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AUTHORITY: 23 U.S.C. 105, 106, 109, 115, 315, 320, and 402(a); 23 CFR 1.32; 49 CFR 1.48(b).

Subpart A—Federal-Aid Project Authorization

SOURCE: 61 FR 35632, July 8, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

§ 630.102 Purpose.

The purpose of this subpart is to prescribe policies for authorizing Federal-aid projects.

§ 630.104 Applicability.

(a) This regulation is applicable to all Federal-aid projects unless specifically exempted.

(b) Projects financed with FHWA planning and research funds, as defined in 23 CFR 420.103 are not covered by this subpart. These projects are to be handled in accordance with 23 CFR parts 420 and 450.

(c) Other projects which involve special procedures shall be authorized as set out in the implementing instructions for those projects.

§ 630.106 Authorization to proceed.

(a) The FHWA issuance of an authorization to proceed with a Federal-aid project shall be in response to a written request from the State highway agency (SHA). Authorization can be given only after applicable prerequisite requirements of Federal laws and implementing regulations and directives have been satisfied.

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(b) Federal funds shall not participate in costs incurred prior to the date of authorization to proceed except as provided by 23 CFR 1.9(b).

(c) Authorization of a Federal-aid project shall be deemed a contractual obligation of the Federal government under 23 U.S.C. 106 and shall require that appropriate funds be available at the time of authorization for the total agreed Federal share, either pro rata or lump sum, of the cost of eligible work to be incurred by the State, except as follows:

(1) Advance construction projects authorized under 23 U.S.C. 115.

(2) Projects for preliminary studies for the portion of the preliminary engineering and right-of-way (ROW) phase(s) through the selection of a location.

(3) Projects for ROW acquisition in hardship and protective buying situations through the selection of a particular location. This includes ROW acquisitions within a potential highway corridor under consideration where necessary to preserve the corridor for future highway purposes. Authorization of work under this paragraph shall be in accordance with the provisions of 23 CFR part 710.

(4) In special cases where the Federal Highway Administrator determines it to be in the best interest of the Federal-aid highway program.

(d) The authorization to proceed with a project under 23 CFR 630.106(c)(1) through (c)(4) shall contain the following statement: “Authorization to proceed shall not constitute any commitment of Federal funds, nor shall it be construed as creating in any manner any obligation on the part of the Federal government to provide Federal funds for that portion of the undertaking not fully funded herein.”

(e) When a project has received an authorization under 23 CFR 630.106(c)(2) and (c)(3), subsequent authorizations beyond the location stage shall not be given until appropriate available funds have been obligated to cover eligible costs of the work covered by the previous authorization.

(f)(1) The Federal-aid share of eligible project costs shall be established at the time of project authorization in one of the following manners:

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(i) Pro rata, with the authorization stating the Federal share as a specified percentage, or

(ii) Lump sum, with the authorization stating that Federal funds are limited to a specified dollar amount not to exceed the legal pro rata.

(2) The pro-rata or lump sum share may be adjusted before or shortly after contract award to reflect any substantive change in the bids received as compared to the SHA's estimated cost of the project at the time of FHWA authorization, provided that Federal funds are available.

(3) Federal participation is limited to the agreed Federal share of eligible costs incurred by the State, not to exceed the maximum permitted by enabling legislation.

(g) The State may contribute more than the normal non-Federal share of title 23, U.S.C., projects. In general, financing proposals that result in only minimal amounts of Federal funds in projects should be avoided unless they are based on sound project management decisions.

[61 FR 35632, July 8, 1996, as amended at 64 FR 71289, Dec. 21, 1999]

Subpart B—Plans, Specifications, and Estimates

SOURCE: 43 FR 58564, Dec. 15, 1978, unless otherwise noted.

§ 630.201 Purpose.

The purpose of this subpart is to prescribe Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) procedures relating to the preparation, submission, and approval of plans, specifications and estimates (PS&E), and supporting documents for Federal-aid projects.

§ 630.203 Applicability.

The provisions of this regulation apply to all highway construction projects financed in whole or in part with Federal-aid highway funds and to be undertaken by a State or political subdivision, except for projects carried out pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 117 relative to certification acceptance or a secondary road plan.

§ 630.205 Preparation, submission, and approval.

(a) The contents and number of copies of the PS&E assembly shall be determined by the FHWA.

(b) Plans and specifications shall describe the location and design features and the construction requirements in sufficient detail to facilitate the construction, the contract control and the estimation of construction costs of the project. The estimate shall reflect the anticipated cost of the project in sufficient detail to provide an initial prediction of the financial obligations to be incurred by the State and FHWA and to permit an effective review and comparison of the bids received.

(c) PS&E assemblies for Federal-aid highway projects shall be submitted to the FHWA for approval.

(d) The State highway agency (SHA) shall be advised of approval of the PS&E by the FHWA.

(e) No project or part thereof for actual construction shall be advertised for contract nor work commenced by force account until the PS&E has been approved by the FHWA and the SHA has been so notified.

Subpart C—Project Agreements

SOURCE: 62 FR 6872, Feb. 14, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

§ 630.301 Purpose.

The purpose of this subpart is to prescribe the procedures for the execution of the project agreement required by 23 U.S.C. 110(a) for Federal-aid projects, except for forest highway projects pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 204, and for non-highway public mass transit projects administered by the Federal Transit Administration.

§ 630.303 Preparation of agreement.

(a) The State highway agency (SHA) shall prepare a project agreement for each Federal-aid highway and FHWA planning and research project eligible for Federal-aid funding.

(b) The SHA may develop the project agreement in a format acceptable to both the SHA and the FHWA provided the following are included: