

Why Local Public Agencies Do Not Use Federal-Aid Funds to the Maximum Part II—County View

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LONG LEAD TIME REQUIRED

Longer lead time required is longer than many officials' terms in office.

Few agencies have long continuity in the departments which determine the need for improvements and stay to see the improvements through to construction.

Too frequently officials are satisfied to "give it a slick top coat" and don't appreciate the need for improving base, drainage, or shoulder safety.

LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEED FOR COMPLETE PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Many public officials have never been faced with the problem of fulfilling the legal requirements to prepare plans for a construction project, particularly the type of plans required for an IDOH bid taking.

The requirement forces the public official to lose direct control or direction of the project as "engineers in Indianapolis" start dictating how the project will be designed.

The plans and specifications may soon become too complicated for the local public official to fully understand, increasing the tendency to shun federal-aid plans.

LACK OF DEDICATED FUNDS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The operation of a maintenance force requires all or most of the funds available.

It becomes very hard to set aside a large sum of money for the matching funds when they become due.

The loss of dedicated funds for highway improvements occurred when the legislature released the R&S Fund to purchase materials for highway maintenance.

The development of "sinking funds" seem to be a difficult problem with local finances as they are.

RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION—A DIFFICULT DEED FOR MANY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Many times it takes farm land out of production and results in more roadside to maintain.

Often it may involve acquiring property from friends or relatives.

The cost is seen as spending much money in “unproductive” enterprise when much resurfacing could be accomplished.

The prospect of going to court to resolve matters of disagreement seems an unpopular political thing to do.