

## **Federal Emergency Relief (ER) Program**

The US Congress authorized a special program from the Highway Trust Fund for the repair or reconstruction of Federal-aid eligible highways and roads on Federal lands which have suffered serious damage as a result of natural disasters or catastrophic failures from an external cause. A Presidential declaration or a gubernatorial request is needed for eligibility. Also required is a subsequent finding by FHWA that: 1) a natural disaster or catastrophic failure has occurred; 2) damage is eligible for ER assistance and results in a disastrous impact on transportation services;

and 3) are unusually high expenses to the highway agency. It should be noted that FEMA will not

provide assistance for repairing damage on roads that are eligible for FHWA federal aid.

Additionally, claims for repairs of undocumented damage or unsubstantiated repairs will not be considered for reimbursement. A map is available that shows federal aid eligible roads.

Once a finding is made by the FHWA NH Division as to whether a specific disaster qualifies for the

ER program, NHDOT will contact all applicable municipalities. A field review of all damaged roadway facilities by FHWA and NHDOT is required to substantiate the documented damage and

emergency repairs which may have been completed. Claims for repairs of undocumented damage

or unsubstantiated repairs will not be considered for reimbursement NHDOT will notify the municipality once an ER funding eligibility determination has been made for the individual damaged sites reviewed. That determination will establish if the eligible emergency repairs that are made within 180 days will be reimbursed with 100% federal funds – as they are considered emergency repairs to restore essential traffic , to minimize the extent of damage or to protect remaining facilities. Those repairs made after 180 days are reimbursed with 80% federal funds as

these projects are considered permanent repairs and are funded as part of the typical federal aid

process. Repairs made after 180 days and/or that go beyond the three objectives of Emergency Repairs are considered permanent repairs and must follow the regular Federal-aid process.

Guidelines for the FHWA ER Program are available in the FHWA Emergency Relief Manual, which

may be found online via the following link:

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

For additional information on the FHWA Emergency Relief (ER) program contact:

*Municipal Highways Engineer*

Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance

**Phone:** (603)271-3344 (*Planning & Community Assistance Main Number*)

**Notes:**

1) There are other federal aid programs that are occasionally used to fund locally administered projects. The requirements of the LPA Manual apply to all other federally

funded locally managed projects and programs. Occasionally programs have requirements unique to that program that do not apply to all other programs. Contact the Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance with questions regarding the funding programs.

2) The requirements of the LPA Manual do not apply to projects that are only funded through the State Aid Bridge Program or the State Aid Highway Program. These programs have separate program guidelines found at the NHDOT website. If a project includes both state aid and federal aid, the requirements of the LPA Manual do apply.