

## Federal Highway Administration, DOT

## § 710.409

United States Code assistance in any way.

(2) This subpart does not apply to the following:

- (i) Non-Interstate highways.
- (ii) Railroads and public utilities which cross or otherwise occupy Federal-aid highway right-of-way.
- (iii) Relocations of railroads or utilities for which reimbursement is claimed under 23 CFR part 140, subparts E and H.
- (iv) Bikeways and pedestrian walkways as covered in 23 CFR part 652.

(b) A STD may grant rights for temporary or permanent occupancy or use of Interstate system airspace if the STD has acquired sufficient legal right, title, and interest in the right-of-way of a federally assisted highway to permit the use of certain airspace for non-highway purposes; and where such airspace is not required presently or in the foreseeable future for the safe and proper operation and maintenance of the highway facility. The STD must obtain prior FHWA approval, except for paragraph (c) of this section.

(c) An STD may make lands and rights-of-way available without charge to a publicly owned mass transit authority for public transit purposes whenever the public interest will be served, and where this can be accomplished without impairing automotive safety or future highway improvements.

(d) An individual, company, organization, or public agency desiring to use airspace shall submit a written request to the STD. If the STD recommends approval, it shall forward an application together with its recommendation and any necessary supplemental information including the proposed airspace agreement to the FHWA. The submission shall affirmatively provide for adherence to all policy requirements contained in this subpart and conform to the provisions in the FHWA's Airspace Guidelines at: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/realestate/index.htm>.

### § 710.407 Leasing.

(a) Leasing of real property acquired with title 23 of the United States Code, funds shall be covered by an agreement between the STD and lessee which contains provisions to insure the safety and integrity of the federally funded

facility. It shall also include provisions governing lease revocation, removal of improvements at no cost to the FHWA, adequate insurance to hold the State and the FHWA harmless, non-discrimination, access by the STD and the FHWA for inspection, maintenance, and reconstruction of the facility.

(b) Where a proposed use requires changes in the existing transportation facility, such changes shall be provided without cost to Federal funds unless otherwise specifically agreed to by the STD and the FHWA.

(c) Proposed uses of real property shall conform to the current design standards and safety criteria of the Federal Highway Administration for the functional classification of the highway facility in which the property is located.

### § 710.409 Disposals.

(a) Real property interests determined to be excess to transportation needs may be sold or conveyed to a public entity or to a private party in accordance with § 710.403(d).

(b) Federal, State, and local agencies shall be afforded the opportunity to acquire real property interests considered for disposal when such real property interests have potential use for parks, conservation, recreation, or related purposes, and when such a transfer is allowed by State law. When this potential exists, the STD shall notify the appropriate resource agencies of its intentions to dispose of the real property interests. The notifications can be accomplished by placing the appropriate agencies on the States' disposal notification listing.

(c) Real property interests may be retained by the STD to restore, preserve, or improve the scenic beauty and environmental quality adjacent to the transportation facility.

(d) Where the transfer of properties to other agencies at less than fair market value for continued public use is clearly justified as in the public interest and approved by the FHWA, the deed shall provide for reversion of the property for failure to continue public ownership and use. Where property is sold at fair market value no reversion clause is required. Disposal actions described in 23 CFR 710.403(d)(1) for less

than fair market value require a public interest determination and FHWA approval, consistent with that section.

[64 FR 71290, Dec. 21, 1999, as amended at 67 FR 12863, Mar. 20, 2002]

**Subpart E—Property Acquisition Alternatives**

**§ 710.501 Early acquisition.**

(a) *Real property acquisition.* The State may initiate acquisition of real property at any time it has the legal authority to do so based on program or project considerations. The State may undertake early acquisition for corridor preservation, access management, or other purposes.

(b) *Eligible costs.* Acquisition costs incurred by a State agency prior to executing a project agreement with the FHWA are not eligible for Federal-aid reimbursement. However, such costs may become eligible for use as a credit towards the State’s share of a Federal-aid project if the following conditions are met:

- (1) The property was lawfully obtained by the State;
- (2) The property was not land described in 23 U.S.C. 138;
- (3) The property was acquired in accordance with the provisions of 49 CFR part 24;
- (4) The State complied with the requirements of title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d–4);
- (5) The State determined and the FHWA concurs that the action taken did not influence the environmental assessment for the project, including:
  - (i) The decision on need to construct the project;
  - (ii) The consideration of alternatives; and
  - (iii) The selection of the design or location; and
- (6) The property will be incorporated into a Federal-aid project.
- (7) The original project agreement covering the project was executed on or after June 9, 1998.

(c) *Reimbursement.* In addition to meeting all provisions in paragraph (b) of this section, the FHWA approval for reimbursement for early acquisition costs, including costs associated with

displacement of owners or tenants, requires the STD to demonstrate that:

(1) Prior to acquisition, the STD made the certifications and determinations required by 23 U.S.C. 108(c)(2)(C) and (D); and

(2) The STD obtained concurrence from the Environmental Protection Agency in the findings made under paragraph (b)(5) of this section regarding the NEPA process.

**§ 710.503 Protective buying and hardship acquisition.**

(a) *General conditions.* Prior to the STD obtaining final environmental approval, the STD may request FHWA agreement to provide reimbursement for advance acquisition of a particular parcel or a limited number of parcels, to prevent imminent development and increased costs on the preferred location (Protective Buying), or to alleviate hardship to a property owner or owners on the preferred location (Hardship Acquisition), provided the following conditions are met:

- (1) The project is included in the currently approved STIP;
- (2) The STD has complied with applicable public involvement requirements in 23 CFR parts 450 and 771;
- (3) A determination has been completed for any property subject to the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 138; and
- (4) Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation are completed for properties subject to 16 U.S.C. 470(f) (historic properties).

(b) *Protective buying.* The STD must clearly demonstrate that development of the property is imminent and such development would limit future transportation choices. A significant increase in cost may be considered as an element justifying a protective purchase.

(c) *Hardship acquisitions.* The STD must accept and concur in a request for a hardship acquisition based on a property owner’s written submission that:

- (1) Supports the hardship acquisition by providing justification, on the basis of health, safety or financial reasons, that remaining in the property poses an undue hardship compared to others; and
- (2) Documents an inability to sell the property because of the impending