EMERGENCY RELIEF (ER) OVERVIEW
Today’s Objectives

• Provide a high level overview of FHWA ER Program
• Understanding of Roles and Responsibilities within the ER Program
Governor or Presidential Declaration
Federal-aid Highway and Facilities
State must have eligible activities of $700,000
Project minimum per site $5000
Detailed Damage Inspection Reports (DDIR)
Emergency Repairs and Permanent Restoration
Reimbursement funding on a percentage basis
Administered by MDOT (similar to FHWA Urban Systems Program)
ER is a special program authorized by Congress for the repair or reconstruction of Federal-Aid roadways which have suffered serious damage as a result of:

- **Natural disasters over wide area**
  - Floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, severe weather, etc.

- **Catastrophic failures from an external cause**
  - Sudden and complete failure of a major element or segment of the highway system that causes a disastrous impact on transportation services
  - Failure must be catastrophic in nature
  - Cause of failure must be determined to be external to the facility

*Example – bridge suddenly collapsing after being struck by a barge*
Eligible Highways

- Federal-aid Highways
  - Interstate System
  - National Highway System
  - Public Roads *not* Classified as Local Roads or Rural Minor Collectors

- Roads on Federal Lands
GOMDOT Site for Maps

To correctly assess, and seek the proper funding for your Disaster relief, you need to know your roadway functional classification.

https://mdot.ms.gov/portal/maps
Two Major ER Categories

1. Emergency Repair Work
   • During or immediately following a disaster to:
     • restore essential traffic, or
     • minimize the extent of damage, or
     • protect the remaining facilities
   • Properly documented costs will later be reimbursed once the FHWA Division Administrator makes a finding that the disaster and the work are eligible for ER funding
   • Can begin immediately and does not require prior approval from FHWA*
     • May be reimbursed at 100% federal share in the first 180 days after the occurrence of the disaster
     • Subsequently may be reimbursed pro-rata federal share
Two Major ER Categories

2. Permanent Repairs or Restoration
   • Repairs undertaken after the occurrence of a disaster to restore the highway to its pre-disaster condition
   • Projects must be submitted to MDOT and included in list of project sites and costs within 2 years of the event
   • Cost may not exceed the cost to repair or reconstruct a comparable facility
   • Must have prior FHWA approval and authorization, unless done as part of emergency repairs
   • Subsequently may be reimbursed pro-rata federal share
Emergency Relief Program

Not Intended to:
- Pay for All Repairs
- Relieve Maintenance Responsibility of Agency with Jurisdiction
- Replace Insurance

Not Intended to Replace Other Funding:
- Bridge Replacement Program
- Scheduled/Programmed Work
- Add Capacity
- Correct Non-Disaster Deficiencies
- Improve Facility
Eligible Expenses and Documentation

- Detailed Damage Inspection Report (DDIR) prepared - **must be signed by FHWA, MDOT, and the LPA**
- Actual costs - must be documented and maintained
- LPA – State Agreement required – prepared by MDOT (LPA MOA)
- State Project Number required – obtained by MDOT (Following Activation)
- Documentation must be maintained for 5 years
Examples of Ineligible ER Projects

Include but are not limited to:

• Heavy maintenance--Damage estimates under $5,000 per site
• Applicant-owned material
• Prior scheduled work
• Costs associated with evacuation activities prior to a disaster (traffic control & management)
• Adjustment to signs and signal equipment that does not require repair or replacement of a major item
GENERAL GUIDELINES
1. Local responsibility to assess damages and advise MDOT

   - MDOT and FHWA have established Damage Assessment Teams
   - Local agency and MDOT arrange for Damage Assessment Team to conduct site visit and perform inspections
   - Local agency assigns a local staff member to ride with the MDOT/FHWA Assessment Team
   - Detailed Damage Inspection Report (DDIR) prepared
   - DDIR must be signed by FHWA, MDOT and Local Agency Representative
Process for Applying for FHWA ER

2. Emergency repairs may proceed in advance of DDIR or approval and authorization, but the following must occur before reimbursement:

   • FHWA Needs to be involved Day 1
   • Early Collaboration with MDOT and FHWA
   • DDIR prepared
   • Work completed (only to re-establish essential traffic flow, or stop further damage to the roadway)
   • Local agency submits cost documentation to MDOT
   • MDOT review
   • LPA-MDOT Agreement prepared by MDOT and executed
   • MDOT requests authorization from FHWA
   • Once authorized MDOT reimburses Local agency for eligible and documented costs
Process for Applying for FHWA ER

3. Permanent Repair or Restoration

- Will be carried out under the LPA-MDOT Agreement
- LPA-MDOT Agreement prepared and executed
- Contracts will be coordinated through MDOT following standard LPA-PDM project procedures
- Must be documented on DDIR
- MDOT review
- Must be authorized by MDOT and FHWA prior to start of any work or advertisement or solicitation of bids
- MDOT requests authorization from FHWA
- Once authorized MDOT reimburses Local agency for eligible and documented costs
- Local agency submits cost documentation to MDOT
DOCUMENTATION & CONTACT INFORMATION
MDOT’s LPA Division Website

Website: https://mdot.ms.gov/portal/LPA

Emergency Relief Projects heading contains a listing of helpful information that will help in navigating the ER project process.
References and Contact Information

**FHWA**
- Web Site: [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/erelief.cfm](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/erelief.cfm)
- ER Questions and Answers: [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/qandas/qaer.cfm](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/qandas/qaer.cfm)

**Contact Information**
- Lee Frederick, PE, MDOT State LPA Engineer, [lfrederick@mdot.ms.gov](mailto:lfrederick@mdot.ms.gov)
Contacts Around the State of MS

Each District has a District LPA Engineer that will be able to assist you through the ER process from the beginning of your project, to its completion.
Questions?