

§ 661.9

funds per year to replace and rehabilitate bridges that are in poor condition. This program which addresses the replacement of deficient IRR bridges is referred to as the IRRBP.

§ 661.9 How will the bridge project be funded/programmed once eligibility has been determined?

(a) Funding and/or programming of construction projects for IRR bridges would be based on the order of receipt of a complete application package, i.e., eligibility requirements met, PS&E package is complete, etc. All application packages would be placed in a queue upon submission to the BIADOT and date stamped. This submission queue would form the basis for prioritization during any fiscal year (FY). After the queue for the FY is filled up, that is, the IRRBP funding is used up, a queue for the following FY would be established.

(b) In those cases where application packages have arrived at the same time, application packages would be ranked and prioritized based on the following criteria:

- (1) Bridge sufficiency rating (SR);
- (2) Bridge status with structurally deficient (SD) having precedence over functionally obsolete (FO);
- (3) Bridges on school bus routes;
- (4) Detour length;
- (5) Average daily traffic; and
- (6) Truck average daily traffic.

§ 661.11 After a bridge project has been completed what happens with the excess or surplus funding?

Since the funding is project specific, once a bridge construction project has been completed under this program, any excess or surplus funding would be returned to BIADOT/FHWA for use on additional approved deficient IRR bridge projects.

§ 661.13 What restrictions are there on the use of the IRRBP funds?

The IRRBP funds can only be used for construction and construction engineering (CE) and may not be used for project development.

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§ 661.15 What is the total funding available for the IRR Bridge Program?

The statute provides a total program funding of not less than \$13 million for each fiscal year.

§ 661.17 When will these funds become available?

These funds become available on October 1 of each fiscal year.

§ 661.19 When does an eligible project receive funding?

The statute provides that these funds are provided after the Secretary of Transportation (FHWA) approves a completed PS&E.

§ 661.21 How long will these funds be available?

The statute provides that the funds for each fiscal year are available for the year authorized plus three years (a total of four years).

§ 661.23 What can these IRR bridge funds be used for?

The statute provides that these funds can be used to replace, rehabilitate, seismically retrofit, paint, apply calcium magnesium acetate to, apply sodium acetate/formate or other environmentally acceptable, minimally corrosive anti-icing and deicing compositions, or install scour countermeasures for deficient IRR bridges, including multiple pipe culverts.

§ 661.25 What are the criteria for bridge eligibility?

(a) Bridge eligibility requires the following:

- (1) Have an opening of 20 feet or more;
- (2) Be on an IRR;
- (3) Be unsafe because of structural deficiencies, physical deterioration or functional obsolescence; and
- (4) Be recorded in the national bridge inventory (NBI) maintained by the FHWA.

(b) Bridges that were constructed, rehabilitated or replaced in the last 10 years, will be eligible only for seismic retrofit or installation of scour countermeasures.