

PROJECT ASSESSMENT

PROCEDURE BULLETIN

BULLETIN 98-001

09/18/98

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HEADING: GENERAL

SUBJECT: OPERATING PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The Certification Acceptance Procedure has been replaced by the Operating Partnership Agreement.

The ADOT - FHWA Operating Partnership is an agreement between the Arizona Department of Transportation and the Arizona Division of the Federal Highway Administration regarding the administration of Federal - aid transportation projects in the State of Arizona.

Previously, all federally funded projects ,except for the Interstate, were administered under Certification Acceptance Procedure. Now under the Operating Partnership Agreement there are three different categories. The attached Summary Tables (Attachment 3) shows FHWA's involvement through the project development for all three Categories.

The determination for FHWA's involvement (Category type) will be made during the annual five year transportation plan update. (Your supervisor has a copy of the marked up 1999 Tentative Five Year Plan.)

Under "Other Requirements" in the PA the new statement should be as follows:

"The project will be administered under the Operating Partnership Agreement under Category X."

The three different categories under the Operating Partnership Agreement are as follows:

- Category A - Full FHWA Administration
- Category B - Partial FHWA Administration
- Category P - Full ADOT Administration

(FHWA must approve all Environmental documents for all Categories.)

Category A is limited to Federal - aid projects involving new construction and reconstruction of the Interstate System with cost greater than 1 million dollars. This category does not include 3R projects (pavement preservation) and other minor operational or safety improvements. However, projects which involve changes in access control, and projects which reduce existing conditions do require FHWA review and approval of the Change of Access report and design exceptions

Category B is limited to a few Federal - aid projects in two distinct areas:

1. Certain 3R (pavement preservation) projects on the Interstate which are generally with cost exceeding 5 million or involving new and innovative construction materials or other very unusual features.
2. New construction and major reconstruction on the non-Interstate National Highway System, generally exceeding 5 million. Examples would be new freeways on the MAG System, the reconstruction, realignment, dividing and widening of SR 87 or US 93 or widening of US 60.

Category P include all other Federal - aid projects on the Interstate System, all other Federal - aid projects on the NHS (including new and reconstruction projects not specifically selected for Category B and all Federal - aid projects not on the NHS.

Early consultation with FHWA Area and/or District Engineer concerning FHWA desires for Federal oversight should be made at the scoping stage.

Also attached is the new Project Determination sheet. The Operating Partnership category has been added and two new categories are shown. N/A for state funded projects and U for undetermined, this category will be determined later during the project development process.

Also, the environmental determination has been changed from category to class. The attached sheet form the Action Plan (sheet 21) shows the three types of Class of projects that are to be used on the Project Determination sheet.