



## ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Traffic & Safety Operations Section  
Design Bureau - Traffic Engineering Division  
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Kay Ivey  
Governor

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DATE: June 4, 2020

TO: ALDOT Regional Engineers  
Alabama County Engineers  
Alabama Metropolitan Planning Organizations  
Alabama Rural Planning Organizations

FROM: John-Michael Walker, P.E.  
State Traffic and Safety Operations Engineer

Subject: Fiscal Year (FY21) High Risk Rural Roads Special Rule Call for Applications

The purpose of the memorandum is to announce that the High Risk Rural Roads (HRRR) Special Rule has been placed in effect for the State of Alabama for FY2021.

Section 148(g)(l) of title 23, United States Code (U.S.C.), establishes HRRR Special Rule, which requires States where the fatality rate on rural roads increased over the most recent two-year period to obligate a specified amount of funds toward HRRR safety projects in the next fiscal year. Alabama was one of nine states which triggered the HRRR Special rule due to an increase in the fatality rate as measured by a 5-year rolling average. The HRRR Special Rule requires that Alabama must obligate \$4,124,978 towards projects for High Risk Rural Roads as defined by 23 USC 148(a)(1), "any roadway functionally classified as a major or minor collector or a rural local road with significant safety risks, as defined by a State in accordance with an updated State strategic highway safety plan."

A determination has been made that for FY2021 the HRRR program will be open for use on all routes which meet the definition of High Risk Rural Roads as previously defined irrespective of ownership or maintenance responsibility.

The HRRR FY2021 program will be focused on the reduction of Fatal and Serious Injury Lane Departure and Run-Off-Road crashes by helping drivers stay in their lane, reducing the potential of crashes if drivers leave their lane, or minimizing the severity in the event that a crash does occur. The FY2021 program will be adopting a systemic risk based approach to project selection as opposed to a crash hotspot based approach. However, while crash history is not required to be submitted with the application, it may be included to show that a particular location, in addition to exhibiting numerous roadway risk factors, is also over-represented in crashes. Special consideration will be given for those applications utilizing countermeasures designed to reduce roadway departure crashes, as listed in the FY 2021 HRRR Program Guidance document.

A 10% non-federal funding match from the sponsoring agency will be required for any application submitted under this program. Due to the authorization constraints associated with the HRRR Special Rule, applications eligible under the HRRR portion of the initiative will be limited to funding of construction only. Additionally, applicants should give consideration during project selection that plan submittals must be finalized and receive FHWA funding authorization prior to **June 1, 2021**.

Applicants are recommended to review the FHWA Office of Safety Proven Safety Countermeasures which are applicable to rural roadways. More information can be found on the Proven Safety Countermeasures at the following link:

<https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/provencountermeasures/>

Applicants are also encouraged to look into “Every Day Counts – 5 Initiative: Reducing Rural Roadway Departures”. More information can be found on this program at the following link:

[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/everydaycounts/edc\\_5/roadway\\_departures.cfm](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/everydaycounts/edc_5/roadway_departures.cfm)

Local Agencies intending to apply under this program shall submit their **fully completed** application to the ALDOT Local Transportation Bureau by **no later than close of business on August 31, 2020**.

ALDOT Regions intending to apply under this program shall submit their **fully completed** application to the ALDOT Traffic & Safety Operations Section by **no later than close of business on August 31, 2020**.

Program Guidance, Frequently Asked Questions, and the FY 2021 HRRR Application may be found on the ALDOT website, on the Local Transportation Bureau page in the Operations Section (link below).

<https://www.dot.state.al.us/ltweb/operations/index.html>

cc: ALDOT Region Highway Safety Engineers  
ALDOT Area Local Transportation Engineers