

High Risk Rural Roads Program (HRRRP)
Updated December 17, 2012

STATUS: ACTIVE

PROGRAM CODE:

Currently, there is no specific funding or Program Code for the High Risk Rural Roads Special Rule in accordance with MAP-21 (P.L. 112-141). However, high risk rural road projects may still be funded with remaining High Risk Rural Road Program funds authorized under SAFETEA-LU using the following Program Codes:

- LS20 – High Risk Rural Road (SAFETEA-LU – P.L. 109-59)
- LS2E - High Risk Rural Road (SAFETEA-LU Extension – P.L. 111-068)
- LS2R - High Risk Rural Road (SAFETEA-LU Restored - P.L. 111-147 Sec. 413)

FEDERAL SHARE: 90 percent, subject to the sliding scale adjustment. Certain safety improvements are eligible for 100 percent Federal funding under 23 U.S.C. 120(c).

PERIOD AVAILABLE: FY + 3 Years

FUND: Highway Trust Fund

FUND DISTRIBUTION METHOD: Apportionment

AUTHORITY: Contract

SUBJECT TO OBLIGATION LIMITATION: Yes

STATUTORY REFERENCE: 23 U.S.C. §148(a)(1), (a)(4)(B)(xix), and (g)(1), as amended by MAP-21 Section 1112.

CFR REFERENCE: N/A

ELIGIBILITY: HRRRP funds, authorized under SAFETEA-LU, may be used to carry out construction and operational improvements on roadways functionally classified as a rural major or minor collector or a rural local road with significant safety risks, as defined by the State in accordance with an updated State Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

BACKGROUND: Section 1401 of the 2005 Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), Public Law 109-59, established the Highway Safety Improvement Program as a core Federal-aid funding program. The purpose of this new program is to achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads. As part of the HSIP SAFETEA-LU introduced a new set-aside provision, the High Risk Rural Roads Program (HRRRP), codified as 23 U.S.C. §148(f). The HRRRP provides \$90 million per year to the states from FY 2006 through FY 2009.

The purpose of the HRRRP is to achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and incapacitating injuries on major or minor collectors, and/or rural local roads. Pre-MAP-21 23 U.S.C. §148(a)(1) defined a high risk rural road as "*any roadway functionally classified a rural major or minor collector or rural local road on which the accident rate for fatalities and incapacitating injuries exceeds the statewide average for functional classes of roadway; or that will likely have increases in traffic volume that are likely to create an accident rate for fatalities and incapacitating injuries that exceeds the statewide average for those functional classes of roadway.*" As part of the HSIP annual reporting requirements, States are required to report on basic program information, methods used to select high risk rural roads, and detailed information assessing the HRRRP projects.

Section 1112 of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21, P.L. 112-141) amends 23 U.S.C. 148 and removes the HRRRP set-aside provision. 23 U.S.C. §148(a)(1) MAP-21 provides a revised definition of "High Risk Rural Road", but continues the inclusion of construction and operational improvements on high risk rural roads as an eligible HSIP project. The term 'high risk rural road' means any roadway functionally classified as a rural major or minor collector or a rural local road with significant safety risks, as defined by a State in accordance with an updated State strategic highway safety plan. While the SAFETEA-LU specific set-aside for high risk rural roads was not continued, MAP-21 does contain a special rule (23 U.S.C. 148(g)(1)) requiring additional obligation of funds for high risk rural road projects if the fatality rate on rural roads in a State increases over the most recent 2-year period for which data are available. The special rule requires the State to obligate, in the next fiscal year, an amount for high risk rural roads equal to at least 200 percent of the amount of funds the State received for fiscal year 2009 for high risk rural roads.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Contact the Office of Safety Programs (HSSP)