

Purpose: To provide guidance on pipe selection for LAP projects.

Details: The Federal Highway Administration has changed the requirements for optional pipe material usage for federally funded projects. Effective on contracts for which the “notice of intent to award” was issued on or after October 1, 2012, each state, at its sole discretion, may or may not choose to include provisions for the usage of optional pipe material.

For on-system LAP projects, as long as the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) service life requirements are met, the local agency may select the pipe type. The [Optional Pipe Handbook](#), [Culvert Service Life Estimator](#), and [Chapter 6 of Drainage Manual](#) are available resources to aid in making the pipe material selection.

For off-system projects, since these are not maintained by FDOT, the selected pipe type is to be made of the proper material for the environment.

If an agency had developed their project with the intent of using local funds to pay for the pipe work for where the pipe material is specified, this work would now be eligible for federal funds (if budget exists to reimburse for this work).

References: [MAP-21 Interim Policy Guidance, Question 30](#); [FHWA Construction Contract Provisions FAQs, Question 3](#); FDOT Reference Materials: [Optional Pipe Handbook](#); [Culvert Service Life Estimator](#); [Chapter 6 of Drainage Manual](#)

Exceptions: The local agency may choose to use the optional pipe methodology on LAP projects as this change does not prohibit use, but allows use at the discretion of the contracting agency.