

**Local Assistance
Highway Bridge Program (HBP) Advisory Committee Meeting
August 25, 2022 – Action Items and Summary**

Attendees:

Andy Chou, DLA	José Luis Cáceres, SACOG
Bobby Zezoff, DLA	Kenneth Kao, MTC
Dee Lam, DLA	Linda Newton, DLA
Robert Peterson, DLA	Matt Katt, FHWA
Chris Sneddon, Santa Barbara County	Daniel Hawk, FHWA
Michael J. Lee, SM&I	Jeremy Wright, SLA
Jason Vivian, Tulare County	Naomi Caietti, CSUS
Jesse Gothan, City of Sacramento	Rebecca Neves, City of Placerville
Jim Perrault, DLAE D6	Michael Mendoza, SACOG
Jon Pray, CTC	Paul Vo, DLA
Michael Chung, San Joaquin County	Matt Randall, Placer County
Tim Sobelman, CTC	Roberta Jensen, DLA
Sudhakar Vatti, SLA	Parminder Singh, DLAE D10

Decisions:

- The Division of Local Assistance (DLA) has decided to allow an exception for high-cost bridge projects to exceed the \$20 million annual programming limit between Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 22/23 and FFY 25/26. The decision also increases the annual programming limit for on-system projects from 50% to 60% for high-cost bridge programming between FFY 22/23 and FFY 25/26.
- The DLA has decided to accept new on and off system bridge projects into the HBP per the recommendations on the 2022 HBP Projects Prioritization lists.

Discussions:

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Announced an FHWA peer exchange for bridge project bundling. An in-person and virtual PEER Exchange will be held October 3-5 in San Diego and local agencies are encouraged to attend. Los Angeles County has been bundling projects for many years. More information forthcoming along with a hybrid/virtual webinar.
- Introduced new advisory committee member Debbie O’Leary. Karen Nguyen joined the HBP group at the beginning of August. She is from District 8.
- Obligation Authority (OA) and Bridge apportionment; locals need to deliver timely and manage expectations.
- Escalations; review in roundtable.

2. Agenda Review

- Agenda order adjusted to accommodate committee participants and speakers.

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3. Review of 6/23/2022 Draft Action Summary

All completed or closed Action Item will be removed from the list for the next meeting summary.

Item Number	Status	Who	Action	Date Created	Target Date
A110	Open	CSAC reps	Contact county agencies whose unprogrammed bridge projects appear on the scour critical list coded 1 or 2, to promote awareness of HEC 23 chapter 2 (Scour Plan of Action and Countermeasures), available mitigation funding, and HBP prioritization criteria.	2/21/19	2022
A114	Open	All	Discuss possible changes to 6-A scoping document to help estimate project cost more precisely.	4/18/19	2022

- 110, Target follow-up in December meeting.
- 114, Target draft Local Assistance Program Guidelines 6-A draft scoping document review in December meeting.

4. Financial Status

HBP Managers shared the Local Assistance HBP FFY 21/22 Status report spreadsheet balances as of 08/04/2202 and the following points:

- HBP has used FFY 21/22 apportionment. A few projects are in the queue for OA loan agreements and August redistribution.
- Carry over balance FFY 20/21 – no changes.
- New FFY 21/22 HBP apportionment is approximately \$326.7 million, which includes an additional \$25 million for off-system funding from IIJA.
- Transfers balance –no change.
- De-obligations for FFY 21/22 are approximately \$20.2 million.
- Obligations for FFY 21/22 are approximately \$350.6 million
- Projected OA is approximately \$256.8 million. OA delivery for HBP this year is at 99% and will exceeded 100% based on reservations made so far.
- HBP Managers will add Bridge Formula Program funds to the spreadsheet for FFY 22/23.

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5. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

HBP managers originally provided an overview of the IIJA information on February 17, 2022, that showed a comparison of the new funding and the previous Act funding. A follow up discussion on April 28, 2022, was made to show HBP priorities called Fix It First Talking Points overview. The talking points highlights new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law basics, and current local HBP summary.

Today will be the last time for discussion with HBP per memorandum in Agenda item 5 attachment:

“Staff recommend the California Transportation Commission (Commission) adopt Resolution G-22-49, as included in Attachment A, which specifies a funding distribution for federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act formula funds that splits total funding 60 percent for state programs and 40 percent for regional/local programs.”

IIJA basics:

IIJA provided funds to the DLA Local HBP. There are three ways funds will flow into the Local HBP from IIJA: National Highway Performance Program (NHPP), Statewide Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) and the new Bridge Formula Program (BFP). The agreement reached with the regions will provide the funding for the Local HBP. The agreement is still not final.

Current IIJA Proposal for each funding source is:

- NHPP - \$231 million per year, the first proposal was increased by \$10 million
- STBGP - \$100 million per year
- BFP - \$575 million to California (State and Local) for FFY 2022 (on and off federal-aid system bridges)
 - The current IIJA proposal is \$253 million per year for local HBP.
- FHWA released the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Bridge Investment Program. It was posted on 6/10/2022 at the following link: [View Opportunity | GRANTS.GOV](#)

The HBP Advisory Committee wants local agencies with high-cost bridge projects to submit Bridge Investment Program applications. Encourage applications from local districts with Caltrans support. HBP Managers will reach out to local agencies that high-cost bridge projects should apply.

6. 2022 HBP Project Prioritizations Lists

HBP managers reviewed the 2022 HBP Project Prioritization Lists for new On and Off System applications received, ranked in priority order, and presented to the Committee for review.

These lists consist of 81 On System projects for approximately \$432 million and 83 Off System projects for approximately \$179 million. The projects/Agencies marked in red have 1 or more existing projects with PE over 10 years in the program and the projects marked in green are high-cost projects.

HBP managers recommended the funding cutoff determination and recommended adding these new projects above the funding cutoff line to the HBP. No projects have been added since 2018.

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Committee reviewed and concurred with HBP managers' recommendation of accepting new projects above the funding cutoff line into the HBP and DLA made the decision to program the projects in the HBP.

7. High-Cost Programming Exception

HBP managers shared a newly recommended High-Cost Programming Exception. In February 2021, the Committee concurred with HBP manager recommendation for an exception to increase the on-system programming limit from 50% to 60% between FFY 21/22 through FFY 24/25. The three new exception requests presented for support are as follows:

1. Maintain 60% annual limit of total on-system apportionment (NHPP + BFP) to high-cost bridge projects.
2. Remove \$20 million annual programming limit for high-cost projects.
3. Extend the two exceptions from FFY 24/25 through FFY 25/26.

The intent of this request is to get Advanced Construction (AC) converted closer to the actual construction, to increase the flexibility for BFP funding, and to avoid losing any HBP or BFP funding.

The exceptions were discussed by the Committee, and the Committee concurred with HBP managers recommendations. DLA has decided to allow the limited exception to high-cost bridge programming.

8. LAPG Chapter 6 – Final Rule Impacts

HBP managers reviewed the updated edits for LAPG Chapter 6. These updates followed FHWA removing the sufficiency rating and implementation of the Specifications for the National Bridge Inventory (SNBI). Future edits will be provided to address the SNBI updates.

9. Review New Action Items

None

10. Round Table

Advisory Committee requested adding discussion of asset management, Peer Exchange/Bundling of projects, and Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicles (GARVEE) Bond Financing Loan to a future agenda.