

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF LOCAL ASSISTANCE – MS. 1

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April 18, 2006

To: Directors of Public Works

This letter is to notify you of the new Local Assistance Bridge Preventive Maintenance Program. The purpose of the Program is to help local agencies extend the life of their bridges by performing certain activities that have been pre-approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Participation in this program is optional for local agencies.

The Local Assistance Bridge Preventive Maintenance Program Guidelines may be downloaded from the Local Assistance web site, under the Highway Bridge Program link:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/>

However, Congress has earmarked no new funds for bridge preventive maintenance activities. This means that this new eligible work must compete with existing seismic retrofit and bridge rehabilitation/replacement projects.

To initiate the program and due to limited programming capacity in the FSTIP, the Department of Transportation (Department) has only programmed federal funds to help local agencies develop the Bridge Preventive Maintenance Plans. Funding for PE, R/W, and Construction activities to implement the plans will be provided in the future.

The requirements for developing the Bridge Preventive Maintenance Plans are defined in the Local Assistance Preventive Maintenance Program Guidelines. The funds must be obligated by September 30, 2006, to avoid having to process future FTIP amendments. The sooner local agencies submit their requests for authorization, the better chance of having the funds obligated before the deadline.

Local agencies may proceed with implementing the plans using Local Funded Advance Construction (AC), after the AC has been programmed in the FSTIP and the procedures in the Local Assistance Preventive Maintenance Program Guidelines have been followed. However, reimbursement cannot be promised until the AC is converted to federal funds. See Chapter 2 of the Local Assistance Program Guidelines for information on AC.

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In January of 2008, the Department will allocate any remaining reserve programming capacity towards converting the AC to federal funds and request that the FTIPs be amended. When the AC is converted to federal funds by obligating the federal funds and executing a State/Local Program Supplemental Agreement, the local agency may invoice the State for reimbursement.

It is the Department's intent to fully fund the Bridge Preventive Maintenance Program in the future 2008/09 – 2011/12 FTIP, which will be a 4 year program authorized under SAFETEA-LU. The extra year of programming capacity will significantly increase the flexibility of project selection under the HBP.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact your DLAE.

Sincerely,

O/S by T. Abbott,

TERRY L. ABBOTT
Chief
Division of Local Assistance