

FUNDING FACTS (February 2012)

In the fall of 2011, CAPPE began a series of inquiries about the assertions by public officials that \$100 million had been set aside for the PPE.

This is what we learned from State Rep. Bob Ramsey and from our own examination of TPO and TDOT public documents:

- In 1998, \$8.85 million was set aside in an earmark in TEA-21, the federal transportation bill. You can find the legislation here:
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tea21/tea21.pdf>
- As of February 27, 2012, this appears to be the only money “sitting in an account” for the PPE. We have not been able to find any other federal appropriations designated for the PPE.
- Eighty percent (\$7.08 million) of the earmark is federal dollars; TDOT must fund the other 20% (\$1.77 million).
- Funds for engineering and the environmental document phase (\$700,000) were budgeted in the state's 1997/98 Work Program.
- TDOT budgeted \$6.1 million in the 1998/99 work program for ROW acquisition, which is a mix of federal and state monies and is now considered unlikely to be enough.
- TDOT expenditures for required environmental studies are at least \$2,930,423.
- In the TPO's planning documents for 2013-2015, \$640,000 in federal money is programmed for engineering for the PPE and about \$7.4 million is programmed for right of way acquisition. None of this has been expended, and cannot be expended until the Final Environmental Impact Statement is released and approved.
- In materials distributed to the TPO Technical Committee for a meeting on Oct. 11, 2011, a table titled "TDOT Projects for Recommendation to the 3 Year Major Highway Program 2013-2015" shows the PPE as "Fully Funded" for this period [engineering and ROW only] and also as "may need additional funding."
- Cost projections for the PPE are not current. According to TDOT, the bituminous index (asphalt pricing) quadrupled between 2000 and 2012.
<http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/construction/indices/bituminousindex.pdf>