



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**Research, Development, and Technology**  
Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center

November 15, 2012

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In Reply Refer To:  
HRTM-10

Dr. Anthony Kane  
Director  
American Association of State Highway and  
Transportation Officials  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Dr. Kane:

This is in response to Steven Lenker's October 26, 2012, letter regarding the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Materials Reference Laboratory.

I understand that AASHTO has asked the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for approval of a waiver of the non-Federal match for the use of State Planning and Research (SP&R) funds for the AASHTO Materials Reference Laboratory. Furthermore, I understand that with this approval, this program will be supported using funds voluntarily contributed by the AASHTO member agencies; and, AASHTO is seeking \$20,000 per year per State.

I have determined that the AASHTO Materials Reference Laboratory program meets the criteria for use of SP&R funds used for Research and Development purposes without a non-Federal funding match. States are authorized to use 100 percent State Planning and Research (SP&R) funding on the AASHTO Materials Reference Laboratory. Please keep in mind that if a State decides to use SPR funds to participate in this project, it still must be included in the State's Research, Development and Technology work program that is approved by the respective FHWA Division Administrator. Furthermore, States must adhere to the provisions found in 23 U.S.C. 505 and 23 CFR 420 when contributing funds that are made available under the apportionment of Federal-aid highway funds for any fiscal year.

You may contact Leslie Wright ([leslie.wright@dot.gov](mailto:leslie.wright@dot.gov), 202-493-3460) if you have any questions about this waiver. Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance in conducting this project.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Trentacoste  
Associate Administrator