

### *Recommendations*

GAO recommends that the Administration take action to obtain improvements in the State right-of-way acquisition control system and provide assurance that adequate support exists for costs incurred during the 1961-66 period.

Also, GAO recommends that Administration auditors be required to make independent and indepth evaluations of State appraisal reports.

### *Status of action*

PPM 80-3 is being revised to set forth those items which appraisal reports will be required to contain before such reports will be accepted as a basis for Federal participation.

A Bureau memorandum dated May 3, 1968, addressed to each regional Federal highway administrator, advised them to notify the States in writing of right-of-way deficiencies of the State's operations by use of form PR-1367 or by separate memorandum.

The Rhode Island division office is presently conducting an inspection in depth on appraisals and appraisal reviews. Upon completion of this review, a determination will be made as to additional necessary corrective action to be taken.

By memorandum dated May 1, 1968, Administration auditors have been instructed that indepth evaluations of State appraisal reports are within the purview of their audit responsibility.

2. Letter report on Rhode Island regarding accrual of interest on unsettled right-of-way properties and correction of weakness in State rental policies.

### *Recommendations*

GAO recommends action be taken to minimize further accrual of interest costs of old unsettled right-of-way properties.

Also, GAO recommends the State be encouraged to enact legislation to correct present weaknesses in rental policies and interim corrective measures be taken by the Bureau to insure appropriate adjustments are made for Federal reimbursement.

### *Status of action*

On old unsettled right-of-way cases, the State has been notified by letter that the accrual of interest on these properties beyond December 31, 1968, will be ineligible for Federal participation.

The State has now introduced legislation to require former property owners, and others, to pay rent during the period of occupancy. Action has been taken by the division office for the period April 1, 1964, through December 1965, to adjust State claims where rental was not paid by occupants, and action is now being taken to do the same for the period January 1, 1966, to date. The same procedure will continue in the future until the State has corrected its rental policy procedures.

3. Letter report indicating an apparent inconsistency in the recognition and treatment of special benefits accruing to residue properties at newly created interchange areas in Ohio.

### *Recommendations*

GAO recommends that responsible Bureau legal and right-of-way officials be directed to review current practices in Ohio relating to special benefits and determine whether such practices are consistent with Bureau requirements for Federal participation.

Also, GAO recommends that division office personnel be required to (1) take appropriate action to insure compliance with Bureau requirements in future appraisals, and (2) determine the acceptability of the specific parcels questioned by GAO.

### *Status of action*

The Administrator has directed legal and right-of-way officials to review the law and the current practices in the State of Ohio relating to special benefits and determine whether such practices are consistent with Bureau of Public Roads requirements for Federal participation. When this review has been completed, responsible division office personnel will be directed to take whatever action may be appropriate.

16. What significant problems, if any, are you facing in accomplishing the program objectives?

The location of interstate facilities within urban areas in such manner as to minimize the displacement and relocation of persons and businesses is a