Why Local Public Agencies Are Not Using Federal Funds To The Maximum Part I—State View

Virgil Bell
Technical Assistance Engineer
Division of Local Assistance, IDOH

[Editor's Note—This paper—though submitted in outline form—makes its points quite clearly].

FEDERAL-AID PROJECTS ARE TOO EXPENSIVE

Compare End Results of Federal-Aid and Non-Federal-Aid Projects
- Federal-aid projects must meet higher design standards.
- Federal-aid projects result in better construction supervision.
- Federal-aid projects achieve better quality of construction.
- Federal-aid projects should result in a longer lasting end product.
- Consider local share of federal-aid project against 100% local funds on non-federal-aid project.
- Schedule projects for the most favorable letting date—January, February, March.
- Employ full time county highway engineer for construction supervision with federal-aid projects and $15,000 from state construction supervision would be at no or very little cost to county.

TIME TO DEVELOP FEDERAL-AID PROJECT IS TOO LONG

Items Which Are Beyond Our Control and May Require Time Extension
- Changes in geometric standards.
- Changes in environmental requirements.
- Changes in encroachment policies.
- Projects involving unexpected 4f statements.
- Projects involving archeological finds.
- Projects involving difficult R/W acquisition—relocation of people, businesses.
- Obtaining utility agreements by LPA.
- Not following selection procedures for construction supervision engineer.

How To Speed Up Process
- Division of Local Assistance doubled in size—to provide more and better service.
- Use standard agreements.
Monitor review time by departments in IDOH—by Local Assistance.
Monitor time schedule of consultants—by LPA.
Do not use federal funds for low cost phase of a project—$5,000 for R/W.
Follow correct and complete procedures in proper sequence.
Do not try any short cuts.
Have someone in LPA monitor projects, get agreements signed in a timely manner, keep projects moving.
Look ahead, set up four-five year program.
Plan for everything except emergency projects.
Except for emergencies, do not be put in position of needing a bridge under construction next week or within six months—use bridge inspection reports.

LPA DOES NOT HAVE LOCAL SHARE

*No Local Funds to Start Project*

See your legislators.

*No Local Funds for Construction Phase*

Start budgeting funds for construction phase when preliminary engineering starts.

Check with your consultant once per year on estimated construction cost.

SOME LPA's NOT KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT USES OF AND AVAILABILITY OF FHWA FUNDS

Correct problems by person to person contact by Local Assistance coordinators—they are presently working in five out of six districts.