Purpose

To define the function of the Federal Bridge Program, and the relationship between the Utah Department of Transportation (Department) and the Local Governments.

Policy

The Department will participate in the Federal Bridge Program as authorized by Federal legislation. The Program will be administered according to Federal law and by the provisions of the United States Department of Transportation as covered in the A Guide to Federal- Aid Highway Programs and Projects. The Federal Bridge Program is administered as part of the Surface Transportation Program (STP) and the National Highway Performance Program (NHPP).

Bridge funds may be used for all bridge related items, traffic control, utilities, and other non-bridge items required as a result of the bridge replacement or preservation. Bridge replacement funds may be used for approach roadway construction sufficient to connect the new bridge to the existing roadway or to return the grade line to an attainable touchdown point according to minimum AASHTO design standards.

There may be cases where the roadway is realigned or reconstructed for reasons not related to the replacement of the bridge. Other funds will be used for roadways, approach fills, or other extensive earth structures, when constructed beyond the designed connection with the existing road in these cases.

It is also the policy of the Department to use the procedures that follow in setting priorities for the utilization of federal bridge funds for Local Public Agency bridges off of the Federal Aid Highway System.

Definitions

Joint Highway Committee (JHC) – A committee composed of representatives from Utah counties and cities. It develops recommendations for the Local Public Agency projects within the Non-Urban, Small Urban, and Bridge programs of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).
Responsibility: Structures, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), JHC, Local Government Programs Engineer, and Local Public Agencies

Actions

1. **ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION**
   All Local Public Agency bridges off of the Federal Aid Highway System are eligible for Federal Funding through the Joint Highway Committee. Eligible activities include replacement and rehabilitation. A bridge will be considered for replacement or preservation in accordance with the Department Bridge Management Manual. Each structure will be assigned a Health Index based on structural condition and ranked based on criticality and vulnerability.

2. **ANNUAL REVIEWS**
   The Local Public Agencies will submit applications, with requested funding amounts, to the Local Government Programs Engineer on an annual basis based on priorities and availability of local match funding from the Local Public Agency. The Local Government Programs Engineer will compile the applications and provide them to the Department Structures Division for review and statewide prioritization.

3. **FINAL SELECTION**
   The Joint Highway Committee reviews the prioritized list of recommended structures projects proposed for both eligibility and a fair and equitable distribution of available funding. The committee reviews the list and recommends projects to the Utah Transportation Commission for approval and inclusion on the STIP. The projects are then processed by the Local Public Agencies using the Department’s standards and plan for Local Public Agency Projects and in accordance with design and detailing criteria set forth in the Department Structures Design and Detailing Manual.