



GAO

Accountability * Integrity * Reliability

United States General Accounting Office
Washington, DC 20548

September 23, 2002

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
The Honorable Martin Olav Sabo
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Transportation
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives

Subject: Highway Projects: Extent of Projects with Unobligated Balances of Greater Than 85 Percent as of August 16, 2002

Congress has provided funding for numerous highway demonstration projects in legislation authorizing surface transportation programs as well as in annual appropriations acts for the Department of Transportation (DOT). In some cases, the projects are identified in the legislation itself. In others, they are identified in committee reports accompanying the legislation. These projects are generally designated for specific locations within states and for specific purposes, and the funds made available for them generally remain available until expended. To identify amounts that could be rescinded, you asked us to (1) identify highway demonstration projects whose funding was approved prior to the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) with obligations of less than 15 percent of their funding amount and (2) determine whether there are plans to obligate most (more than 60 percent) of the funds within the next 2 years and the amount of these balances. For projects without plans to obligate most of the funds within the next 2 years, you also asked us to provide the state's or locality's reason.

Results

As of August 16, 2002, there were 42 highway demonstration projects authorized prior to TEA-21 with obligations of less than 15 percent of their total funding amount. For 9 of the 42 projects, there are no plans to obligate most (more than 60 percent) of the approved funds by September 30, 2004. These 9 projects account for about \$19.4 million in unobligated funds. Three of the projects have been completed or dropped by the city or state. For the remaining 6 projects, state or local officials intend to request federal legislation to revise the project description or make the funds available for other projects. The enclosure lists the 42 projects and the total amount of budget authority made available; the obligated and unobligated amounts for each of the projects as of August 16, 2002; the statute(s), and where appropriate, committee report(s) identifying the projects, beginning with the most recent; the

location and nature of the project; and where applicable, the reason given by the state or locality for not obligating the funds by 2004. Our review captures information as of August 16, 2002; however, the obligated and unobligated amounts for projects could change.

Scope and Methodology

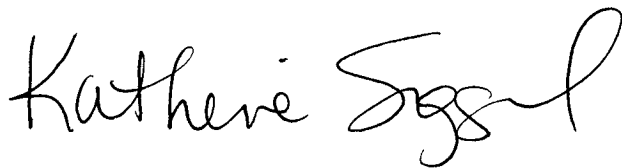
To identify pre-TEA-21 highway demonstration projects with obligations of less than 15 percent of the total funding amount, we requested that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) analyze reports from DOT's fiscal management information system (FMIS). FHWA verified the information with state officials, obtained information on whether a minimum of 60 percent of the total funding amount would be obligated by September 30, 2004, and where applicable, the rationale for not obligating the funds. We verified the statutory sources of the projects and their descriptions by reviewing the statutes and associated reports. We relied on FMIS to identify the amount of budget authority and the obligated and unobligated amounts for each project and did not independently verify this information. We conducted our review in July and August 2002 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

Agency Comments

We provided DOT with a draft of this letter for review and comment. DOT agreed with the information in the draft letter and provided technical comments, which we incorporated as appropriate.

As agreed with your offices, unless you publicly announce its contents earlier, we plan no further distribution of this report until 30 days after the date of this letter. At that time, we will send copies of the report to the Secretary of Transportation, the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration and the Senate Committee on Appropriations. The report will also be available on GAO's Web site at <http://www.gao.gov>.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact me or Susan Fleming at (202) 512-2834. Other key contributors to this letter were Sharon Dyer and Stacey Thompson.



