




Memorandum

Date: May 3, 2023

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement | FHWA's Oversight of Construction Quality Assurance on Federal-aid Projects | Project No. 23S3001S000
Federal Highway Administration

From: David Pouliott 
Assistant Inspector General for Surface Transportation Audits

To: Federal Highway Administrator

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)¹ provides approximately \$350 billion in Federal funding over a 5-year period (fiscal years 2022 through 2026) for the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) surface transportation programs. This funding significantly increases the investment in the Nation's surface transportation infrastructure. According to FHWA, a significant portion of Federal-aid Highway Program funding is expended on material production and construction-related activities. For Federal-aid highway construction projects on the National Highway System, FHWA regulations² require each State Department of Transportation (DOT) to develop a construction quality assurance (QA) program to ensure that the materials and workmanship meet the requirements of the approved plans and specifications.

The historic level of IIJA funding—coupled with rising construction prices, supply chain challenges, and shortages of skilled workers in the construction trades³—amplifies the importance of FHWA's oversight of State DOT programs to ensure the quality of construction materials and workmanship. Therefore, we are initiating this audit to evaluate FHWA's construction QA oversight activities.

We plan to begin the audit immediately and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. We will conduct our work at FHWA

¹ Pub. L. No. 117-58 (November 15, 2021).

² Title 23, Code of Federal Regulations, section 637.205(a).

³ Challenges Facing DOT in Implementing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (OIG Controlled Correspondence No. CC2023001), October 5, 2022. OIG reports and correspondence are available on our website at <https://www.oig.dot.gov/>.

Headquarters and other sites that we will determine during the audit. If you have any questions, please contact me or Tony Wysocki, Program Director.

cc: DOT Audit Liaison, M-1
FHWA Audit Liaison, HCFB-32