



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT INCREASE

INFRASTRUCTURE AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT
STAFF: MARK BLEAZARD AND GARY RICKS

ISSUE BRIEF 1

SUMMARY

One of the most important functions of the Department of Transportation is maintenance of State highways. This is the second largest single outlay of the total highway dollar. During FY 2015, the Maintenance Division will be engaged in maintaining approximately 15,000 lane miles of hard surface roadway. Good maintenance is important to the safety and convenience of the public and protects the investment of the citizens of Utah in their highway network.

DISCUSSION

The Department of Transportation's first strategic goal is "Preserve Infrastructure". UDOT measures the health of pavements by the percentage of system-wide roads in good and fair condition. By monitoring and maintaining pavement conditions with good and fair thresholds reduces costly reconstruction projects.

UDOT reported to the Infrastructure and General Government last year that overall pavement conditions continue to be good to fair. The overall conditions of Interstate highways continue to improve. The pavement condition of Level 1 roads remained constant and Level 2 roads trended downward. Estimated future pavement conditions are projected to deteriorate with current funding levels. An additional \$40 million ongoing funding is estimated to be needed to maintain all pavements with good and fair thresholds.

The Analyst is recommending \$4,000,000 from the Transportation Investment Fund of 2005 be appropriated to the Maintenance Administration Program in FY 2015. This funding will to help offset the inflation in maintenance projects and assist with increased lane miles added throughout the state.

Current statute allows appropriations from the Transportation Investment Fund for maintenance of TIF funded highway capacity projects. And most of the increased lane mile additions to the state highway inventory in the last two years have been built with Transportation Investment Funds.

The Analyst notes that the estimated revenue increase in the Transportation Fund for FY 2015 is .57 percent. It is anticipated that most of this increase is will be required if the Legislature approves increases to salaries, medical insurance and retirement. Therefore, the analyst is not recommending an increase from the Transportation Fund in FY 2015 to the Maintenance Budget.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The Analyst is recommending an appropriation of \$4,000,000 from the Transportation Investment Fund of 2005 for the DOT Maintenance Program for FY 2015.