

NOTEABLE CHANGES to the 2027 Bridge Improvement Grant (BIG) Program

Summary of Changes

- ✓ Page 3: Objectives:
 - Relocated last sentence regarding funding not eligible for expansion of infrastructure to Page 12: Funding Responsibilities: State Bridge Improvement Grant (BIG) Funds.
- ✓ Page 4: Definitions:
 - Under “Bid Review Ready”
 - Revised “Note: Design costs are not eligible for payment when Bid Review Ready points are granted as part of the BIG Score.” to “When Bid Review Ready points are granted as part of the BIG Score, only construction and construction engineering costs are eligible for payment.”
 - Removed the reference of SDDOT letting the projects since all BIG’s are to be administered by the Local Public Agency.
 - Changed timeline to let projects to bid from 12 months after grant award to December 31 of the year of the grant award.
 - Added “Bid Review Ready points will only be awarded to projects that fully comply with these procedures without deviation.”
- ✓ Page 9: Definitions:
 - Under “Full Maintenance Road”
 - Added “For the purposes of the SD Bridge Improvement Grants, a Full Maintenance Road shall not contain any vegetation growing in the traveled way.”
 - Under “No Maintenance Road”
 - Added “Vehicle travel is not advised; however, roads with no maintenance designations are still open to public travel and can only be restricted by natural features. All manmade obstructions, including closed bridges, must be removed by LPA having jurisdiction or the LPA shall address the remediation of the obstruction such that public access is maintained.”
- ✓ Page 11: Funding Responsibilities:
 - Under “State Bridge Improvement Grant (BIG) Funds”
 - Added starting in middle of 6th line: “Projects that expand infrastructure with creation of new routes on new alignments are not eligible for BIG funds, however, consideration will be given to proposals that relocate eligible structures on new routes.”
 - Last sentence changed to require requests for deviations to be submitted at least 90 days prior to the grant application deadline.
- ✓ Page 13: Screening Criteria: All Projects:
 - Under “Bridge Function” added “must be fully maintained (see definition of Full Maintenance Road) and” to the 3rd-4th lines. Added “For applications where a bridge has been closed or significantly load-restricted for an extended period—resulting in normal ADT using a detour route and the roadway leading to the bridge not being fully maintained—the LPA must include meeting minutes with their application documenting public discussions among all involved parties regarding each entity’s responsibilities for fully maintaining the roadway and bridge once the repair or replacement is completed.”

- ✓ Page 14: Screening Criteria: All Projects:
 - Under “Wheel Tax” added clarification that this requirement does not apply to cities and towns.
- ✓ Page 22: Preservation Grants
 - Under “Quality of Project” In third line changed “low sufficiency” to “good or fair condition”.
- ✓ Page 27: Sign
 - Specified that the BIG sign applies to preservation, rehabilitation, and replacement projects and that SDDOT will furnish the signs at no cost to the LPA and they will be installed by the contractor.
- ✓ Page 27: Application Submittal
 - Added that requests for deviations need to be submitted 90 days prior to application deadline and that written notice of deviation approvals be included with the application.
 - Specified that grant applications are due by midnight Central Time of each submittal deadline.

Appendix A

- A-20 through A-23: Updated Examples 3 & 4 of Foundations and Undercut Recommendations.