Katherine Siggerud
Acting Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues

Enclosure

Enclosure

Summary of Pre-TEA 21 Demonstration Projects with Unobligated Balances as of August 16, 2002

State	Public law, section, and related report	Project description ^a	Budget authority	Obligations	Unobligated balance and percentage obligated ^b	At least 60 percent of the funds will be obligated by 9/30/04	Reason for not obligating funds
California	P.L. 103-331 (1994) <i>Surface Transportation Projects</i> House Conference Report 103-752	CA Highway 113 railroad grade separation	\$668,000.00	\$0	\$668,000.00 (0 percent)	No	The local government intends to request federal legislation to change the project description.
California	P.L. 103-331 (1994) <i>Surface Transportation Projects</i> House Conference Report 103-752	CA Highway 138, between CA Highway 14 to 50 th Street E.	1,000,000.00	0	1,000,000.00 (0 percent)	Yes	
Texas	P.L. 103-331 (1994) <i>Surface Transportation Projects</i> House Conference Report 103-752	El Paso: Extension of Border Highway	5,000,000.00	0	5,000,000.00 (0 percent)	Yes	
Texas	P.L. 103-331 (1994) <i>Surface Transportation Projects</i> House Conference Report 103-752	Brownsville: Improvements on 6 th and 7 th Streets	500,000.00	0	500,000.00 (0 percent)	No	State and local governments intend to request federal legislation to make these funds available for another project.
Texas	P.L. 103-331 (1994) <i>Surface Transportation Projects</i> House Conference Report 103-752	Houston: NASA Road 1	2,500,000.00	0	2,500,000.00 (0 percent)	Yes	
West Virginia	P.L. 103-331 (1994) <i>Surface Transportation Projects</i> House Conference Report 103-752	Fairmont: Riverside Expressway	4,000,000.00	0	4,000,000.00 (0 percent)	Yes	
West Virginia	P.L. 103-331 (1994) <i>Surface Transportation Projects</i> House Conference Report 103-752	Mercer/McDowell Counties: Route 52	5,000,000.00	345,600.00	4,654,400.00 (7 percent)	Yes	

Enclosure

State	Public law, section, and related report	Project description ^a	Budget authority	Obligations	Unobligated balance and percentage obligated ^b	At least 60 percent of the funds will be obligated by 9/30/04	Reason for not obligating funds
New York	P.L. 102-388 (1992) <i>Highway Projects (Highway Trust Fund)</i> House Conference Report 102-924	New York City: Design improvements on Miller Highway	1,696,000.00	0	1,696,000.00 (0 percent)	Yes	
Arizona	P.L. 102-240 (1991) §1104(b)(23) P.L. 104-59 (1995) §331(3) and P. L. 102-240 (1991) § 1106(b)(74) changed the project description.	Tucson: Oracle and Orange Grove Roads Interchange improvements and Veterans Memorial Interchange/Palo Verde Overpass Bridge Replacement	3,804,171.00	307,326.42	3,496,844.58 (8 percent)	Yes	
California	P.L. 102-240 (1991) §1108(b)(31) P.L. 104-59 (1995) §336 (3) changed the project description.	Los Angeles: For access and improvement projects in the vicinity of Los Angeles International Airport	8,730,085.00	480,000.00	8,250,085.00 (5 percent)	Yes	
California	P.L. 102-240 (1991) §1107(b)(61) P.L. 104-59 (1995) §335 (9) changed the project description.	Victorville: Widen and reconstruct Mojave bridge to CALTRANS height standards	1,755,772.00	160,000.00	1,595,772.00 (9 percent)	Yes	
California	P.L. 102-240 (1991) §1107(b)(87)	Santa Fe Springs: Norwalk Boulevard grade separation	4,584,515.00	0	4,584,515.00 (0 percent)	Yes	
Florida	P.L. 102-240 (1991) §1106(a)(55)	Brevard County: Design and engineering improvements for State Road 3 between State Road 520 and State Road 528	156,069.00	19,095.00	136,974.00 (12 percent)	No	Project is complete.
Georgia	P.L. 102-240 (1991) §1108(b)(48) P.L. 105-277 (1998) §101(g)(342) changed the project description.	Augusta: Railroad relocation demonstration project, overpass at 15 th and Greene Streets and related improvements	5,755,028.00	0	5,755,028.00 (0 percent)	Yes	

