

Policy on Reasonable Progress for Missouri Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement Program (Bridge) Funds

Reasonable Progress

For Missouri Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement Program (Bridge) projects or programs included in the TIP, “reasonable progress” will have been made if the project has advanced to the point of obligating all federal funds programmed for that project in the current fiscal year, regardless of the phase of work (i.e., PE, ROW, or PSE/Construction). If a project fails to obligate the programmed federal funds by July 1 of the current year, the funding will be forfeited and returned to the regional funding pot. Actual progress toward implementation is measured against the schedule submitted by the project sponsor in the project application.

Policy Procedures and Enforcement

At the beginning of each fiscal year a notification letter will be sent to sponsors with projects having federal funds available in that year. A second letter will be sent to the project sponsor in January of that same fiscal year informing the sponsors that their project will be taken to the March meetings of the Total Transportation Policy Committee (TTPC) and Board of Directors for the Board to set a July 1 suspense date for any projects not yet obligating federal funds. At their March meeting, the MARC Board of Directors will be asked to set a suspense date of July 1 of that year for projects not yet obligating federal funds.

MARC’s commitment to provide suballocated STP and/or Bridge funds for any projects that do not obligate all federal funds by the Board approved suspense date will be removed from the TIP, and these funds will be returned to the regional funding pool for redistribution by the Missouri STP/Bridge Priorities Committee, TTPC and the Board of Directors. The removal of federal funds from any such project will require no further Board action and the sponsor would have to repay any federal funds already spent on earlier phases of the same project if the funding is forfeited. The redistribution of any forfeited funds will remain within the funding distribution percentages between Group A and Group B members over any three-year period. The project sponsor may resubmit such a project for consideration in competition with other projects in a future programming cycle for federal funds.

The project sponsor will be allowed to reschedule a project once after a project is included in the TIP. Any shifts in subsequent phases of a project caused by that rescheduling (if identified at the time of the rescheduling) will not be considered a separate change. To initiate the schedule change the sponsor must submit a letter requesting the change accompanied by a Project Schedule Change form. The request can be made at any time during the year.

If a project has used its one time schedule change, and the project is realizing delays that will put the federal funding at risk of forfeiture (i.e. not meet a July 1 deadline), the project sponsor will be required to ask the TTPC and Board for consideration of an “extension” in the suspense date. The extension request has to be made before March 1 of the current year. To be considered for

this extension the sponsor has to demonstrate: a) the delay is beyond their control; b) funds have already been obligated on the project; and c) a realistic strategy is in place to obligate all funds. The ultimate decision regarding the disposition of each project will be made by the Board of Directors.

Once all federal funds identified for the project have been obligated, the project sponsor has nine months from Authority to Advertise to issue a Notice to Proceed. If the sponsor fails to issue a Notice to Proceed within that nine-month period, the MARC Board of Directors will be asked to take action on removing the federal funding from the project and returning those funds to the regional funding pot.

If a project is realizing delays in issuing a Notice to Proceed that will put the federal funding at risk of forfeiture, the project sponsor will be required to ask the TTPC and Board for consideration of an “extension” in the deadline date. The extension request has to be made no less than one month prior to the nine-month deadline. To be considered for this extension the sponsor has to demonstrate: a) the delay is beyond their control; and b) a realistic strategy is in place to move toward implementation. The ultimate decision regarding the disposition of each project will be made by the Board of Directors.

Project Monitoring

An extensive monitoring program has been developed to help track programmed projects and ensure that funding commitments and plans are met. Monthly reports are developed and posted on the MARC website, utilizing project information provided by the MoDOT District office. Additionally, project sponsors are contacted, at least every six months, by MARC staff for project status interviews.

Schedule Tables

MARC has developed templates for use by project sponsors in establishing the schedules for critical milestones in the development of STP and Bridge projects.

Schedules based on these templates will be prepared and submitted by project sponsors, as requested by MARC, for use by the Priorities Committee and others to monitor project progress.