



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

NEBRASKA DIVISION

March 28, 2012

100 Centennial Mall North
Room 220
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402)742-8460

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-NE

Larry L. Legg
Secondary Roads Engineer
Nebraska Department of Roads
Lincoln, NE

Dear Mr. Legg:

RE: Soft Match County Balance Review

This letter is in response to your March 7, 2012 letter regarding the soft match program.

FHWA recently concurred with the plan to reinstate soft match balances for those counties with no "source" projects since the implementation of the 2004 Soft Match Policy. As was identified in your letter, the following 13 counties have not had any source projects since the implementation of the 2004 Soft Match Policy. FHWA has reviewed your request to reinstate soft match credits and concurs with the balances submitted in your letter. As of the date of this letter, these counties will be allowed to resume using the soft match credits they have accrued.

It is our understanding that some of the 13 counties intend to use their soft match credit to help pay for ongoing bridge inspections. Soft match credits can be used for the ongoing inspections, future inspections or for upcoming county bridge replacement projects. Please work with these counties to ensure that they are aware of their current credit balance and any pending invoices, if applicable.

As submitted by NDOR, the attached table lists each county and the soft match credit balance accumulated before 7/14/2004. The second column is an estimated cost of the NBIS(095) fracture critical bridge inspections for each county. The third column shows the 20% match the locals will need to provide for their fracture critical inspections.

Importantly, please recognize that estimated costs contained within the table could change. The fracture critical bridge inspection cost is an estimate and actual costs may vary. Moreover, additional bridges could be added for inspection. This should be monitored closely and provided to each county for planning purposes.

In summary, FHWA concurs that the counties identified above can resume the use of soft match credit balances that were accumulated before 7/14/2004. We commend NDOR on their commitment to resolve the issues identified in the Soft Match Bridge Review and look forward

to working with NDOR and the counties to reinstate the Soft Match Bridge Program for all remaining counties.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 402-742-8477.

Sincerely yours,



Nicholas O. Finch
Local Programs Engineer

Enclosure

Status of Soft Match Balance for Selected Counties

County	Pre 7/14/2004 Balance as of NDOR Submission 11/21/2011	Estimated Cost NBIS(095) - Fracture Critical Bridge Inspections of Local Systems	Estimated County share of NBIS(095) - Fracture Critical Bridge Inspections of Local Systems (20%)
Dakota	\$ 133,425.65	\$ 1,601.00	\$ 320.20
Dawson	\$ 73,351.79	\$ 13,864.00	\$ 2,772.80
Douglas	\$ 79,210.06	\$ -	\$ -
Gage	\$ 328,343.38	\$ 67,931.00	\$ 13,586.20
Garfield	\$ 39,048.13	\$ -	\$ -
Greeley	\$ 23,247.85	\$ 1,585.00	\$ 317.00
Howard	\$ 19,208.41	\$ 16,665.00	\$ 3,333.00
Kearney	\$ 43,405.72	\$ -	\$ -
Loop	\$ 4,643.64	\$ -	\$ -
Red Willow	\$ 1,286.24	\$ 1,096.00	\$ 219.20
Scottsbluff	\$ 21,116.32	\$ -	\$ -
Sioux	\$ 472.50	\$ 3,063.00	\$ 612.60
Wheeler	\$ 57,503.21	\$ -	\$ -

