



December 17, 2008

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.
Washington, DC 20590

In Reply Refer To: HSSD

Mr. Anthony Giancola
Executive Director
National Association of County Engineers
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Suite 580
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. ~~Giancola~~: *Teo*

This letter is in response to your October 27 letter cosigned by Mr. Roger Wentz concerning the eligibility of Federal funding resources to meet the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices requirements for maintaining traffic sign retroreflectivity at the local level. Federal-aid highway funds under a variety of programs may be used to install or upgrade traffic signs and pavement markings. No Federal-aid programs, however, specifically target locally owned roads. Eligibility is typically not governed by who owns the highway, but by highway's functional class.

Listed below are Federal-aid programs that provide funding which may be used to improve signing and pavement markings on locally owned roads, provided that the highway in question meets the eligibility requirements of that particular program.

National Highway System (NHS) Program

The NHS programs provides funding for resurfacing, restoring, rehabilitating, and reconstructing highways on the NHS. Projects which improve highway signing and pavement markings on the NHS are eligible for funding under this program.

Surface Transportation Program (STP)

STP funds can be used for a variety of transportation purposes, including the improvement of signing and pavement markings. With some exceptions, these funds can be used on all public roads except those functionally classified as local or rural minor collectors. Highway safety improvement projects, including projects to improve signing and pavement markings, may be funded on any public road.

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

HSIP funding is eligible for use on any public road. Funding can be used for projects to improve highway signage and pavement markings in order to (1) correct or improve a hazardous location, or (2) otherwise address a highway safety problem. In order for such projects to be funded with

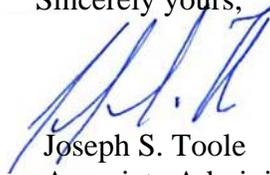


HSIP funds, they must be identified in the program of projects and strategies included in the States' Strategic Highway Safety Plan. However, USC 23, Section 148(d)(2)(B) also encourages States to use other funds to address the full scope of their safety needs and opportunities.

You also asked about Federal-aid funding eligibility for the development of sign management and maintenance programs. The development of a sign management program is eligible under the State Planning and Research Program. Metropolitan planning funds can also be used for this purpose in metro areas. HSIP funds are eligible provided that development the sign management program is included in the State's Strategic Highway Safety Program.

I appreciate your interest in this subject and look forward to our continued partnership to save more lives on our Nation's highways. For further information or assistance, please feel free to contact Mr. Matt Lupes at (202) 366-6994 or matt.lupes@dot.gov. An identical letter has been sent to Mr. Roger Wentz.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. S. Toole', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joseph S. Toole
Associate Administrator for Safety