

David Waldner



TRANSPORTATION CABINET

Frankfort, Kentucky 40622

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Ernie Fletcher
Governor

Bill Nighbert
Acting Secretary

MEMORANDUM

Jim Adams
Deputy Secretary

TO: State Highway Engineer, Deputy State Highway Engineers,
Assistant State Highway Engineers, Chief District Engineers,
and Division Directors

Marc Williams
Commissioner of Highways

FROM: Marc D. Williams, P.E.
Commissioner of Highways

Dan Druen
Commissioner of
Administrative Services

DATE: April 29, 2005

Paul Steely
Commissioner of Aviation

SUBJECT: Purpose and Need Guidance for Maintenance and Operations

Roy Mundy
Commissioner of
Vehicle Regulation

The vision of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet is to provide a safe, secure, and reliable transportation system that supports existing and future economic development, national competitiveness, and overall quality of life. We must achieve this vision in a manner that insures that we are providing the value, need, and service demanded by our system and those served by it.

The purpose of Department of Highway projects, programs, and activities is to address the problems that affect the overall operation and preservation of the transportation system and its infrastructure. In other words, our goal is to optimize the performance of the transportation system in alignment with the Cabinet's vision, mission, and goals. The problems are identified as we plan, operate, and maintain the transportation system. These same activities provide the factual data that help justify the scope of the effort and the expenditure of public funds to address the problems.

Recent guidance on purpose and need statements issued by the Commissioner of Highways raised some questions as to whether all projects, programs, and activities require individual purpose and need statements. These questions were specifically raised pertaining to maintenance and operational activities and projects. Almost all operational and maintenance activities and projects will not require individual purpose and need statements if they are identified through a program that evaluates the system infrastructure, quantifies the problem, and prioritizes the needs. Individual purpose and need statements may be needed for projects that involve U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit applications, historic bridge rehabilitation, and Interstate rehab and resurfacing.

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The Office of System Preservation and Operations, which includes the Divisions of Maintenance, Traffic Operations, and Equipment, includes many programs whose objectives are to optimize the preservation, safety, quality and operation of transportation system and its infrastructure. These programs include:

- The FEO1 Routine Maintenance Program, which includes daily routine maintenance activities such as litter removal, mowing, pothole repairs, guardrail repair/replacement, and snow/ice removal, does not require individual purpose and need statements. These activities are done in order to maintain and preserve a safe and reliable transportation system and infrastructure. This program uses the Maintenance Rating Program to grade how well the system is being maintained. It is also used to identify deficiencies and guide where maintenance efforts need to be focused.
- The FDO5 State Resurfacing Program focuses on the preservation of the pavement infrastructure of the state-maintained highway system. The resurfacing projects are done in order to provide a quality, safe and reliable transportation system and infrastructure. The Pavement Management process collects data on pavement conditions. This data is used to prioritize resurfacing projects based upon the condition of the pavement and type of treatment required to address the condition.
- The purpose of the FEO2 Bridge Maintenance Program is to preserve and maintain the bridge infrastructure of the state-maintained highway system. Bridge maintenance projects are conducted in order to provide a quality, safe and reliable transportation system and to preserve the existing infrastructure. The Cabinet's bridge inspection program collects data on the condition of bridges on the state-maintained highway system. This data is used to define the needs and priorities of the bridge maintenance program.
- The FEO6 New Guardrail Program addresses the safety of the state-maintained highway system. This program evaluates and prioritizes requests for new guardrail locations throughout the state-maintained highway system.
- The purpose of the FEO7 Welcome Center/Rest Area Maintenance and Operation Program is to operate, preserve and maintain the welcome centers and rest areas located along the state transportation system. In doing so we contribute to the overall safety of the transportation system,

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- local and regional tourism, and the quality of the driving experience on our highway system.
- The purpose of the FEO4 Traffic Operations Program is to preserve and improve the safety, reliability, and operational efficiency of the state-maintained transportation system. Activities in this program include, but are not limited to, the installation of traffic control devices, the highway safety program, traveler information including the 511 telephone system, and Intelligent Transportation System projects and activities.

While the Purpose and Need Statement Guidance applies to all Department of Highway projects, programs, and activities, individual purpose and need statements are not required for projects and activities that come out of the programs listed above. The statements presented above for each program serve as programmatic purpose and need statements for those projects and activities.

MDW:JM:JP

C: John Mettill, CEPA