

SUBJECT: Highways for National Defense (HND) Program

ISSUE: To provide background information for BTS

USTRANSCOM POSITION: The HND Program ensures our nation's public highway system serves the needs of our military forces.

The HND Program identifies and integrates defense public highway needs into civil policies, plans, and programs and establishes guidelines for DOD's use of public highways. The HND Program has a two-way directive to ensure that the nation's public highways can support military requirements and to ensure that DOD is utilizing the public highways in a manner not to endanger themselves or the civilian population.

BACKGROUND:

- Title 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 193 establishes the regulatory authority for the HND Program. DoD Directive 4510.11, *DoD Transportation Engineering* assigns management of the HND Program to the Combatant Commander, USTRANSCOM. Army Regulation 55-80, further clarifies the HND Program and its functions. The referenced regulations clearly define DOD programs for ensuring the fulfillment of DOD public highway needs by public highway agencies and ensures DOD utilizes public highways in a safe and prudent manner.
- The HND Program works to identify routes important to national defense. At the national level, the Strategic Highway Corridor Network (STRAHNET) is the designated minimal public highway system serving the most important deployment needs of the DOD. STRAHNET includes nearly 63,000 miles of Interstate and major highways. It also includes over 1,700 miles of STRAHNET Connectors which link important military installations and seaports to the rest of STRAHNET. STRAHNET provides State and federal transportation officials a tool for the consideration (reminder) of DOD in their project planning and programming operations.
- HND (along with other federal land agencies) collaborates with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in the administration of the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP). FLAP provides a limited amount of funding to State and local highway authorities for roadways on or accessing federal lands to include DOD. FLAP is a competitive program that requires coordination with federal and State/local transportation authorities. HND's efforts have led to over \$4 million for at least 18 DOD associated projects in 6 states through FLAP.
- The HND works closely with FHWA and other highway related organizations to develop and establish national highway policy that benefits or addresses DOD. HND works closely with FHWA during the development of their multi-year authorization language and provides significant comments on proposed legislation. HND's efforts were the impetus for the creation of the FLAP by FHWA legislation passed in 2014.
- HND advocates and promotes the interaction of installation personnel with local and state transportation authorities. FHWA highway funding are provided primarily to the States by formula. Funding and priority decisions are made by those owning authorities. Successful project support from outside authorities for DOD installations requires coordination between local level organizations.