# FHWA'S EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM

New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Conference





## **Emergency Relief Program Contacts**

- NJDOT Contact First
  - Your Local Aid District
    - District 1 (Northwest Counties): 973–601–6700
    - District 2 (Northeast Counties): 973–877–1500
    - District 3 (Central Counties): 732–625–4290
    - District 4 (Southern Counties): 856–486–6618

#### LAW AND REGULATION

- Title 23, United States Code, Sections 120(e) and 125
- 23 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 668 –
   Emergency Relief Program

The above can be found at the following link:

http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/





## **Emergency Relief Manual**

- FHWA's ER Manual (May2013) covers eligibility and procedures in more detail
- Manual is available on the Internet at the following link:

http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/reports
/erm/er.pdf





#### ER FUNDS ARE USED FOR:

- NATURAL DISASTERS SUCH AS FLOODS, HURRICANES, SEVERE STORMS
- CATASTROPHIC FAILURES FROM AN EXTERNAL CAUSE
- DAMAGE ON FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAYS ONLY





### Repair Types

- Emergency or Temporary Repairs
- Permanent Repairs





#### INTENT OF EMERGENCY WORK

The intent of emergency repairs is to permit immediate performance of work that cannot wait for finding of eligibility and project programming.

Purpose is to <u>restore essential traffic, minimize</u> the extent of damage, or protect the remaining facilities.









#### **Emergency Work**

Protecting Remaining Facilities Minimize Extent of Damage



Bridge Collapse – Emergency Work

Route 70 over Friendship Creek



**Emergency Work** 

Restoring Essential Travel



#### **Emergency Work**

Route 80 Fuel Truck Fire Restoring Essential Travel



#### **Emergency Work?**

This may be a situation requiring some emergency work

## Permanent Repairs



### Permanent Repairs

Must be approved and authorized by the FHWA in advance of performing the repairs

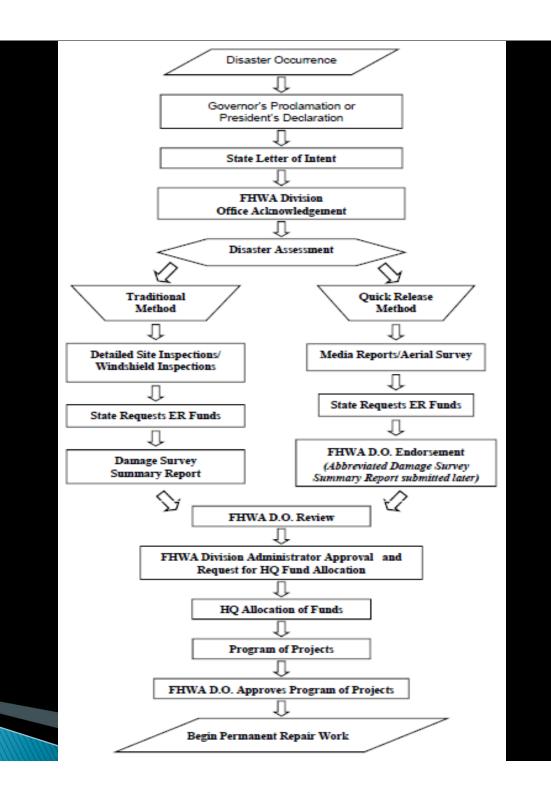
Can combine with emergency work if documented and approved in advance

#### Permanent Repair Types

- Restoration-in-Kind: Most Common
- Replacement-in-Kind (Existing or New Location)
- Repair or replacement of deficient bridges
- Repair or replacement of culverts

## Emergency/Permanent Repair Example





#### FEDERAL SHARE PAYABLE

- ER FUNDS AVAILABLE AT NORMAL PRO-RATA SHARE – NO SOFT MATCH (TOLL CREDITS)
- WORK PERFORMED WITHIN THE FIRST 180 DAYS AFTER DISASTER MAY BE REIMBURSED AT 100 PERCENT FEDERAL SHARE, IF IT:
  - 1. RESTORES ESSENTIAL TRAVEL
  - 2. MINIMIZES EXTENT OF DAMAGE
  - 3. PROTECTS REMAINING FACILITIES

## Eligibility of Sites

- Minimum dollar value of \$5000/site
- Less than \$5000 is considered heavy maintenance
- Repair work at sites can be aggregated to obtain \$5000, within reason



#### **EXAMPLES OF INELIGIBLE ITEMS**

- Heavy Maintenance
- Debris removal
- Damage <\$5000/site</p>
- Traffic Damage
- Frost Heaving
- Applicant-Owned Material
- Minor Erosion Damage
- Prior Scheduled Work
- Snow and/or Ice Removal



#### INELIGIBLE ITEMS (CONT.)

- Emergency Transportation Services/First Responders
- Preventive Work
- Catastrophic Failure from an Internal Cause
- Radiological Contamination
- Transit O&M Costs



#### **BETTERMENTS**

- Additional feature, upgrading, or changing capacity from pre-disaster condition
- Betterments generally not eligible for ER funding unless justified
- Upgrading to current standards not considered a betterment
- Increasing waterway opening is considered a betterment



#### NJDOT INITIAL ACTIONS

- NJDOT determines whether total damage warrants an ER request (\$700k minimum)
- NJDOT files Letter of Intent to seek ER funds with FHWA (after Governor's Declaration)
- FHWA/NJDOT/Local Agency perform field assessments to verify damage
- NJDOT prepares Damage Survey Summary report and submits to FHWA

## STEPS TO TAKE IN CASE OF AN EVENT

- Know your Federal-aid highway routes
- Call NJDOT ER Coordinator immediately
- Take photographs and document damage
- Perform emergency repairs and keep good records of costs/site
- Obtain rough cost estimates and description of damage on Federal-aid routes
- Prepare and submit Damage Survey Summary report

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## FHWA & NJDOT Goal

Significantly reduce the time it takes to process Emergency Relief Program requests to 8 to 10 weeks

## Questions and Discussion





