

**RE: Fed Funds used for I5 and SR 548**

Thursday, February 18, 2010 3:52 PM

**From:** "Daniel.Mathis@dot.gov" <Daniel.Mathis@dot.gov>  
**To:** thomasbridge@yahoo.com

Mr. Bridge,

Let me give you a little background on the Federal-aid Highway Program (FAHP). Unlike most other federally-funded programs, the FAHP is a federally-assisted, state-administered program. This means that my agency, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), administers the federal-aid funds apportioned to the state of Washington for highway and bridge improvements. We, the FHWA, do not pick projects, that is the state's decision. Our role is to ensure that the appropriate federal processes and procedures are followed on the projects selected by the state so they are eligible to use the federal-aid funds.

Following your questions are our responses in *black italics* immediately below:

**in particular, can the existing project be delayed one year?** *As explained above, that is a decision made by WSDOT, with approval from the Governor's Office and State Legislature.*

**what happens to the funding if the project does not go forward, or is outside your time limits?** *I am assuming WSDOT would use the obligation authority on another project, and apportionment (contract authority) would be retained by WSDOT to use on this project in the future. Here's a link to the "Federal-aid Financing Procedures" website for more on this subject: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/reports/financingfederalaid/procs.htm>. I recognize there is a lot of information on this website, but it's a complicated topic and cannot be adequately explained briefly -- our agency conducts an eight-hour class just on these financing terms and what they mean.*

**Can a special request be made by State Government to hold these funds for a year?** *The apportionment can be held for a year, but the obligation authority needs to be obligated this federal fiscal year (October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2010).* **if so, how would that work?** *Described in the previous answer. It's confusing, so you may want to contact someone from the federal funds section of WSDOT to discuss how this works. To understand this, you will need to understand the difference between obligation authority and apportionment (see website above).*

**looking to limit my wading through code, are these "co-ordinated border infrastructure funds?"** *Yes. in whole or in part? WSDOT can tell you if the project is fully funded with Coordinated Border Infrastructure (CBI) funds.*

**What proof of need for a project is required by the State to qualify for these particular funds?** *Like other border states, Washington received CBI funds to be used on projects to improve the safe movement of motor vehicles at or across the land border between the U.S. and Canada.*

As I noted above, because this is a federally-assisted state-administered program, questions concerning this project should be directed to WSDOT.

- Dan

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**From:** thomas bridge [mailto:thomasbridge@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2010 2:30 PM

**To:** Mathis, Daniel (FHWA)

**Subject:** RE: Fed Funds used for I5 and SR 548

Dan.

thank you for your answers.

i can tell i will need to get into some online sources for the codes and law you mention.

in particular, can the existing project be delayed one year?

2/22/2010

RE: Fed Funds used for I5 and SR 548 - Y..

what happens to the funding if the project does not go forward, or is outside your time limits?

Can a special request be made by State Government to hold these funds for a year? if so, how would that work?

looking to limit my wading through code, are these "co-ordinated border infrastructure funds?" in whole or in part?

What proof of need for a project is required by the State to qualify for these particular funds?

Thank you again for your attention.

Tom Bridge

— On Wed, 2/17/10, Daniel.Mathis@dot.gov <Daniel.Mathis@dot.gov> wrote:

From: Daniel.Mathis@dot.gov <Daniel.Mathis@dot.gov>  
Subject: RE: Fed Funds used for I5 and SR 548  
To: thomasbridge@yahoo.com  
Cc: HarrisT@wsdot.wa.gov, Daniel.Mathis@dot.gov  
Date: Wednesday, February 17, 2010, 11:50 AM

Mr. Bridge,

Immediately below please find your question in black text and our response following in red text.

- Dan

- 1) 13.2 million was made available for this project, verify? **Yes, this is accurate.**
- 2) the current project is around 6.1 million, verify? **The bids to construct the project came in significantly lower than the engineers estimate. To get the most current project estimate, please contact WSDOT.**
- 3) what is happening with the excess? **The excess will go to other projects. WSDOT works with the Governor's Office and the State Legislature to program all available transportation funds to meet statewide transportation needs.**
- 4) who is administering the money? **WSDOT administers the federal funds that are provided by Congress to be used according to federal laws.**
- 5) is there a deadline for the money's use? **Federal funds are available for obligation on a project for the federal fiscal year that they are received by the state.**
- 6) are there any restrictions on what the money can be used for? **The federal funds on the project are subject to the restriction in federal law (23 U.S.C. and the federal act SAFETEA-LU (The Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act - a Legacy for Users). The Coordinated Border Infrastructure funds are subject to the restrictions found in SAFETEA-LU Section(s): 1101(a)(11), 1303.**
- 7) are State moneys being used to pay for the project? **A small amount of state funds are being used on this project to cover any expenditure that might not be eligible for federal funds.**

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**From:** thomas bridge [mailto:thomasbridge@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2010 12:50 PM  
**To:** Mathis, Daniel (FHWA)  
**Subject:** Re: Fed Funds used for I5 and SR 548

Dan,



whopps,

- 1) 13.2 million was made available for this project, verify?
- 2) the current project is around 6.1 million, verify?
- 3) what is happening with the excess?
- 4) who is administering the money?
- 5) is there a deadline for the money's use?
- 6) are there any restrictions on what the money can be used for?
- 7) are State moneys being used to pay for the project?

thankyou

tom

--- On Fri, 2/12/10, thomas bridge <[thomasbridge@yahoo.com](mailto:thomasbridge@yahoo.com)> wrote:

From: thomas bridge <[thomasbridge@yahoo.com](mailto:thomasbridge@yahoo.com)>  
Subject: Fed Funds used for I5 and SR 548  
To: [daniel.mathis@dot.gov](mailto:daniel.mathis@dot.gov)  
Date: Friday, February 12, 2010, 12:27 PM

Dan,

i was given your name by Todd Harrison. i have some questions concerning the money.

1.

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