

Eligible Uses of Metropolitan Planning (PL) Funds

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August 28, 2007

Legislation

- 23 USC 104 – Funding Source
- 23 USC 134 – Metropolitan Planning
- 23 USC 135 – Statewide Planning
- 23 USC 303 – Management Systems
- 23 USC 505 – State Planning & Research

23 USC 134

Metropolitan Planning Organizations

“shall develop transportation plans and programs for urbanized areas of the State.”

Regulations

- 23 CFR 420 – Planning and Research
- 23 CFR 450
 - Subpart B – Statewide Planning
 - Subpart C – Metropolitan Planning

Guidance

- FHWA - “A Guide to Federal-Aid Programs and Projects: Current Programs and Projects”

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/federalaid/projects.cfm?progProj=curr>

-or-

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/federalaid/projects.pdf>

Examples of Eligible Projects

- Traffic counts – both highway and transit
- Corridor studies
- Economic studies
- Safety studies
- Research* and technology transfer activities
- Management systems (congestion, pavement, bridge, etc.)

* Research is generally funded by SPR funds

Ineligible Projects

- ROW acquisition
- Preliminary engineering
- NEPA documentation*
- Construction
- Non-Title 23 projects

*Some air quality requirements fall under planning, and can be used for NEPA purposes –
23 CFR 450.318

Eligible or ineligible?

- Identifying current and future major employment and economic development centers in the region
- Eligible – data developed to identify transportation facilities needed to serve employment centers

Eligible or ineligible?

- Studying the economic impacts of a new employee health care plan
- Ineligible – not Title 23 (transportation)

Eligible or ineligible?

- Studying the health impacts of greenhouse gases on the region's population
- Ineligible – not Title 23 (transportation)

Eligible or ineligible?

- Studying the aggregate amount of ozone precursors emitted by the region's transportation system
- Eligible – meets conformity requirement

Eligible or ineligible?

- Preparing plats or surveys for a new bridge
- Ineligible – preliminary engineering

Eligible or ineligible?

- Assembling a bridge management system to assess and monitor the condition of the region's bridge structures
- Eligible – management systems

Eligible or ineligible?

- Conducting public outreach on a project to meet NEPA requirements (e.g. EIS open house)
- Ineligible – preliminary engineering and project development

Eligible or ineligible?

- Conducting public outreach on the transportation planning process in the region
- Eligible – TIP and Plan development

Eligible or ineligible?

- Conducting a safety analysis of fatal crashes in the region
- Eligible – safety studies

Eligible or ineligible?

- Creating contract plans to install countdown pedestrian timers
- Ineligible – PE/project development/construction

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