

Safe and cost effective highway construction projects		Agency/Program #: 5401-02-G1
		Division: Construction
		Program: Construction
Agency Name:	Department of Transportation	
Agency Contact:	Jim Lynch or Jim Currie	406/444/6201
LFC Contact:	Rep. Sesso and Rep. Taylor	
LFD Liaison:	Greg DeWitt	444-5392
OBPP Liaison:	James Chamberlain	444-1334

Program or Project Description:

Appropriation, Expenditure and Source					Approp & Expenditure numbers are as of April 15, 2008
Fund Name:	2008		2009		
	Approp.	Expended	Approp.	Expended	
General Fund					
State Special					
Federal Funds					
Total:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	

Legislative Goal(s):

To survey, design, acquire the right-of-way, and construct safe, cost effective highway improvement projects in order to develop and maintain a cost effective, efficient and safe transportation system.

Legislative Performance Measures :

2009 Biennium Significant Milestones:

Completion Dates
Target Actual

<p>1 The TCP is divided by various funding categories and five financial districts across the state. The performance measure is subdivided by category and then aggregated for a total performance measure. Each quarter projects actually let to contract are compared to the plan. The performance measure is based on the state fiscal year however the TCP runs on the federal fiscal year so they are out of phase with each other. The first quarter of the state fiscal year coincides with the fourth quarter of the federal fiscal year. The calculation is the number of projects let to contract divided by the number of contracts currently in the plan in any given quarter and reported as a percentage.</p>		
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Agency Performance Report:

The measurements occur each quarter and correlate to the TCP plan. All projects within the current plan period under measurement have been let.

LFD Narrative:

LFD ASSESSMENT - Unable to determine outcomes (information provided only indicates output or performance against a plan)
 DATA RELEVANCE - The information provided is relevant only to the output portions of the goal that states, "To survey, design, acquire the right-of-way, and construct". The information doesn't address the outcomes stated in the goal, "to develop and maintain a cost effective, efficient and safe transportation system".
 APPROPRIATION STATUS - No appropriation or expenditure information was provided.
 ISSUES - The following performance measure is reported by the department:
 Approximately 80+% of projects planned for the fiscal year are ready for contract.

According to the department the basis for the performance measure listed above is the Tentative Construction Plan (TCP). The TCP is a five-year balance fiscal plan of construction projects using federal aid. Each year the TCP is renewed and the fifth year is added in as the current year closes. Since it is a federal program it runs on the federal fiscal year and is greatly influenced by the federal transportation bill in effect at the time. The magnitude of the bill is between \$200 and \$250 million each year.

On an annual basis the Planning Division in conjunction with the District offices nominates and obtains Commission approval to work on a sufficient number and dollar amount of projects to maintain performance indicators describes elsewhere (smooth pavements, bridge condition, safety etc.). The Construction Division actively maintains the schedule of on average 600 design projects. Project design duration is between 7 months for simple overlays and to 7-8 years for complex reconstruction projects. A complex scheduling software (OPX2) is used to track each project individually and its complex flowchart. The system used the critical path method to track project delivery. The Department on a continuous basis conducts meetings to review various reports delivered by OPX2. Issues are identified and resolved to ensure delivery of 120 to 150 construction projects worth \$200 to \$250 million each year.

In order to provide OUTCOME measures the next step would be to report on trended measures of pavement smoothness, bridge condition, safety, etc. Simply reporting on delivery of planned projects provides only a piece of the information to determine if the funds expended provide the outcome to the highway users that the legislature intends when it funds agency operations.

OPTIONS – The working group may want to consider the following for this goal:

1. Direct the agency to provide appropriations and associated expenditure information
2. Receive an update on this goal at its October meeting
3. Request that the department report on OUTCOME measures that describe conditions of the highway infrastructure, such as trend information on pavement smoothness, bridge condition, accident trends determined to be due to highway design factors.

Version	Date	Author
LFD June 08	5/21/2008	G. DeWitt

Change Description
Insert agency performance report and added LFD Narrative