

Constructing and Maintaining BOLD Highway Landscape Projects

Even the very best landscape project designs, with the most skilled construction contractors and inspectors, need routine landscape maintenance meeting the performance requirements defined in the landscape plans (See section [Volume I, Section 9.2 of the Plans Preparation Manual](#)). Many landscape projects can meet or exceed the maintenance requirements through enforcement of the specified establishment period (See [Sub-Section 580-5 Standard Specification for Road and Bridge Construction](#)) and the agreements with local maintaining agencies.

For construction contracts that contain landscaping as part of the work, the current 580 specification with 1-year establishment period following Final Acceptance of the work will be used. If the District is able to enter into a maintenance agreement with a municipality for the care of the landscaping, the project can be accepted without the 1-year establishment period and the maintenance responsibilities being handled by the agreeing municipality. If this maintenance agreement is in place, the District would need to work with its District Specifications office to submit a modified specification for approval deleting the 1-year establishment period.

To construct **BOLD** stand-alone landscape projects, as described in the [Business of Beautification](#), Operations Centers may choose to use maintenance contracts lasting five, ten, or more years. Contracts should describe a schedule of payments during construction and the date for final acceptance of the construction phase. In addition, the maintenance contract will describe the performance requirements and schedule of payment for maintenance for the duration of the contract. During the critical establishment period and beyond, the landscape contractor will be responsible and accountable. This contracting method will allow the Districts to execute **BOLD** landscape projects in spite of the absence of a local agency ability to take responsibility for maintenance after the one year establishment period. Using the **BOLD** approach of *many large trees and few if any shrubs*, the cost of maintaining these landscapes over long periods of time should not be considerably more than the cost of maintaining other “forested” roadsides.