brief oral report of findings and recommendations to the BIA Regional Director and staff; and

(2) Provide a written report of its findings and recommendations to the reviewed office, BIA, all participants, and affected tribal governments and organizations.

§ 170.501 What happens when the review process identifies areas for improvement?

When the review process identifies areas for improvement:

(a) The regional office must develop a corrective action plan;

(b) BIADOT and FHWA review and approve the plan;

(c) FHWA may provide technical assistance during the development and implementation of the plan; and

(d) The reviewed BIA regional office implements the plan and reports either annually or biennially to BIADOT and FHWA on implementation accomplishments.

§ 170.502 Are management systems required for the IRR Program?

(a) To the extent appropriate, the Secretaries must, in consultation with tribes, develop and maintain the following systems for the IRR Program:

(1) Pavement management;
(2) Safety management;
(3) Bridge management; and
(4) Congestion management.

(b) Other management systems may include the following:

(1) Public transportation facilities;
(2) Public transportation equipment; and
(3) Intermodal transportation facilities and systems.

(c) All management systems for the IRR Program must meet the requirements of 23 CFR part 973.
§ 170.503 How are IRR Program management systems funded?

BIA uses IRR Program management funds to develop the nationwide IRR Program management systems. If a tribe elects to develop its own tribal management system based on the nationwide management system requirements in 23 CFR part 973, it may use for this purpose either:

(a) The funds defined in 23 U.S.C. 204(j) for IRR Program tribal transportation planning; or
(b) IRR Program construction funds.

§ 170.504 When and how are bridge inspections performed?

IRR bridge inspections must be performed at least every 2 years to update the NBI using criteria that meets or exceeds applicable Federal standards (23 CFR 650.305).

(a) Federal standards for bridge inspections are found in 23 CFR part 650, subpart C.
(b) Tribes may develop alternative bridge inspection standards, provided that these standards meet or exceed applicable Federal standards.

§ 170.505 How must bridge inspections be coordinated?

This section applies to bridge inspectors working for BIA; for tribes under an ISDEAA contract or self-governance agreement; or for State, county, or local governments. Before performing an inspection, inspectors must:

(a) Notify affected tribes and State and local governments that an inspection will occur;
(b) Offer tribal and State and local governments the opportunity to accompany the inspectors; and
(c) Otherwise coordinate with tribal and State and local governments.