

Office of Inspector General Audit Report: Fhwa Has Opportunities to Improve Oversight of Arra High Dollar Projects and the Federal-Aid Highway Program: Project Id: Mh-2013-012



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(Jack Hirthe)

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDIT REPORT: FHWA HAS OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE OVERSIGHT OF ARRA HIGH DOLLAR PROJECTS AND THE FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY PROGRAM: PROJECT ID: MH-2013-012

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BiblioGov. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 28 pages. Dimensions: 9.7in. x 7.4in. x 0.1in. On November 14, 2012, we issued a report on the Federal Highway Administrations (FHWA) oversight of selected American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) high dollar bridge and highway projects receiving at least 20 million and 25 million, respectively, in ARRA highway infrastructure investment grants. Our work focused on identifying significant issues that could impact FHWA's effective oversight of ARRA and to follow up on our June 2010 ARRA Advisory alerting the Department that States were not conducting required value engineering (VE) studies. Accordingly, our objectives were to report on whether (1) projects conducted required VE studies and (2) ARRA funds were obligated based on the States best estimate of cost. We found that FHWA missed opportunities to maximize ARRA investments, since one-third of the States in our review did not perform VE studies during the project planning or design phase for at least one ARRA project. Further, FHWA also did not consistently emphasize its cost estimating guidelines designed to help ensure States obligate ARRA funds for projects based on best estimates of project costs. FHWA now faces the challenge to monitor ARRA obligations for any unused or idle funds that result from overestimating or other occurrences, and make certain that the States re-obligate or return ARRA funds before they expire in 2015. The report recommended that FHWA (1) verify that required VE studies were conducted for ARRA projects; (2) identify steps needed to increase States awareness of and compliance with VE legislative changes and FHWA's revised guidance; (3) verify that FHWA Division Offices review each States procedures for estimating costs, including procedures to conduct periodic reviews and to address significant changes in market conditions; and (4) develop and implement...

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