

erected over a depression or an obstruction, such as water, a highway, or a railway, and having a track or passageway for carrying traffic or other moving loads, and having an opening measured along the center of the roadway of more than 20 feet between undercopings of abutments or spring lines of arches, or extreme ends of the openings for multiple boxes; it may also include multiple pipes, where the clear distance between openings is less than half of the smaller contiguous opening.

Public authority means a Federal, State, county, town, or township, Indian tribe, municipal or other local government or instrumentality with authority to finance, build, operate, or maintain toll or toll-free facilities.

Public road means any road or street under the jurisdiction of and maintained by a public authority and open to public travel.

Structural deficient (SD) bridge means a bridge that has been restricted to light vehicles only, is closed or requires immediate rehabilitation to remain open.

Sufficiency rating (SR) means the numerical rating of a bridge based on its structural adequacy and safety, essentiality for public use, and its serviceability and functional obsolescence.

§661.7 What is the Indian Reservation Road Bridge Program (IRRBP)?

Section 202(d)(4) of title 23, U.S.C., establishes a nationwide priority program for improving deficient Indian reservation road (IRR) bridges and reserves not less than \$13 million of IRR 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.

§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.