



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

EQUIPMENT PURCHASE INCREASE

INFRASTRUCTURE AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT
STAFF: MARK BLEAZARD AND GARY RICKS

ISSUE BRIEF

SUMMARY

The Equipment Management System maintains a computerized system containing an accounting of expenditures on each individual vehicle and maintenance-type piece of equipment; requests and executes work programs for buying replacement vehicles and maintenance equipment; provides specialized training programs to improve the skills of equipment operators and mechanics; analyzes computer reports in an effort to discover ways of improving fleet operations, reducing maintenance and repair costs and increasing the usage of equipment.

The Department has requested a one-time increase of \$790,000 from the Transportation Fund to purchase additional equipment. This equipment will be used to provide a continued level of service on the I-15 CORE project in Utah County.

DISCUSSION

An additional 335 lane miles of roadway will be added to the state system in FY 2013. This additional inventory of highways will increase routine maintenance activities for the Department of Transportation. A primary maintenance function is snow removal. The current inventory of maintenance equipment is programmed for use on existing lane miles of state highways. The added lane miles will dilute the equipment resources available for winter maintenance especially on the increased lane miles of the I-15 CORE project.

The recommended increase will allow the Department of Transportation to purchase a ten wheel truck with front plow, wing plow, tow plow, and sander for snow removal at a cost of \$310,000. Two self-propelled pick-up-broom trucks will be added at a cost of \$480,000. The addition of this equipment will allow UDOT to maintain current levels of service to highways in Region 3 including the increased lane miles of the I-15 CORE project.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The Analyst recommends that the Infrastructure and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee appropriate \$790,000 one-time from Transportation Funds in FY 2014 for additional equipment purchases.