Enclosure

State	Public law, section, and related report	Project description ^a	Budget authority	Obligations	Unobligated balance and percentage obligated ^b	At least 60 percent of the funds will be obligated by 9/30/04	Reason for not obligating funds
Hawaii	P.L. 102-240 (1991) §1107(b) (203)	Eligible projects under federal-aid highway program	5,852,571.00	0	5,852,571.00 (0 percent)	Yes	
Louisiana	P.L. 102-240 (1991) §1106(a)(17)	Lake Charles: construction of roads and bridge to provide access to Rose Bluff Industrial Area	3,999,257.00	55,299.20	3,943,957.80 (1 percent)	No	Local entities intend to request federal legislation to make these funds available for another project.
Louisiana	P.L. 102-240 (1991) §1106(a)(18)	Improvements and extension of Ambassador Caffery Parkway	14,533,886.00	1,849,686.40	12,684,199.60 (13 percent)	Yes	
Maryland	P.L. 102-240 (1991) §1107(b)(4)	Harford County: Construction of replacement bridge at South Hampton Road	975,429.00	0	975,429.00 (0 percent)	Yes	
Michigan	P.L. 102-240 (1991) §1107(b)(55)	Flint: Design, engineering and construction of 1.02 miles of 5-lane roadway	877,886.00	0	877,886.00 (0 percent)	Yes	
Michigan	P.L. 102-240 (1991) §1108(b)(8)	Detroit: Relocate Van Dyke Street and construct a depressed road under Detroit City Airport runway	4,194,343.00	616,000.00	3,578,343.00 (15 percent)	No	The Detroit City Airport has abandoned its plan to extend the runway, eliminating the need to relocate the roadway.
Missouri	P.L. 102-240 (1991) §1104(b)(5)	St. Louis: Relocation of Lindbergh Boulevard and I-70 at St. Louis-Lambert Airport	14,436,344.00	0	14,436,344.00 (0 percent)	Yes	
New Hampshire	P.L. 102-240 (1991) §1104(b)(8)	Nashua: Construction of second bridge over Nashua River	1,170,514.00	0	1,170,514.00 (0 percent)	Yes	
New York	P.L. 102-240 (1991) §1104(b)(38) P.L. 104-59 (1995) §331(4) changed the project description.	Whitehall Street ferry terminals	3,511,542.00	0	3,511,542.00 (0 percent)	Yes	
Ohio	P.L. 102-240 (1991) §1107(b)(70)	Brook Park: Aerospace Technology Park Access Road	13,851,086.00	0	13,851,086.00 (0 percent)	Yes	
Ohio	P.L. 102-240 (1991) §1106(a)(87)	Norwalk: U.S. Route 250 bypass study	390,172.00	0	390,172.00 (0 percent)	No	Local entities intend to request federal legislation to revise the project description and make these funds available for another project.

