




BRIDGE REPLACEMENT (BR) DEADLINES FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2008

OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.
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CURRENT DEADLINES

<i>Controlled</i>	County	District
		ACCO
		

County Controlled Allocation

Friday, December 14th ==>

RAW Division must receive **final** documentation to secure RAW & utilities.

Friday, December 28th ==>

County's control over allocation ends

*** Local Government must receive Project Clearance memo from RAW Division

District Controlled Allocation

Friday, May 9th ==>

RAW Division must receive **final** documentation to secure RAW & utilities.

Monday, May 19th ==>

*** Local Government must receive Project Clearance memo from RAW Division

Friday, May 30th ==>

ACCO District's control ends

ACCO Board Controlled Allocation

Monday, June 2nd ==>

RAW Division must receive **final** documentation to secure RAW & utilities.

Friday, June 13th ==>

*** Local Government must receive Project Clearance memo from RAW Division

Wednesday, June 18th ==>

ACCO Board allocates BR funds.

*****Local Government must receive final approved plans**

Allocation of Bridge Replacement, BR, Funds for County Bridges

Policies and Procedures for ACCO Districts

September 2007

History

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation, ODOT, apportions 20 million dollars of Bridge Replacement, BR, funds each federal fiscal year to the County Highway System. In odd numbered years 2.7 million is used to fund the required Safety Bridge Inspection program, which is 80% funded with BR funds and 20% County Bridge and Road Improvement, CBRI, funds. This amount is taken off the "top" with the remainder allocated to each county by their County Bridge, CB, factor. This allocation method of BR funds has been in place since 1993 and allows each county the opportunity and flexibility to fund their project if it is considered ready to let by Local Government Division at ODOT. The CB factor was developed in 1983 and is also used to allocate a portion of the fuel taxes that then go into each counties' County Bridge and Road Improvement, CBRI, fund.

Problem

Construction costs are rising and Oklahoma has a limited number of county bridge contractors. Most counties are waiting till April for additional BR funding to fund their bridge projects at 80%, BR, and 20%, local funds (CBRI). Local Government Division is dealt with the task of placing these projects on lettings. If the letting month has too many county bridge projects two things will happen. One, the costs skyrocket above the ODOT's Office Engineer's estimate causing a cost overrun to the counties' statewide portion of the BR funds thus reducing the number of projects that can be built and increasing the county's cost of the project. Secondly, if the contractors' work load get so great they are unlikely to even bid on projects.

Local Government Division has tried to address this problem by spreading projects' lettings over several months even into the following federal fiscal year. This means authorizing the project for federal funds in one month and then sitting on the project for several months to find the optimal letting month. The Federal Highway Administration, FHWA, has never been in favor of "sitting" on these projects and is requiring ODOT to let the projects within six months of the authorization. Local Government Division requested that the Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma, ACCO, Board develop another means of getting the BR funding spent earlier in the federal fiscal year so that the projects would be spread out more evenly on lettings.

Solution

The solution must consist of two things, flexibility and consistency, for the benefit of ODOT and the counties.

Counties' control of their allocation ends the last weekday of the month of December of each year. This requires that Local Government Division has formally approved the project plans and has written approval from R/W Division that the project is ready for a letting. The remaining funds fall under the ACCO district's control. Local Government Division will be given the latitude to follow the guidelines enclosed unless a special ACCO district meeting has been called by the ACCO District Board member. At the Special District meetings formal minutes will be taken of attendance, motions and voting with a copy of the minutes forwarded

to Local Government Division. Local Government Division shall provide a monthly report showing ACCO District's BR funds balances, all project expenditures and potential expenditures. This report shall be sent to each ACCO board member and will be placed on the ACCO's website.

January 1st to the end of February

First ready first funded: BR Funding is apportioned to 80% of the project cost to each county's first project as long as the project cost, including 8½% for Engineering and Contingencies, is less than or equal to \$500,000.

March 1st to the end of April

First ready first funded: Remaining funds are apportioned to each county's first project and/or second project where each are less than or equal to \$750,000 including 8½% for Engineering and Contingencies.

Month of May

First ready first funded: Remaining funds are apportioned to any project ready.

Month of June

The ACCO Board will approve funding for projects at their June board meeting. The apportionment will be based on the following:

1. The projects shall be required to be on ODOT's project ready list provided the day before the meeting.
2. Projects will be ranked on in order of the following:
 - a. Emergency conditions (ex. bridge out and emergency services require access)
 - b. County's first bridge project funded this federal fiscal year.
 - c. School bus route or Major Collector route
 - d. Existing bridge "H" operating rating.
 - e. Detour length