

**Local Assistance
Highway Bridge Program (HBP) Advisory Committee Meeting
June 23, 2022 – Decisions Made, Actions and Summary**

Attendees:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Andy Chou, DLA | José Luis Cáceres, SACOG |
| Bobby Zezoff, DLA | Kenneth Kao, MTC |
| Chris Lee, CSAC | Linda Newton, DLA |
| Chris Sneddon, Santa Barbara County | Michael Chung, San Joaquin County |
| Tim Sobelman, CTC | Matt Randall, Placer County |
| Debbie O’Leary, City of Oxnard | Matt Katt, FHWA |
| Dee Lam, DLA | Naomi Caietti, CSUS |
| Eileen Crawford, DLA | Parminder Singh, DLAE D10 |
| Erol Kasdan, SM&I | Rebecca Neves, City of Placerville |
| Jason Vivian, Tulare County | Roberta Jensen, DLA |
| Jeremy Wright, SLA | Sudhakar Vatti, SLA |
| Jesse Gothan, City of Sacramento | Sujaya Kalainesan, DLA |
| Jim Perrault, DLAE D6 | |

Decisions:

A decision was made to change the reimbursement rate to 100% for the 24 off federal-aid system HBP projects that were programmed in March 2018.

Discussions:

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Welcomed attendees and took roll call.

2. Agenda Review

Agenda order adjusted to accommodate committee participants and speakers.

3. Review of 4/28/2022 Draft Action Summary

All completed or closed Action Items 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), | 2/21/19 | 2022 |

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| Item Number | Status | Who | Action | Date Created | Target Date |
|-------------|--------|-----|---|--------------|-------------|
| | | | available mitigation funding, and HBP prioritization criteria. | | |
| A114 | Open | All | Discuss possible changes to 6-A scoping document to help estimate project cost more precisely. | 4/18/19 | 2022 |
| A120 | Open | DLA | Circulate letter for comment to 6 county agencies whose yet-to-be programmed bridge projects appear on the scour critical list coded 2, seeking response on Scour Plan of Action and Countermeasures. | 8/22/19 | Complete |

- A110, Tied to action item 120, follow-up in December meeting.
- A114, 6-A draft scoping document review in December meeting.
- A120, Agenda Item 4; discussed and completed, no letter necessary.

4. Scour Bridges A110 & A120

As part of Action Item A120, HBP Managers shared the data report for the Scour Critical Bridges Projects as of 5/31/22 and had the following comments:

The summary of the Scour Critical Bridges data indicates only 23 scour critical local agency bridges, with 10 already in the program and 3 more on the 2022 HBP prioritization list. HBP managers stated that Structure Maintenance and Investigations (SM&I) already sends the local bridge owner a letter and the hydraulic inspection report if the scour critical codes changes. They did not believe sending a second letter to the local agency was necessary. The HBP Advisory Committee agreed. This closes out Action Item A120.

The discussion continued regarding Action Item A110, in which the CSAC representatives on the HBP Advisory Committee would contact the local agencies on the scour critical list that have not submitted applications for their bridges. They will get back to the Committee at the December 2022 meeting.

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5. Financial Status

HBP Managers shared the Local Assistance HBP Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 21/22 Status report as of 06/14/2202 and had the following points:

- 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 so far for FFY 21/22 are approximately \$15.6 million.
- Obligations so far for FFY 21/22 are approximately \$270.2 million
- Projects in Districts pipeline pending obligation are approximately \$49 million.
- Projected OA is approximately \$256.8 million. OA delivery for HBP this year is at 99% and has exceeded 100% based on reservations made so far.
- HBP Managers will add Bridge Formula Funds to the spreadsheet for FFY 22/23.
- The committee asked how it was possible to have delivered more than what was programmed in March. HBP managers responded that since the additional OA and apportionment was received from the new act, projects have been advanced using the EPSP/PP Priorities previously discussed.
- The committee asked if and how HBP would help deliver OA for California as the statewide utilization has been reported low. HBP managers responded that conversations with the Implementation resulted in identifying a potential advancement of \$50 million on various projects to utilize the State's OA.