Enclosure

State	Public law, section, and related report	Project description ^a	Budget authority	Obligations	Unobligated balance and percentage obligated ^b	At least 60 percent of the funds will be obligated by 9/30/04	Reason for not obligating funds
Pennsylvania	P.L. 102-240 (1991) §1107(b)(20) P.L. 104-59 (1995) §335 (3) and P.L. 104-205 (1996) §410 changed the project description.	Relocation of U.S. 22 around the borough of Hollidaysburg, PA, and surrounding counties	50,722,287.00	6,202,000.00	44,520,287.00 (12 percent)	Yes	
Pennsylvania	P.L. 102-240 (1991) §1106(a)(83)	Blairsville: Laurel Valley Expressway	4,877,143.00	644,000.00	4,233,143.00 (13 percent)	Yes	
Pennsylvania	P.L. 102-240 (1991) §1103(b)(3)	Beaver County: Construction of Aliquippa Ambridge Bridge	24,385,715.00	1,288,000.00	23,097,715.00 (5 percent)	Yes	
Tennessee	P.L. 102-240 (1991) §1104(b)(17) P.L. 102-388 (1992) §378 changed the project description.	Murfreesboro: Study and construct a bicycle system	390,172.00	36,000.00	354,172.00 (9 percent)	Yes	
Washington, D.C.	P.L. 102-240 (1991) §1106(b)(10)	Construction of missing segments of Eastern and Southern Avenues	6,632,914.00	208,000.00	6,424,914.00 (3 percent)	Yes	
Washington, D.C.	P.L. 102-240 (1991) §1106(b)(70)	Design and construction of noise barriers along Southeast/Southwest and Anacostia Freeways	4,584,515.00	425,680.00	4,158,835.00 (9 percent)	Yes	
New Jersey	P.L. 102-143 (1991) <i>Highway Demonstration Projects</i> House Conference Report 102-243	Routes 70/38 Circle Elimination	6,000,000.00	0	6,000,000.00 (0 percent)	No	The project has been dropped by the state DOT. ^c
New York	P.L. 102-143 (1991) <i>Highway Demonstration Projects</i> House Conference Report 102-243	Manhattan: Miller Highway from 59 th to 72 nd Street	2,800,000.00	0	2,800,000.00 (0 percent)	Uncertain	These funds will be required to complete the design phase. However, the percentage that will be obligated by 9/30/04 cannot be determined now.
Pennsylvania	P.L. 102-143 (1991) <i>Highway Demonstration Projects</i> House Conference Report 102-243	Ligonier: Pennsylvania State Route 711 Bypass	900,000.00	0	900,000.00 (0 percent)	Yes	

Enclosure

State	Public law, section, and related report	Project description ^a	Budget authority	Obligations	Unobligated balance and percentage obligated ^b	At least 60 percent of the funds will be obligated by 9/30/04	Reason for not obligating funds
Georgia	P.L. 101-516 (1990) <i>Highway Demonstration Projects</i> House Conference Report 101-892 P.L. 105-277 (1998) §101(g)(342) changed the project description.	Augusta: Olive Road crossing and related improvements	1,675,000.00	0	1,675,000.00 (0 percent)	Yes	
Louisiana	P.L. 100-17 (1987) §149(a)(87) and (b)(87)	West Calcasieu Parish: Access road parallel to I-10 at Sulphur to access Louisiana Highways 108 and 3077	2,623,910.00	0	2,623,910.00 (0 percent)	No	Local entities intend to request federal legislation to make these funds available for another project.
Louisiana	P.L. 100-17 (1987) §149 (a)(87) and (d)	West Calcasieu Parish: Access road parallel to I-10 at Sulphur to access Louisiana Highways 108 and 3077	1,574,345.00	0	1,574,345.00 (0 percent)	No	Local entities intend to request federal legislation to make these funds available for another project.
New Jersey	P.L. 100-17 (1987) §149(a)(37), (b)(37) and (d)	Dover Township: Construct Toms River bridge project	598,350.00	0	598,350.00 (0 percent)	Yes	
Rhode Island	P.L. 100-17 (1987) §149(d)	Eligible projects under federal-aid highway program	133,876.00	0	133,876.00 (0 percent)	Yes	
Washington, D.C.	P.L. 100-17 (1987) §149(c)	Eligible projects under federal-aid highway program	132,167.00	0	132,167.00 (0 percent)	Yes	
Washington, D.C.	P.L. 100-17 (1987) §149(d)	Eligible projects under federal-aid highway program	64,753.00	0	64,753.00 (0 percent)	Yes	
West Virginia	P.L. 100-17 (1987) §149 (a)(62) and (b)(62)	New River: Construct a parkway	8,559,573.00	1,226,665.30	7,332,907.70 (14 percent)	Yes	
Total			\$225,597,390.00	\$13,863,352.32	\$211,734,037.68		

^aThe project description reflects any statutory changes made to the original description.

^bThe unobligated balance is the difference between the allocations and obligations recorded in the Federal Highway Administration's Financial Management Information System.

^cThe state intends to request federal legislation to make these funds available for another project.

Source: GAO's adaptation of information provided by the Federal Highway Administration.

(542010)