

A Partnership With:



Introduction

Fiscal Year 2008 is the fourth consecutive year of expansion of the Urban Construction Initiative. The City of Lynchburg joined the initiative and became the seventh municipality to partner with the Virginia Department of Transportation when they began administering their entire urban program on July 1, 2007.

The Towns of Blacksburg and Dumfries continued with their transition and executed agreements to begin participation on July 1, 2008. The City of Colonial Heights and the Town of Leesburg adopted resolutions of intent to begin participation on July 1, 2009 and both have begun working on their transitions.

Implementation

As the number of municipalities participating and the number of VDOT Districts engaged in the UCI grows, focus continues on streamlining the project delivery process and effectively transitioning program management responsibilities.

As a group, we continue to utilize quarterly meetings to facilitate the transition and work together to improve the program. This year, technical sessions were conducted on utility relocation process and the Revenue Sharing program. Additionally, we partnered to provide a Program Management Workshop in two locations where over 100 VDOT and local staff gathered to learn more about topics such as financial management, procurement, and civil rights.

The quarterly meetings and technical sessions have served to increase the understanding of each others roles, responsibilities and perspectives in the project delivery and program management areas. This dialogue has developed into local and VDOT participants working together to develop streamlining opportunities, performance measures, and certification processes to further save project delivery time and costs.

Improved guidance and resources continue to be developed in cooperation with the participating municipalities and VDOT's project and program managers.

Financial Table

The commitment of Urban Construction Funds, including reimbursable federal funds and state funds paid directly to the participating municipalities in their quarterly payment, has continued to increase as participation in the program expands. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2007, the state match for SAFETEA-LU earmark funds were included in the quarterly payments and these federal earmarked funds are available on a reimbursement basis.

The total financial commitment is shown on the following table.

10/25/2008									
URBAN CONSTRUCTION INITIATIVE									
FISCAL YEAR 2008 FINANCIAL SUMMARY									
	CITY / TOWN	URBAN CONSTRUCTION ALLOCATIONS		PREVIOUS FUNDING on ACTIVE PROJECTS		PAST PROJECT RECONCILIATION		ANNUAL TOTALS	
		FEDERAL FUNDS (for Reimbursement)	STATE FUNDS (Quarterly Payment)	FEDERAL FUNDS (for Reimbursement)	STATE FUNDS (Quarterly Payment)	FEDERAL FUNDS (for Reimbursement)	STATE FUNDS (Quarterly Payment)	FEDERAL FUNDS (for Reimbursement)	STATE FUNDS (Quarterly Payment)
	FISCAL YEAR 2005	\$2,781	\$2,268	\$54,277	\$29,612	\$6,353	\$26,563	\$63,411	\$58,443
	FISCAL YEAR 2006	\$4,484	\$10,846	\$3,391	\$2,948	\$908	\$1,352	\$8,783	\$15,146
	FISCAL YEAR 2007	\$19,881	\$12,178	\$1,553	\$2,108	\$596	\$760	\$22,030	\$15,046
F Y 2 0 8	HAMPTON	\$6,940	\$4,074						\$4,074
	RICHMOND	\$921	\$4,564						\$4,564
	VIRGINIA BEACH	\$0	\$5,854						\$5,854
	CHARLOTTESVILLE	\$5,153	\$1,519						\$1,519
	BRIDGEWATER	\$227	\$64						\$64
	HARRISONBURG	\$1,273	\$1,433						\$1,433
	LYNCHBURG	\$3,065	\$2,364	\$3,941	\$19,169	\$155	\$666	\$7,161	\$22,199
	FY 2008 TOTALS	\$17,579	\$19,872	\$3,941	\$19,169	\$155	\$666	\$7,161	\$39,707
	TOTALS TO DATE	\$44,725	\$45,164	\$63,162	\$53,837	\$8,012	\$29,341	\$101,385	\$128,342
<small>NOTES: 1. Figures in thousands (1,000). 2. Figures shown for FY08 and Previous Funding on Active Projects are based on allocations made in FY08 Program. 3. Federal Funds are paid to localities on a reimbursable basis. 4. State Funds provided to localities as Quarterly Payments and are to be used for state funded projects and/or for local match on Federally Funded Projects. 5. Includes SAFETEA-LU and Local Partnership Funds</small>						TOTAL		\$229,727	

Program Accomplishments

During the past year, program level improvements have been advanced through the efforts of two workgroups – Streamlining and Performance Measures. The Streamlining Workgroup convened in FY07 and effected programmatic change through the expansion of the program guidance to include all funding sources, the implementation of a risk based assessment for plan reviews, and certification letters for right-of-way and construction. At the July 2007 Annual Meeting, the Performance Measures Workgroup was established to identify ways to quantify and measure the success of the initiative.

Streamlining Workgroup

The Streamlining workgroup continued to review and evaluate project delivery processes and procedures for potential improvements. The group made slow progress on the streamlining targets identified for the year: location approvals, preaward audit, construction management training, and public involvement. Construction Management Training was provided by VDOT in May. Enhancements were made to the right-of-way certification letter to better address public involvement and VDOT staff sought legal clarification on location approval. Additional work is needed on preaward audit and public involvement. Additionally, the group identified establishment of a video reference collection of training, local construction specifications, and utility undergrounding policies as areas for future emphasis.

Performance Measures Workgroup

The Performance Measures workgroup focused on developing a means to measure improvement and increased efficiency in project and program delivery. A key performance measure was the development of a satisfaction survey for the initiative. The survey polled local government and VDOT staff for their impressions on relationships, processes, and the program in general. The survey was conducted in June and will serve as a baseline for assessing future progress.

The comments and results of the satisfaction survey became the emphasis of the Annual Meeting through brainstorming the strengths and weaknesses of the UCI. The outcome of the annual meeting was a renewed focus on streamlining and performance through the development of a Local Certification process. The Streamlining and Performance Measures Workgroups were charged with developing a roadmap for certification.

Lessons Learned

The Annual Meeting focused on improving the program based on the lessons learned after four years of implementation experience. The following themes emerged from that discussion:

- We need to better define roles and responsibilities to increase delegation and authority, both within VDOT and to local government. This would improve both efficiency and effectiveness of project delivery.
- We need to improve our processes and procedures with consideration of project size and complexity, rather than taking a “one size fits all” approach to project delivery and oversight.
- We need to provide additional training, to local and VDOT staff simultaneously, to improve understanding of expectations and provide more consistency in interpretation and application.
- We need to find ways to reduce review timeframes to maintain project delivery schedules and promote efficiency.

We need to work collectively to develop a roadmap to enable qualified local governments to become certified to manage their programs with limited project level oversight. Such a certification program would result in the delegation of authority to the local level and VDOT District offices. A program like this would take some time to develop, but this is the next logical step in the development of this initiative.

Goals for Fiscal Year 2009

- Develop a certification program that streamlines program delivery by qualified local governments, eliminates project specific reviews and approvals by VDOT, and includes a newly developed programmatic compliance/verification program.
- Continue to assess program level performance through implementation of the annual satisfaction survey, and tracking of measures related to schedules and budgets.
- Provide training and development opportunities to enhance local and VDOT competencies, reduce risk, and improve oversight

Long Term Vision / Goals

- Continue the VDOT shift to a stewardship and oversight role – much like FHWA

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