



EL DORADO COUNTY BRIDGE PROGRAM

Fact Sheet

Overview

El Dorado County has a total of 79 bridges in the County bridge inventory. Twenty-five of these bridges are programmed in the 2013 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the Community Development Agency Transportation Division. The 2013 CIP was adopted on June 24, 2013 by the County Board of Supervisors. The CIP bridge program includes two new bridge structures currently in the construction phase and plans to replace 18 bridges, perform preventive maintenance on 4 bridges, and rehabilitate 1 bridge. The total bridge program cost estimate is \$123 million, of which \$117 million or 95% is funded by federal grants.

Highway Bridge Program Federal Funding

About \$300 million of federal funds are made available annually to local agencies in the State of California from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) through the Highway Bridge Program (HBP). The purpose of the HBP is to replace or rehabilitate public highway bridges over waterways, other topographical barriers, other highways, or railroads when the State and FHWA determine that a bridge is significantly important and is unsafe because of structural deficiencies, physical deterioration, or functional obsolescence.

Reimbursable scopes of work include replacement, rehabilitation, preventive maintenance, painting, scour countermeasure, bridge barrier and approach railing replacement, and low water crossing replacement. Reconstruction or replacement of bridges on public roads off federal aid highways is eligible for 100% reimbursement. The reimbursement rate for on-system bridges and maintenance work is 88.53%.

Local agencies are required to submit HBP applications for eligible bridge projects to their State Department of Transportation (Caltrans for the State of California). Caltrans evaluates the candidate projects for eligibility requirements and includes the successful candidate projects in a statewide financially constrained HBP Project List updated semi-annually. The bridges on the list must be programmed into the Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement program (FSTIP). FHWA approval is required before the local agency can begin reimbursable work.

Bridge Sufficiency Ratings

Bridges included in the HBP are routinely inspected by Caltrans every two years and are given a Sufficiency Rating (SR) score from 0 to 100 based on 140 elements. If the SR is less than 80, the bridge is eligible for rehabilitation. If it is less than 50, the bridge is eligible for replacement. Bridges must also be rated as either Structurally Deficient (SD) or Functionally Obsolete (FO) to be eligible for HBP funding. Bridges rated FO do not meet current standards and bridges rated SD have structural limitations such as weight limits or load capacity.

Caltrans 2013 Local Agency Bridge List

There are 14,225 locally owned bridges on the Caltrans Local Agency Bridge List – 13,317 of these bridges are rated of which 32% have SR ratings of 50 to 79 and 8% have SR ratings less than 50. By comparison, about 50% of El Dorado County bridges are eligible for rehabilitation (SR 50 to 79) and almost 25% are eligible for replacement (SR less than 50).

Prioritization Criteria

County bridges eligible for rehabilitation/replacement are rated using a weighted score on the following four criteria: Sufficiency Rating (max. 50 pts.), Average Daily Traffic (max. 30 pts.), Maintenance (max. 10 pts.) and Traffic (max. 10 pts.). Bridge replacement projects that meet the HBP replacement criteria are prioritized based on structural integrity, daily use, annual maintenance costs, and accident history. Other factors considered are lack of standard barriers and railings and restricted emergency vehicle access.

Typical Bridge Project Delivery Schedule

El Dorado County bridge projects are completed in four phases of work: planning/environmental, design, right of way, and construction. Each phase takes approximately two years and a typical bridge project takes about 7 years from project initiation to completion.

For more information about the County's Bridge Program, visit the County website at:
www.edcgov.us/bridgeprojects/