

SP-OO-001-CE

Cost Eligibility for CVISN Initiatives
Commercial Vehicle Information Systems & Networks

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Chief, State Programs Division
Motor Carrier Safety Programs

MC-ESS

State Directors
Field Administrators

The FMCSA has received inquiries into its MCSAP cost eligibility policy regarding the planning, development and deployment of Intelligent Transportation Systems/Commercial Vehicle Operations (ITS/CVO) projects, specifically, activities associated with the CVISN program.

The CVISN program has three primary areas, Safety Information Exchange, Credentials Administration, and Electronic Screening. These areas are based on national architecture (standards) and systems interoperability. Obviously, the FMCSA State Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) has strong inter-connectivity with both the development and deployment of ITS/CVO initiatives, such as the CVISN program, which promote the collection, reporting and exchange of CMV safety-related data. The ITS/CVO program initiatives have received considerable fiscal support over the years for research and testing. With the passage of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21 Century (TEA-21) a significant amount of the funding for deployment was authorized but appropriations earmarked funds for metropolitan and State specific initiatives. This reduced CVISN deployment and created challenges.

The MCSAP is a performance-based commercial vehicle transportation safety program focused on reducing the number and severity of accidents involving commercial motor vehicles. The MCSAP has five national program elements which support State strategies - Driver & Vehicle Inspections, Traffic Enforcement, Compliance Reviews, Safety Data Collection & Reporting, and Public Education. The basic program funds are for the development and implementation of programs which support both the national program elements and address each State's own specific CMV safety challenges. Recent legislation has increased the level of MCSAP funds available for distribution to States, a result of both

MCSAP Policy:

This policy sets forth the cost eligibility of the CVISN activities with MCSAP funds, by the State lead MCSAP agency and traditional participating sub-grantees. It is intended to foster coordination and implementation of CVISN activities that directly support national and State MCSAP programs and priorities. It is not intended to expand utilization of MCSAP funds by

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other agencies through new Memoranda of Understanding or Sub-Grantee arrangements. Only those components of the CVISN programs which *facilitate* our CMV safety enforcement and CMV safety data priorities are eligible for MCSAP funding within the guidelines described below:

1. The State must ensure that the commitment of MCSAP Basic funds to support CVISN programs does not adversely impact or diminish the State's ability to deliver the National MCSAP Program Elements
2. CVISN components must directly support CMV "Safety Priorities" to be eligible for (80/20) MCSAP Basic funding, which include the following:
 - A. CMV Safety Inspection & Enforcement - This would include those items such as safety inspection equipment, hardware, software, training, and network communications which directly support the CMV safety inspection and enforcement initiatives of MCSAP.
 - B. Collection and Transfer of CMV Safety Inspection & Accident Data - This would include those items such as the Commercial Vehicle Information Exchange Window (CVIEW) system or its equivalent and CMV safety/accident data communication hardware and software, which directly supports the eXchange of both CMV safety inspection, accident data, and COL information between the inspector, MCSAP agency and FMCSA.
 - C. Participation in Workshops, Meetings, Site Visits - There are numerous CVISN related meetings, workshops and site visits which require participation by the primary partners, in both the public (Federal/State government) and private sectors, during the development and deployment of CVISN projects.
3. CVISN initiative(s) which may be eligible for MCSAP High Priority funding on a case by case basis:
 - A. Electronic Screening of CMVs - The CVISN program includes a program area for the electronic screening of CMVs at fixed and mobile sites. High Priority monies are often used for new initiatives. An evaluation of new initiatives and a determination of success is established before the activity becomes eligible for Basic Program funding. We may fund electronic screening on a limited basis initially using High Priority monies before we establish a funding policy for basic funding eligibility.
4. The following are not eligible for MCSAP funding include:
 - A. Electronic Credential Administration: This CVISN program area provides for the electronic administration of motor carrier credentials, which include: carrier registration, insurance, vehicle registration/titling, fuel taxes, special licenses/permits (oversize/overweight, hazardous materials), heavy vehicle use tax, and other state

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specific requirements. This program area also includes credential data sharing among the states through the IRP and IFTA Clearinghouses.

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- B. Construction/Maintenance of Facility Infrastructure: Current MCSAP program regulations (49 CFR Part 350) prohibit the acquisition of real property.
- C. Architecture Development and System Design: Expenditures to develop CVISN business plans, architectures, and system designs.
5. The following conditions apply to any CVISN initiative supported with **MCSAP** funds:
- A. The total Federal share of the cost of any CVISN project payable from all eligible Federal sources shall not exceed 80 percent (TEA-21, Section 5209).
 - B. States are responsible for ensuring continued functional compatibility of the CVISN systems, as Federal/State MCSAP program requirements evolve.
 - C. ITS/CVa initiatives must adhere to the National ITS Architecture applicable standards and related interoperability tests.
 - D. All CVISN projects must be reviewed/evaluated at the conclusion of each project (CVSP grant) year to ensure compliance with this policy.

If you have any questions, please contact your respective FMCSA Headquarters State Programs Coordinator at (202) 366-9579.

(Original signed by)

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