



Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ROADS

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March 1, 2012

Mr. Nick Finch
Local Programs Engineer
Federal Highway Administration
100 Centennial Mall North, Room 220
Lincoln, NE 68508-3803

RE: Soft Match "Source" Project Review Proposal

Dear Mr. Finch,

NDOR is in the process of conducting eligibility reviews of soft match "source" projects in order to certify soft match balances. We have begun the reviews of the specific projects which had findings referenced in the FIRE report and are in the process of scheduling reviews of the soft match "source" projects of the counties with Federal bridge projects in the 2012 program. Following these earliest reviews, we will conduct reviews of all other counties in Nebraska with soft match balances.

As some of the counties have more than 20 "source" projects, we propose to review the most recent 25% of the "source" projects as well as one project from the first 25% of "source" projects after 2004.

Upon completion of each review with no significant findings, we propose to reinstate that county's soft match balance for use on their 2012 Federal bridge projects.

In the event that a review produces significant findings that cannot be corrected, we will disallow the ineligible amount and conduct a complete review of all post 2004 source projects.

For those counties with no "source" projects since 2004, eligibility reviews are unnecessary. We propose to reinstate those soft match balances effective immediately.

Further, in regards to the eligibility of drop pipes, The Nebraska Department of Roads asserts that the drop pipe called out in the 2004 Soft-Match Bridge Program Policies refers to the drop pipe culverts as described in the NDOR Drainage and Erosion Control Manual, Section 7.G.1. We would ask that these drop pipe culverts remain eligible as was the intent when the policy was written.

NDOR requests FHWA concurrence with these proposals.

Sincerely,

Larry L. Legg
Secondary Roads Engineer
Local Projects Division