

available for the project and sign in this section after confirmation is made.

Section J: Project Coordinator

This should be either the State Scenic Byways Coordinator or the local person or agency in charge of the project.

[FR Doc. 98-24914 Filed 9-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Guidance for Fiscal Year 1999 Interstate Discretionary (ID) Funds

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document publishes guidance for distribution of Fiscal Year 1999 Interstate Discretionary (ID) Funds. Materials on this topic were issued to FHWA region and division offices on July 16, 1998. This material describes activities eligible for Interstate discretionary funding, the application process, and criteria used to evaluate candidate projects.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Cecilio Leonin, HNG-12, (202)366-4651; or Mr. Wil Baccus, HCC-32, Office of the Chief Counsel, (202)366-1396, Federal Highway Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, D.C. 20590-0001. Office hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded using a modem and suitable communications software from the Government Printing Office Electronic Bulletin Board Service at (202)512-1661. Internet users may reach the **Federal Register's** home page at: <http://www.nara.gov/fedreg> and the Government Printing Office's database at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>.

Background

Guidance published in this **Federal Register** notice is provided for informational purposes. Specific questions on any of the material published in this notice should be directed to the appropriate contact person named in the caption **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 315; 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: September 10, 1998.

Kenneth R. Wykle,
*Federal Highway Administration
Administrator.*

The text of the FHWA guidance memorandum follows:

ACTION: Request for Projects for Fiscal Year 1999 Interstate Discretionary (ID) Funds (Reply Due: September 15, 1998), July 16, 1998

Associate Administrator for Program Development, Regional Administrators, Division Administrators, HNG-12

The final set-aside of ID funds occurred with the FY 1996 IC apportionment. However, there is presently available a balance in ID funds of about \$63.4 million which have been carried over from prior years. These ID funds were held in reserve by FHWA to pay for its operating expenses in accordance with the provisions of Section 4(a)(1)(A) of the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 1997 (STEA). With the enactment of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) these ID funds are now available for distribution.

On June 11, 1997 (before the enactment of the STEA), FHWA issued a solicitation memorandum seeking applications from the States for these ID funds. No action was taken on these applications, however, as a result of the above legislation. Because the funding needs for previously received applications may have changed and other potential applications could be possible at this time, we are now again soliciting applications for these ID funds.

Please work with the States to identify viable projects to assure high quality candidates following the revised procedures outlined below. Also, any candidates submitted in response to our June 11, 1997, solicitation memorandum should be resubmitted if the State desires the project to continue to be considered.

Interstate Discretionary (ID) Funds

Eligibility

As in past years, only work eligible under the provisions of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1981 and included in the 1981 Interstate Cost Estimate is eligible for ID funding.

The ID funding request must be for ready-to-go projects in States which have obligated or will obligate during FY 1999 all available IC and ID funds. Applications should be submitted only for projects which will be ready for authorization by September 1, 1999; and in the case of construction projects, construction must begin within 90 days of obligation. Requests may include conversion of projects previously authorized as advance construction Interstate projects pursuant to Section 115 of 23 U.S.C.

Selection Criteria

To evaluate the submitted candidates for selection, we will be considering

several criteria. Although there are no statutory or regulatory criteria for selection of ID projects, the following criteria are so considered in the evaluation of candidates for this program:

1. Segments not open-to-traffic—Consideration will be given to eligible projects that will close gaps in the Interstate System.

2. State priorities—For States that submit more than one project, we give consideration to the individual State's priorities if specified.

3. Leveraging of private or other public funding—Because the requests for funding usually far exceed the available ID funds, commitment of other funding sources to complement the requested ID funds is an important factor.

In addition to the above criteria, project selection will also consider national geographic distribution among all of the discretionary programs as well as congressional direction or guidance provided on specific projects or programs.

Submission Requirements

Although there is no prescribed format for a project submission, the following information must be included in the application to properly evaluate the candidate projects. Those applications that do not include these items will be considered incomplete and returned.

1. State.
2. Federal-Aid Project Number.
3. Description of Project—Describe the project work to be completed under this request.
4. Project Location—Describe the specific location of the project, including route number and mileposts, if applicable.
5. County or Counties in which the project is located.
6. U.S. Congressional District No.(s) in which the project is located.
7. U.S. Congressional District Member's Name(s).
8. On Gap or Open to Traffic Segment.
9. Project Plan Status—PS & E status.
10. Estimated Authorization Date (month/year).
11. Estimated Construction Startup Date (month/year).
12. Total Project Cost.
13. Amount of ID funds requested—Indicate amount of ID funds being requested. If a State is willing to accept partial funding of this amount, that should be indicated.
14. An Obligation Schedule—Demonstrate how the State will obligate in FY 1999 all available IC and ID funds.
15. Commitment of Other Funds—Indicate the amounts and sources of any

private or other public funding being provided as part of this project. Only indicate those amounts of funding that are firm with documented commitments. The submission must include written confirmation of these commitments from the entity controlling the funds.

16. Previous Interstate Discretionary (ID) Funding—Indicate the amount and fiscal year of any previous ID funds received for the project.

