

Design Standards Letter

Letter Number: **G-1959-01**

Letter Date: **01/06/1959**

Effective Date: **01/06/1959**

Section/Plan No.: **None**

Subject: **Revised Five-Year Construction Program Primary System**

Body

TO ALL DIVISION, DISTRICT AND URBAN ENGINEERS:

In order to keep our current construction program for the Primary System up-to-date, and to extend it over a sufficient period of time to allow for doing reconnaissance work, holding hearings, scheduling the aerial survey work, making surveys, preparing plans, and securing right-of-way - we would like at this time to review, revise and extend our Four-Year Construction Program, beginning July 1, 1959.

In past years we have been working with a four-year program but now find a five-year program is necessary to allow time for reconnaissance work, holding hearings, aerial surveys, etc.

The Federal Aid Primary Program, based on 1960 Federal-aid apportionments, when matched with State funds, should average about \$23,000,000 per year over the next several years. On the basis of our need study just recently completed, the Primary allotment to the various Districts should be as follows:

District 1 \$2,000,000
District 2 1,600,000
District 3 1,600,000
District 4 4,300,000
District 5 2,100,000
District 6 3,100,000
District 7 2,500,000
District 8 1,800,000
District 9 1,600,000
District 10 2,400,000

TOTAL \$23,000,000

We believe it advisable to program more work than we have funds to finance since it has been our experience in the past that projects fall down along the way for many reasons. Consequently, we are suggesting that in submitting your recommendations for your District that you list projects totaling the amount of your apportionment plus 20%. This will allow us to compare and select projects on a State-wide basis, and perhaps do some shifting of projects to meet apparent needs.

The allotments of federal funds for years after 1960 are, of course, not known, but we will use these same allotment figures at this time for each of the five years over which you will recommend projects.

Under date of December 9, 1958, you were sent a revised letting schedule, and all projects in this letting schedule through the June letting (and including June 25th letting) may be omitted from your recommendations provided these projects can be let before July 1, 1959. Also, any right-of-way projects not paid for by July 1, 1959, should be listed on your program.

Widening projects will not qualify for Federal-aid unless deficiencies in alignment, grades, sight distances, and shoulder widths are corrected. However, in special instances, the scheduling of shoulder widening may be deferred. Sections along the present highway where the alignment and sight distance meet requirements for 50 miles-per-hour design speed may be used in place; otherwise, 60 miles-per-hour design speed should be used as a minimum.

As was the condition last year, funds available for 100% State Primary projects will be very limited. In case you have some really urgent projects that will not qualify for Federal-aid, you may list these separately at the end of your list and give us a special letter of comment. Generally, such projects will not be programmed, except in the first year.

For convenience and uniformity in preparing your program, we are mailing you under separate cover from two to four program forms on brown line tracings. We are also including two extra prints which may be used as work sheets. You may either type or letter on these tracings and submit them to us so that the necessary number of prints can be reproduced for distribution here.

In preparing the data for submission to this office, we suggest that more than one year's program be listed on each sheet, if possible. A proper heading, such as "First Year - July 1, 1959 to June 30, 1960" may be shown on the top space, and list consecutively each project according to its priority in your District. Then show the total of First Year's Program on each of the four columns headed "Estimated Costs" - then skip a line or two below the totals and list your Second Year projects. If more than one sheet is needed to complete your Five-Year Program, the sheets should be numbered in consecutive order in the upper right-hand corner in the space provided.

Under the heading of "Location", the description of the project termini should be

shown by the name of the nearest town or village, county lines, route intersections, etc., so that the location can be readily identified on county maps. In case there are isolated sections which are difficult to describe as to location, a county map showing in red the location of the proposed project should accompany the program.

In estimating Engineering costs, use 3% of Construction estimates.

List and number the projects in order of importance to you, beginning with the most important project. AS previously stated, any project on the current program or letting schedule not under contract by July 1, 1959, must be rescheduled on the revised program, and the funds charged against your apportionment.

Since sufficiency ratings and traffic volumes will be important factors in the selection of projects, please use the latest data from Mr. Rudder's office. In listing traffic data, list the current average daily traffic in the upper portion of the column. We will have Mr. Rudder give us the expanded 20-year traffic, and we will list this just below.

Again, we ask you to consider carefully your ability to complete the necessary plans and secure the right-of-way for each project during the year in which it is programmed.

In reviewing the last program, there are a number of cases where right-of-way was listed for the first year on projects where you did not even have a reconnaissance or survey, and the Right-of-Way Division certainly cannot complete their right-of-way program in the First Year unless they are furnished right-of-way plans at least six months before the end of the year, and on larger projects they need more time. Please consider these problems carefully in order that our prepared program will be realistic and one that we can accomplish.

Please acknowledge this letter and advise of points not clear or covered. We would like to have your recommendations in this office not later than February 1st.

C. P. Owens
Engineer of Surveys and Plans