

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
High Profile Project Oversight Agreement for
The 6th Street Viaduct in the City of Los Angeles
EA# _____

2/21/08

On September 4, 2007, a new Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Stewardship and Oversight (Stewardship/Oversight) Agreement was signed. Under the new Stewardship/Oversight Agreement, the FHWA and Caltrans will utilize a risk-based approach to project-level management that no longer uses the \$1,000,000 threshold to determine FHWA stewardship and oversight. This risk-based approach to project oversight will be conducted in two steps: 1) selecting the projects that traditionally pose a risk to the health of the Federal-aid Highway Program (High Profile projects) and 2) within the High Profile projects, further delegating approval authorities in activities that pose a low risk to the individual projects.

A Major Project is defined as having a total project cost of greater than \$500 million. Under the Stewardship/Oversight Agreement, all Major Projects are considered "High Profile" Projects. Each "High Profile" project will have a Project Responsibility List developed to define which approval actions are to be handled by FHWA or Caltrans/Local Agency. Other areas of Federal involvement and/or approval actions for this project are summarized in this agreement and include periodic attendance at Project Development meetings when requested by the local agency and parallel design reviews working in conjunction with DLAE reviews.

FHWA Project Personnel and Resources for Oversight:

An FHWA Project Oversight Manager (POM) has been assigned for the oversight of this project. The POM will be responsible for all project actions and approvals, with the guidance of the FHWA Division Office management and the assistance of other FHWA personnel. Division Office specialists will be available for project reviews and technical assistance in order to provide expeditious reviews and approvals of project actions. Oversight will be conducted through project inspections, review of project data and various other means. The U.S.D.O.T. Office of Inspector General may also perform audits of project costs and other financial data as required.

Reporting Requirements:

The FHWA POM will be responsible for providing periodic updates of the costs and schedules of the project to FHWA Headquarters and the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) – Office of the Secretary. Briefings will also be provided to assist various agencies with tracking information. The Project Management team will provide the POM with quarterly updates at a minimum (using all available information) with respect to project cost and scheduling to assist with this task. Along with the quarterly updates, the FHWA POM will attend regular meetings to discuss the project's progress including any unforeseen circumstances.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project consists of Sixth Street Viaduct over Los Angeles River, it is a Seismic Retrofit project, The total length of the structure is 3,168 feet long from San Mateo Street in the west to the I-5 Freeway in the east. The structure consists of two main spans across the Los Angeles River that consists of asymmetrical steel through arches. The approach structure utilizes cast-in-place concrete girders with variable depth supported by concrete columns. The total estimated project cost is estimated to be \$168 million dollars (assuming the replacement strategy is chosen in the NEPA document)

PROJECT-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Oversight activities specific to this project are detailed in Attachment A. Items not addressed by the Project Responsibilities List that pertain to this project are discussed below.

Since this project has not yet completed the NEPA phase, the approval actions to be taken by FHWA, as indicated in Attachment A, may be delegated to Caltrans when the project has advanced enough to more accurately determine low-risk activities in later phases. Should a decision be made after NEPA but prior to construction that significantly changes the project's risks.

As of date of signing the project level agreement, this project may proceed as a design-build. Whether or not alternative contracting methods or standard federal-aid contracting methods are utilized, another evaluation of approval action responsibilities will be necessary.

Planning:

FHWA has ensured that the Project is included in a conforming Transportation Improvement Plan.

Environment:

Caltrans remains responsible for this project which has not been excluded from the assumption of NEPA responsibilities.

Design:

Conduct preliminary design reviews as needed, and review and approval of project PS & E prior to authorization for construction.

Right of Way:

See Attachment A

Construction:

The FHWA POM is responsible for FHWA construction oversight. This oversight may include routine inspections throughout the life of the project. FHWA approval for Major Contract change orders is retained and will be implemented per the Caltrans Construction Manual Procedure 5-308B (1) Federal Highway Administration Involvement Requirements – Major Contract Change Orders.

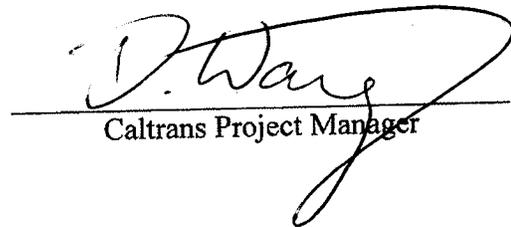
Plan of Finance:

The initial Finance Plan will be submitted to FHWA as early as possible but no later than ninety days prior to authorization of funds for construction. Updates to the initial plan will be provided to the FHWA Division Office and the FHWA Major Projects Team by the annual submission date established in the Initial Finance Plan for each subsequent year until all construction is completed.

Project Management Plan

A draft Project Management Plan (PMP) will be submitted to FHWA prior to finalization of the NEPA decision document. The final PMP will be due 90 days after completion of NEPA. The final PMP will be approved by the FHWA California Division, in concurrence with the FHWA Headquarters Major Projects Team. Updates to the PMP will be completed and submitted on a regular basis if significant changes occur to the project cost and/or schedule.


FHWA Project Oversight Manager


Caltrans Project Manager