

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DIVISION OF LOCAL ASSISTANCE

P.O. BOX 942873, MS-1

SACRAMENTO, CA 94273-0001

PHONE (916) 653-1776

FAX (916) 654-2409

TTY 711

www.dot.ca.gov



*Serious drought.  
Help save water!*

October 7, 2015

To: Caltrans' Local Partners

Dear Executive Directors:

Congratulations on delivering 100 percent of the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2015 obligation authority (OA), including \$61.5 million in additional local OA made available via the August Redistribution. Through one of the largest and strongest partnerships of local, regional, state and federal governments, California citizens are receiving needed transportation improvements including local streets, bicycle, transit, and highway projects. Approximately \$1.19 billion of formula federal-aid OA was obligated to fund projects. This is the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive year Regions and local agencies have achieved 100 percent delivery of available OA.

I look forward to continuing this partnership in FFY 2016 and again delivering 100 percent of our OA. To meet that goal, it is important for the Regions to submit obligation plans to the Division of Local Assistance (DLA) by April 1, 2016. This will help us review, prioritize and track projects, and plan the workload for the remaining FFY 2016 OA. The annual notification for the provisions of Assembly Bill 1012 "Use It or Lose It" (including current template for the obligation plans and instructions) will be sent to the Regions and available on the DLA web site by November 16, 2015.

To ensure your projects are delivered, we encourage you to submit your request for authorizations (RFAs) as soon as possible this FFY. Please bear in mind that the annual release of OA to the local OA pool will be May 2, 2016, per the OA Management Policy. After this date, the formula OA will be on a first come, first serve basis until gone. In addition, to allow time for the Federal Highway Administration to review and approve requests for funding, RFAs will need to be submitted to Caltrans by July 1, 2016.

To ensure full use of all transportation funds as soon as possible, our local partners are encouraged to:

1. Deliver all projects programmed in the current year of the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP).
2. Advance projects from the outer years of the FTIP using Expedited Project Selection Procedure.
3. Fund all federal projects at the maximum participation rate.

Caltrans' Local Partners  
October 7, 2015  
Page 2

4. Work with your local Caltrans District Director to determine if additional state highway projects could be recipients of these funds.

Despite the challenges in delivering transportation projects, I am confident our continued partnership will allow us to meet our delivery goals again this year. If you have any questions, please call Peggy Siu at (916) 651-6875.

Sincerely,



RIHUI ZHANG  
Chief  
Division of Local Assistance

- c: District Deputy Directors for Local Assistance, Caltrans  
District Local Assistance Engineers, Caltrans  
Office Chiefs, Division of Local Assistance, Caltrans  
Fardad Falakfarsa, Division of Budgets, Caltrans