17. Future Funding Needs—Indicate the estimated future funding needs for the project, the items of work to be completed and projected scheduling.

18. Talking Points Briefing—A one-page talking points paper covering basic project information for each candidate project submitted for ID funding is needed for use by the Office of the Secretary for the congressional notification process in the event a project is selected for funding. For your guidance a sample paper is attached to this memorandum.

Division Office Responsibilities

In order to ensure that the submitted candidate projects are complete and properly prepared, the division office must:

1. Provide the information regarding project eligibility, selection criteria and submission requirements to the State transportation agency, and
2. Review all candidate project applications submitted by the State prior to sending them to this office to ensure that they are complete and meet the above requirements.

We are requesting that candidate project submissions be forwarded to the Chief, Federal-Aid and Design Division, HNG-12, not later than September 15, 1998. *Projects received after this date may not receive full consideration.*

When sending in candidate projects, the States must understand that any qualified project may or may not be selected and it may be necessary to supplement allocated ID funds with other Federal-aid and/or State funds to construct a section of highway which will be usable to the traveling public in as short a period of time as possible.

Allocations of ID funds shall remain available until expended. Obligation limitation will be distributed with each allocation of funds.

As a reminder, any requests to adjust the amount of ID funds allocated to a previously approved project must be forwarded in writing to the Chief, Federal-Aid and Design Division, HNG-12, for approval. Furthermore, funds from unobligated allocations or project underruns cannot be used for another ID project without the written approval of

the Chief, Federal-Aid and Design Division.

Questions concerning preparation of applications and other matters may be directed to Mr. Cecilio Leonin of the Federal-Aid and Design Division, HNG-12, telephone (202) 366-4651.

Signed by Thomas J. Ptak.

Attachment—Sample Talking Points Briefing for Secretary Slater

Note: These talking points will be used by the Office of the Secretary in making congressional notification contacts. Since some of the recipients of the calls may not be closely familiar with the highway program, layman's language should be used to the extent possible. Information contained in the talking points may be used by a member of Congress in issuing a press release announcing the discretionary allocation.

Interstate Discretionary (ID) Funds

Grantee: <List full name of State Highway Agency>

Project No: ID-xxx-x(xxx)

<List each project number in this format>
FHWA Funds: \$xx,xxx,xxx. <If more than one project, also show cost for each>

- These two projects, in conjunction with a currently active contract, complete the reconstruction and widening of the existing four-lane I-xx through Any town, Your State. Project ID-xxx-x(xxx) extends along I-xx from U.S. 25 (Augusta Road) to the Reedy River, a distance of 2.2 miles. Project ID-xxx-y(yyy) extends along I-xx from Highway 20 to U.S. 25, a distance of 1.8 miles.

- Project ID-xxx-x(xxx) is in Congressional district <add number and member's name>. Project ID-xxx-y(yyy) is in Congressional district <add number and member's name>.

- These two projects, along with a new interchange on I-ZZZ in Richland County will complete the Interstate System in <Your State>.

- Both projects provide for the addition of a general purpose lane in each direction and resurfacing of the entire roadway. Also included are upgraded traffic signs and roadside safety features. The completed facility will provide for three lanes of traffic in each direction.

- These projects will be advertised for construction in <month/year> and are scheduled for completion in <month/year>.

<Try to add a bullet or two which indicates an interesting facet of the project, such as the two bullets which follow.>

- Project ID-xxx-y(yyy) also includes the creation of zz acres of replacement wetlands as an environmental mitigation.

- Project ID-xxx-x(xxx) will be the second project in the State to incorporate the formal "Partnering" process in an effort to foster an environment of cooperation between the State and the contractor.

[FR Doc. 98-24915 Filed 9-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Research and Development Programs Meeting Agenda

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice provides the agenda for a public meeting at which the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) will describe and discuss specific research and development projects.

DATES AND TIMES: As previously announced, NHTSA will hold a public meeting devoted primarily to presentations of specific research and development projects on September 17, 1998, beginning at 1:30 p.m. and ending at approximately 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Tysons Westpark Hotel, 8401 Westpark Drive, McLean, Virginia.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice provides the agenda for the twenty-first in a series of public meetings to provide detailed information about NHTSA's research and development programs. This meeting will be held on September 17, 1998. The meeting was announced on August 14, 1998 (63 FR 43740). For additional information about the meeting, consult that announcement.

Starting at 1:30 p.m. and concluding by 5:00 p.m., NHTSA's Office of Research and Development will discuss the following topics:

EDR Briefing by General Motors
Crash Test Procedures Analysis
Injury Criteria Development,
Status of Special Crash Investigations.

NHTSA has based its decisions about the agenda, in part, on the suggestions it received in response to the announcement published August 14, 1998.

As announced on August 14, 1998, in the time remaining at the conclusion of the presentations, NHTSA will provide answers to questions on its research and development programs, where those questions have been submitted in writing to Raymond P. Owings, Ph.D., Associate Administrator for Research and Development, NRD-01, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, DC 20590. Fax number: 202-366-5930.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rita I. Gibbons, Staff Assistant, Office of Research and Development, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC