

Unspent Highway Dollars Steered Here

For Meeting Deadlines, State Reaps \$274.5 Million in Federal Redistribution Funds

California was again rewarded in its pursuit of federal transportation dollars this year, scooping up \$274.5 million in the “August Redistribution” to be split between Caltrans and local transportation agencies.

It’s the second year in which California collected more than \$200 million from a pot of money returned by states that are unable to use all of their assigned federal funds in the previous fiscal year. The pool of money for 2016-2017 totaled almost \$3.14 billion.

To receive a share of the redistributed money, states must show the Federal Highway Administration that funds are needed to satisfy transportation-related purposes, and submit a list of projects ready to go. California has been aggressive — and successful — in applying for federal redistribution funds, ranking at or near the top of the list each year.

California’s receipt of \$274.5 million was just short of last year’s record \$293 million. Texas received the most redistribution money this year with \$280 million, followed by California, Florida (\$158.6 million), Pennsylvania (\$153.9 million), and New York (\$145.3 million).

Altogether, California has collected about \$2.3 billion from the redistribution program since 2000.

Caltrans passes along about 40 percent of the redistribution amount to local agencies with transportation projects waiting or underway. Of the \$274.5 million due California, the local share is expected to be between \$100-\$110 million.

In Caltrans’ case, much of the federal money will additional highway pavement and bridges repairs. **MM**

Source: Steven Keck, Chief, Caltrans Division of Budgets

August Redistribution to California by Year (in millions of dollars)

