



Texas Department of Transportation

1365 N. MAIN • PARIS, TEXAS 75460 • (903) 737-9300

January 11, 2006

Texoma COG
1117 Gallagher St., Suite 300
Sherman, TX 75090

Re: 2008-2009 Federal Hazard Elimination (HES) Program

Dear Mr. Wood:

I want to take this opportunity to inform you of a statewide call for safety improvement projects. This program is for highway safety projects that eliminate or reduce the number and severity of traffic crashes at hazardous locations. This call for proposals is only for projects **off** the state highway system. Typically roadway safety projects should be small in scope and low in cost.

Detailed information regarding the HES Program is included in the *Traffic Operations Manual, Hazard Elimination Program*. Section 3 of the manual contains information specific to off-system project proposal submissions. The manual can currently be viewed at <http://manuals.dot.state.tx.us/dynaweb/coltraff/tfa/>. This information should be used in developing proposed safety projects.

Funding for projects included in the 2008 -2009 Federal HES Program will be available for three (3) fiscal years. If a project on this program is not let by **August 31, 2009**, the project will be canceled and the district will need to resubmit it for the next available program.

All proposed projects shall be submitted by March 15. Safety Evaluation Report (SER) form, October 20, 2005 revision, shall be completed and submitted for each project. The forms are available by using the "hot buttons" contained in Appendix A of the *Hazard Elimination Program* manual online version. All data requested on the SER is necessary to evaluate each project.

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Your project must have a Safety Improvement Index (SII) above one (1) to be considered. The cost per crash will be \$854,000 for fatal or incapacitating injury crashes, \$41,500 for non-incapacitating or possible injury crashes, and \$1,400 for property damage only (PDO) crashes. A SII calculator is available by using the "hot button" contained in Section 4 of the *Hazard Elimination Program* manual online version. Crash

data for 2003, 2004 and 2005 will be used for this off-system program call. You are responsible for providing hard copies of all peace officer reports. Information in an automated format will not be accepted in lieu of the hard copies. Diagrams (e.g. typical sections) of existing conditions and proposed improvements are required.

You are encouraged to include as much detail as possible when completing the estimated cost portion of the project proposal. The following items must be included in the estimate:

- . Main Component(s) -the estimated cost for each major component of the project.
- . ROW - if ROW is required, the total estimated ROW cost.
- . Mobilization/Barricade, Traffic Control Signs, and Traffic Handling -the total cost for all of these items. This cost should be a minimum of 8 % of the total project cost.
- . Miscellaneous -all other cost not included in the above items.
- . Inflation Factor (10%) required.
- . Total -the total of all the above items.

Estimates considered too low will be changed based on average bid cost for the local TxDOT district. The HES program has seen a substantial increase in the number and amount of overruns to the program. Consideration for overrun funds will only be given if there is acceptable justification, the recalculated SII does not fall below the cut off SII for the program year that the project was approved, and funds are available.

Please note off-system projects are not eligible for local letting. All HES projects are required to be let by TxDOT's competitive bid process. Also, maximum federal funding for these projects is 90%. The required 10% match is paid by the local government on off-system projects.

Our Austin office will review and rank all proposed safety

projects using the SII. You will be notified of qualifying projects when the process is completed.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact your local TxDOT Area Engineer.

Craig Miser, PE, 903 455-2363 for Hunt and Rains Counties
Kevin Harris, PE, 903 892-6529 for Grayson and Fannin Counties

Ernest Teague, PE, 903 885-9514 for Hopkins and Franklin Counties

Reza Bazazzadeh, PE, 903 784-1357 for Lamar, Delta, and Red River Counties

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B.G. Littlefield, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Bobby G. Littlefield, Jr., P.E.
Paris District Engineer