

CE Expert System

Project Funding and Fiscal Constraint

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Q: *What does the project funding table on the package document demonstrate?*

A: The funding table helps demonstrate that full funding is reasonably available to complete the project. Reasonably assured full funding to complete a project is required before FHWA or PennDOT can approve a CE.

Q: *What demonstration of fiscal constraint is required before NEPA approval?*

A: There are three criteria that apply to nearly all CE projects:

- 1) The entire project costs must be shown in the region's fiscally-constrained long range transportation plan (LRTP)
- 2) At least **one project phase** beyond preliminary engineering (e.g. final design, ROW, utilities, or construction) must be programmed on the TIP.
- 3) The programmed amounts by phase on the TIP are reasonably close to the project estimates on the A:Eng form.

The project funding table helps demonstrate fiscal constraint:

For a project with ...	The funding table demonstrates ...
... funding programmed for final design and construction (utilities and ROW, if needed) on the TIP.	... full project funding through construction. No additional action is needed to demonstrate fiscal constraint <i>as long as the programmed values are reasonably close to the estimated values on A:Eng.</i>
... funding programmed for any phase subsequent to PE, but not including construction on the TIP.	... sufficient funds programmed on the TIP for NEPA approval <i>if the full project funding is identified in the LRTP.</i> Use Remarks to provide a detailed reference to the project in the LRTP.
... no funding identified for phases subsequent to PE on the TIP.	... CE cannot be approved in most cases. Use Remarks to provide a detailed reference to the project in the current LRTP and coordinate with FHWA.

Q: *What is needed in the Remarks to demonstrate full project funding on the LRTP?*

A: Provide a detailed reference to the project in the LRTP financial plan.

Some examples:

- Project is listed as "Market Street Corridor Improvements" on page X-7 for \$17,700,000 total cost in the 2015-2020 timeframe.
- Project draws \$1.2 million down from the \$50 million State Bridges line item on page X-9 for the 2015-2020 timeframe.

Q: Where can I find the information from the LRTP?

A: Work with your district's planning and programming manager.

Q: How up-to-date is the TIP information from the MPMS?

A: The CE system queries the most recent MPMS information when a project is added to a package. Users must use the Refresh Data button to get updated information from MPMS. This is especially warranted when creating an Evaluation/Reevaluation from an existing Scoping/Evaluation, respectively. It is good practice to refresh the data if nobody has worked on a package for some time or when CE preparation spans a TIP update.

Changes made in MPMS are immediately available for refresh in CEES. When submitting a package, the system will compare the funding data in the CEES against that in MPMS for a project. If the current MPMS funding data is different, the system will generate an error that the funding table does not reflect the most recent data in MPMS. The Refresh Data button must be used to obtain the latest funding information.

When submitting a package, if the funding table reflects that one or more projects/MPMS numbers associated with the package do not have construction funding identified, a notification box will appear with a reminder to provide remarks to demonstrate full project funding.