Construction Standards for projects on the National Highway System (NHS)

Greenbook: Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction

Presented by
Tanzeeba Kishwar
Office Chief, Office of Guidance and Oversight
§ 625.3 Application.

(a) Applicable standards.

(1) Design and construction standards for new construction, reconstruction, resurfacing (except for maintenance resurfacing), restoration, or rehabilitation of a highway on the NHS shall be those approved by the Secretary in cooperation with the State DOTs. These standards must consider, in addition to the criteria described in § 625.2(a), the following:

(i) The constructed and natural environment of the area;

(ii) The environmental, scenic, aesthetic, historic, community, and preservation impacts of the activity;

(iii) Cost savings by utilizing flexibility that exists in current design guidance and regulations; and
FHWA approval of 1985 edition of “Greenbook”

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
REGION NINE
CALIFORNIA DIVISION
P. O. Box 1915
Sacramento, California 95809

May 31, 1985

Mr. Leo J. Trombatore, Director
CALTRANS, 1120 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Federal-aid Branch, Room 3309
for Mr. Bob Watkins, Office of
Local Assistance

Dear Mr. Trombatore:

The 1985 edition of the Standard Specifications for Public Works Construction is approved effective June 1, 1985 for use on Federal-aid construction contracts. This approval is subject to the understanding that, in any conflict arising between the interpretation of these specifications and the provisions of applicable Federal statutes, the regulations for the administration of Federal-aid for highways, or the policies and procedures promulgated by the Federal Highway Administration for carrying out the provisions and purposes of the Federal laws and regulations, the latter shall prevail. Approval is also qualified by the comments to follow:

File: 437
“Greenbook” editions since 1985

Alternatives identified

Three potential alternatives identified by Caltrans and the Local Public Agencies (LPA):

- Require that Caltrans Standards “as is” be used on the National Highway System (NHS).

- Review and approve the entire content of the “Greenbook” and other local standards as requested by LPAs to be used as an acceptable standard.

- Adopt Caltrans Standards (CS) and approve additional specifications that address unique local requirements through use of Non-Standard Special Provisions (NSSPs) and expansion of Section 77 LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE.
## Proposed Implementation Action Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Milestones</th>
<th>Milestone Description</th>
<th>Status Actual/Target Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION</td>
<td>Coordination between Caltrans, LPAs and FHWA</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>WORKSHOP</td>
<td>Develop and hold workshop sessions to provide LPAs an overview of the proposed procedure.</td>
<td>August 2022-January 2023 T</td>
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<tr>
<td>PILOT PROGRAM</td>
<td>Selection of pilot agencies with pilot projects to implement the proposed plan</td>
<td>February 2023-August 2023 T</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS</td>
<td>Roll out implementation plan: Set target cut off date for projects on NHS to only use approved standards per proposed plan</td>
<td>January 2024 T</td>
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<tr>
<td>STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT</td>
<td>Establish statistical random sampling of projects to provide stewardship and oversight to ensure and monitor compliance</td>
<td>January 2025 T</td>
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Any Questions