6. VMS Study – HBP Process Improvement Study

HBP Managers shared the final presentation by VMS of the results of the internal HBP process review, recommendations, and shared the following points:

- Study started in 2019 with goals to obtain stakeholder feedback, identify opportunities to streamline and prioritize improvements for DLA Local Highway Bridge Program.
- Summary of study highlights were 178 survey respondents, 35 process improvements with their level of effort indicated, and outcome of work HBP has completed or is in progress of the prioritized process improvements.

7. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Information

HBP managers originally provided an overview of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (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. This is a continuing topic until the agreement between Caltrans and the Regions is finalized.

The talking points highlights new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law basics, and current local HBP summary.

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IIJA basics:

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provided funds to the Division of Local Assistance (DLA) Local Highway Bridge Program. There are three ways funds will flow into the Local HBP from IIJA. i.e.: National Highway Performance Program (NHPP), Statewide Transportation Block Grant (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 - ~~\$221~~ \$231 million per year, the first proposal was increased by \$10 million
- STBGP - \$100 million per year
- BFP - \$575 million 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.

8. Off System Funding Reimbursement Rate and Advancement of Off System Projects

HBP Managers presented the Off System Funding Reimbursement Rate/ Advancement of Off System Projects and the following points:

- HBP managers discussed change of reimbursement rate to 100%.
- The estimated total project cost is approximately \$89 million for 24 local agency projects that have not started yet. Core apportionment does not have 100% reimbursement, but the Bridge Formula Program has a 100% reimbursement requirement.
- The BFP funds are not transferrable and have obligation time limits as well as expenditure time limits.
- Voted to change these 24 projects to 100% reimbursement and to also allow the advancement of these 24 projects if HBP managers determine that is it feasible in FFY 22/23; all voting members in roster approved.

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9. 2022 HBP Project Prioritizations Lists

HBP Managers reviewed the Project Lists for on system and off system ranked in priority order and presented to the Committee for review.

These lists consist of 82 On System projects funded for over \$431 million and 83 Off System projects funded for approximately \$179 million.

HBP Managers asked committee about adding new projects to the list. No projects have added since 2018. HBP Managers will bring a recommendation in August.

10. Bridge Investment Credit Utilization

HBP Managers presented the Bridge Investment Credit (BIC) guidelines, process, and approved BIC project list to date.

LAPG Chapter 6 reviews the guidelines for BIC. BIC allows local agencies to replace, rehabilitate and perform BPMP work on HBP eligible bridges using local funds, then receive credit for the eligible work to use as match funds for future HBP projects. Committee members requested to bring this topic back as an agenda item for a brainstorm discussion to review for change in policy.

11. Review New Action Items

None

12. Round Table

HBP Managers provided the following updates:

Announced open positions for three civil engineers: applications due on 6/29/22.

Final rule for the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) was released on May 6, 2022. Two big changes that impact bridges are 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) eliminated Subpart D – Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program, and the Recording and Coding Guide for Bridges. The new Specifications for the National Bridge Inventory (SNBI) replaced the Recording and Coding Guide for Bridges. The link to the NBIS is <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/nbis2022.cfm>.

HBP managers are working on the changes for Local Assistance Program Guidelines Chapter 6 forms LAPG 6-A and LAPG 6-B that will be presented to the committee for review in December 2022.

The local agency asked an Advisory Committee member about decisions regarding long approaches for an off federal-aid system bridge project. HBP managers explained the approach for all long approaches and the Advisory Committee member understood.

A committee member discussed the need for a local bridge asset management report. After their recent discussions on funding splits with the IJJA, it was clear that the State-side needs were more compelling due to the presence of the Caltrans Transportation Asset

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Management Plan (TAMP). It was recommended that local assets need something similar to be competitive against the State-side needs. This study and the potential of providing HBP funding towards this study is something to consider discussing at a future meeting. The criteria for determining bridge needs would also need to be discussed. It was mentioned that Ventura County has a good example of this framework.

HBP Advisory Committee members discussed meeting in person for future meetings; virtual meeting planned for August 25, 2022.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.