

CHAPTER 25 - MAINTENANCE

25.1 OVERVIEW

In order to ensure that transportation facilities developed using Federal funds continue to operate safely with no loss of function during their lives, Federal law requires that they be properly maintained for the useful life of the project (**23 CFR 1.27 and 23 USC 116**). Useful life is defined in this context as: to perform normal maintenance operations for the preservation of the entire project, including roadway surface, shoulders, roadsides, structures, and such traffic control devices as are necessary for its safe and efficient use.

When the project is on a local roadway system or “off-system” the Local Agency and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) each have responsibilities in this area: the Local Agency maintains the projects, and FHWA reviews the Local Agency's maintenance efforts. Off-system projects are defined as projects not located on the State Highway System (SHS) and includes those projects located on the National Highway System (NHS) but off the SHS.

When the project is on the SHS, the Department will generally maintain any improvements; unless otherwise stipulated in the terms of the LAP Agreement between the Department and the Local Agency. A common example of when the Department would not maintain an improvement constructed on the SHS are streetscaping (including landscaping) projects where an agency may install stamped crosswalks and other features that the Department would not typically construct and not be in a position to maintain.

In accordance with **Section 116, Title 23 U.S.C.**, the Local Agency agrees in the **LAP Agreement (Form No. 525-010-40)**, **section 13.13** to maintain the projects completed. In addition, any special considerations by the Department or alternate maintenance requirements shall be designated in **Exhibit A** of the **LAP Agreement**. Maintenance activities and related pay items are not eligible for reimbursement under the Federal-Aid Highway Program. The agency should budget for future maintenance and operations costs with local funds, including landscaping related costs. Maintenance bonds as a condition of Local Agency construction contracts are not eligible for reimbursement.

The Local Agency will be contacted in the event reports of deficiencies in the maintenance of the local projects are received by the Department.

25.2 MAINTAINING INSPECTION OF BRIDGES

The FDOT inspects all bridges in the State of Florida both on-system and off-system.

FDOT provides each local government with copies of their inspection reports. The local governments should maintain these reports to be responsive to Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) requests for bridge rehabilitation, replacement, or enhancement designations. When necessary from these inspections and subsequent load ratings, FDOT provides bridge posting information to the local agency owner. The owner must also provide and promptly install the appropriate signage, according to the MUTCD.

25.3 RESOURCES

[LAP Agreement \(Form No. 525-010-40\)](#)