

Why Local Public Agencies Are Not Using Federal Funds To The Maximum An Introductory Statement

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At the 1985 Road School a series of talks were given to help county Local Public Agencies (LPA) to make better use of available federal funds to construct and improve county roads and bridges. The talks were given primarily by the Local Assistance Division of the Indiana Department of Highways (IDOH).

The Division of Local Assistance is concerned over the increasing balance of federal funds available for county road improvement. In the Road School talks and in the following papers the increasing balance of available federal funds are discussed—see the following papers entitled, “Federal-Aid Highway Funds for Local Public Agencies” and “Local Public Agency Report—Federal-Aid Highway Funds”. [The first page of this report follows—a complete copy of the 19-page report can be obtained from the Division of Local Assistance, IDOH, State Office Building, 100 N. Senate, Indianapolis, IN 46204.]

The report lists the allocations and carry-over for federal fiscal years 1984 and 1985 of the different categories of federal funds available to local agencies. The report also lists the counties and cities that used federal funds and the amount used during fiscal year 1984. The beginning balances in Bridge Replacement, Rural Secondary, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, South Bend, Louisville and Northwest Indiana Group 1 Urban, and Railroad Crossing funds are all greater than the beginning of 1984. Why is this happening? With the need of highway funding for all local agencies why are the balances of federal funds not decreasing?

In the following papers three gentlemen from different areas and points of view in the federal-aid process give their ideas of the reasons local agencies are not using the available federal funds to the maximum. Ideas expressed are based on view points from the IDOH, a Local Public Agency, and a consultant. The ideas expressed by them are not necessarily those of the IDOH, Hancock County, or United Consulting Engineers. What they express is what they believe are the problems at the state level, local level, and consulting level that the funds are not being used to the maximum. Each of the three papers in the following pages have

a common title of “Why LPAs Are Not Using Federal Funds To The Maximum” and subtitles of—Part I, Part II, Part III.

Also at the 1985 Road School the Local Assistance Division told the county road officials of new employees designated as IDOH District Local Assistance Coordinators. These new coordinators will help the LPAs with their federal-aid projects. One of the following papers entitled “District Local Assistance Coordinators” provides a list of duties of the coordinators, the name of each coordinator, and the IDOH District where he is located.

Three more papers that follow which should be helpful to the LPAs are: “Agreement Procedures for LPA Projects”, “R/W Procedures for LPA Projects”, and “Planning Your Federal-Aid Program”.