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State of California Department of Transportation Division of Local Assistance



FEDERAL HIGHWAY EARMARKS AND GRANTS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



FEDERAL HIGHWAY EARMARKS AND GRANTS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Over the years, California has received earmarks in federal law for local agency projects throughout the state. These earmarks have been included in annual appropriations acts and multi-year transportation acts such as the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) and most recently, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).

These earmarks have been provided in a variety of programs. These programs are described below:

Bridge Set-Aside - Provides funds for specific bridge projects under the Bridge Program.

Ferry Boat - Provides funds for the construction of ferry boats and ferry terminal facilities that are publicly owned, majority publicly owned, or publicly operated.

High Priority Projects (HPP) - Provides funds for a variety of project types including safety, bridge, park-and-ride, interchanges, landscaping, etc.

Innovative Bridge Research and Deployment - Provides funds to help states and local agencies to incorporate innovative materials and material technologies in their bridge projects.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Deployment - Provides funds for ITS integration and deployment projects.

Interstate Maintenance (IM) - Provides funding for resurfacing, restoring, rehabilitating and reconstructing, including adding travel lanes on designated portions of Interstate System routes.

National Corridor Infrastructure Improvement Program (NCIIP) - Provides funding for construction of highway projects in corridors of national significance to promote economic growth and international or interregional trade.

National Historic Covered Bridge - Provides funds to assist states in their efforts to rehabilitate, repair, or preserve the Nation's historic covered bridges.

Projects of National and Regional Significance (PNRS) - Provides funding for high cost projects of national or regional importance.

Public Lands Highways (PLH) - Provides funding for transportation projects eligible for assistance under Title 23 that are within, adjacent to, or provides access to the areas served by federal public lands highways.

Transportation, Community and System Preservation (TCSP) - Researches relationships between transportation, community preservation and the environment; funds projects to address transportation efficiency and community system preservation.

Transportation Improvement (TI) - Provides funding for specific projects identified in federal legislation.

Value Pricing - Provides funds for value pricing projects including; pre-implementation and implementation projects to promote economic efficiency in the use of highways, support congestion reduction, air quality, energy conservation and transit productivity.

NOW THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED YOUR EARMARK/GRANT, WHAT ARE YOUR NEXT STEPS?

1. Check to make sure your earmark/grant has been written correctly to fit the agency's needs. If corrections are necessary, contact the District Local Assistance Engineer (DLAE) in your area.
2. Review the legislation and any Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidance for restrictions, obligation limits and match requirements.
3. Contact the MPO/RTPA to program the project in FTIP/FSTIP.
4. Contact Caltrans DLAE or Program Coordinator for guidance.
5. Refer to Local Assistance Procedures Manual for details.

TROUBLE SHOOTING

1. There is a typo or small error in the legislative description.
Contact your DLAE and let them know what the error is. These corrections are usually made with a simple request from Caltrans to
2. The scope of your project does not fit within the legislated description.
FHWA. In order to make the funds available to your project, the legislated description must be changed through an act of Congress. A letter from the sponsoring Congressperson will not change the legislated description.
3. You do not receive the full earmark/grant amount. Earmarks/grants are subject to obligation limitations and overall reductions. Sponsors should check with the DLAE or Program Coordinator.

