



United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

Resources, Community, and
Economic Development Division

B-271988

May 16, 1996

The Honorable Frank R. Wolf
Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This report provides you with information on the funding appropriated for surface transportation demonstration projects that is no longer needed by the states and is available for congressional rescission. In a hearing before your Subcommittee on March 7, 1996, we stated in our testimony that over \$2 billion in unobligated balances remained in the accounts for surface transportation demonstration projects.¹ As you requested during this hearing, we provided, for the record, a listing and the obligation status of authorized projects that are not under construction. Since that time, we have looked at additional projects in more detail and identified funding appropriated for demonstration projects that will not be used by the states.

In reviewing the appropriations for the additional surface transportation demonstration projects, we have identified \$0.4 million in unobligated funding that will not be used by the states and is available for rescission. The enclosure gives a summary of the unobligated balances for each of these projects showing the state, the project's description, the public law providing the state with funding, and the appropriated amount, obligated amount, and unobligated balance available for rescission as of May 15, 1996.

We provided the Department of Transportation (DOT) with a draft of this report. The draft report listed six demonstration projects where construction was complete and \$8.8 million was available for rescission. In commenting on the draft report, the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Chief, Program

¹DOT's Budget: Challenges Facing the Department in Fiscal Year 1997 and Beyond (GAO/T-RCED-96-88, Mar. 7, 1996).

B-271988

Analysis Division, stated that the information FHWA provided to us in April 1996 was incorrect. One project—the Florida Overseas Highway project—which was listed in DOT's fiscal management information system (FMIS) as having an \$8.4 million unobligated balance had a zero balance as of May 1996. FHWA officials stated that the FMIS is not routinely updated, resulting in the error. Therefore, we removed the Florida Overseas Highway project and the associated \$8.4 million unobligated balance from the enclosed list.

We conducted our review from December 1995 through April 1996 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. To analyze the funding status of these projects, we used the DOT's FMIS and identified projects in five states that carried unobligated balances on projects that had been completed. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact me at (202) 512-2834.

The major contributors to this report were Joseph Christoff, Marvin E. Bonner, and Catherine Colwell.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John H. Anderson, Jr.".

John H. Anderson, Jr.
Director, Transportation and
Telecommunications Issues

Enclosure

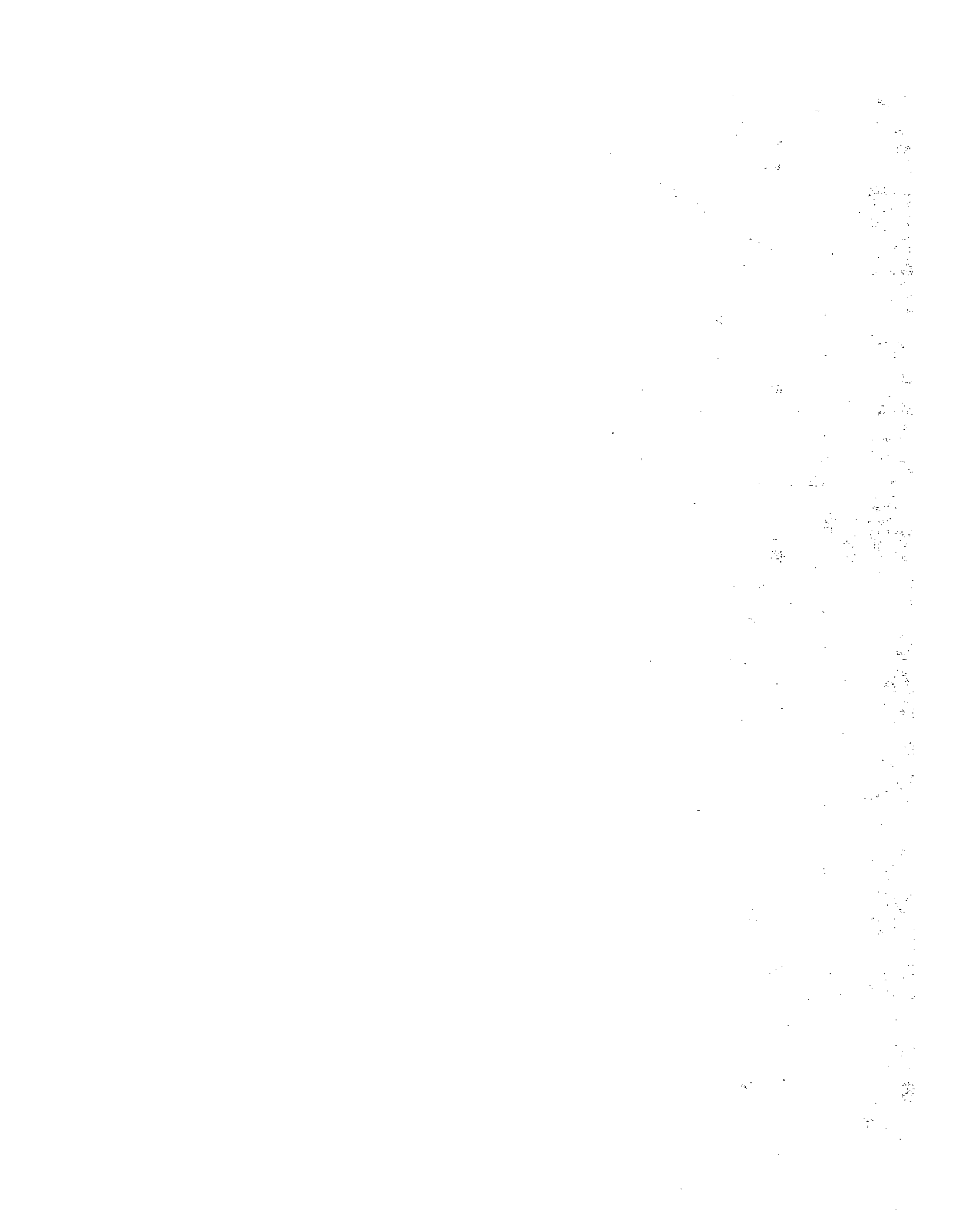
SUMMARY OF COMPLETED DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS
WITH UNOBLIGATED BALANCES (AS OF DEC. 31, 1995)

State	Description of project	Public law ^a	Budget authority	Obligated funding	Unobligated balance
Arkansas	I-66 feasibility study	101-516	\$10,000	\$8,169	\$1,831
Kansas	I-66 feasibility study	101-516	10,000	747	9,253
Kentucky	Acceleration of bridge projects, South Portsmouth, Ky., U.S. Route 23	95-599	50,998,475	50,692,197	306,278
Oklahoma	Lakeview Road-Stillwater, Okla.	101-516	2,550,000	2,461,361	88,639
West Virginia	U.S. Route 35 from Henderson, W. Va., to I-64	101-516	103,080	99,674	3,406
Total			\$53,671,555	\$53,262,148	\$409,407

^aAll of the projects are specifically mentioned in committee reports accompanying public laws not the public laws themselves.

Source: Federal Highway Administration.

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