1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to transportation; amending s. 206.46, 3 F.S.; limiting the amount of certain revenues in the 4 State Transportation Trust Fund which the Department 5 of Transportation may annually commit to public 6 transit projects; providing exceptions; amending s. 7 334.30, F.S.; authorizing the department to enter into 8 comprehensive agreements with private entities for 9 certain purposes; revising provisions relating to a traffic and revenue study provided by a private 10 11 entity; revising the time period during which the department will accept additional proposals after 12 13 receiving an unsolicited proposal, based on project 14 complexity; authorizing the department to enter into an interim agreement with a private entity before or 15 16 in connection with negotiating a comprehensive 17 agreement; providing requirements; authorizing the 18 department secretary to authorize an agreement term of 19 up to 75 years for certain projects; amending s. 337.11, F.S.; requiring the department to pay interest 20 21 to a contractor under certain circumstances; requiring 22 a motor vehicle used for specified work on a 23 department project to be registered in compliance with 24 certain provisions; amending s. 337.18, F.S.; 25 authorizing the department to determine whether to

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26 reduce bonding requirements; revising the time periods within which certain actions must be instituted by a 27 28 claimant; amending s. 337.195, F.S.; providing 29 definitions; providing a presumption that if a death, injury, or damage results from a motor vehicle crash 30 within a construction zone in which the driver of a 31 32 vehicle was under the influence of certain marijuana, 33 the driver's operation of such vehicle was the 34 proximate cause of his or her own death, injury, or 35 damage; revising conditions under which a contractor 36 is immune from liability; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; creating s. 339.28201, F.S.; 37 38 creating a Local Agency Program within the department 39 for certain funding purposes; providing for 40 prioritization and reimbursement; providing agency 41 eligibility requirements; requiring oversight by the 42 department; providing contract requirements; providing 43 an effective date. 44 45 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 46 47 Section 1. Subsection (6) is added to section 206.46, 48 Florida Statutes, to read: 49 206.46 State Transportation Trust Fund.-50 (6) The department may not annually commit to public

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transit projects under chapter 341 more than 20 percent of the revenues derived from state fuel taxes and motor vehicle license-related fees deposited into the State Transportation Trust Fund, except: (a) Funds used for federal matching. (b) Projects included in an M.P.O.'s transportation improvement program adopted pursuant to s. 339.175(8) and approved by a supermajority vote of the board of county commissioners of the county in which the project is located. Section 2. Subsections (8) through (13) of section 334.30, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (9) through (14), respectively, subsection (1), paragraphs (e) and (f) of subsection (2), paragraph (a) of subsection (6), and present subsections (8), (10), and (11) are amended, and a new subsection (8) is added to that section, to read: 334.30 Public-private transportation facilities.-The Legislature finds and declares that there is a public need for the rapid construction of safe and efficient transportation facilities for the purpose of traveling within the state, and that it is in the public's interest to provide for the

71 construction of additional safe, convenient, and economical 72 transportation facilities. 73 (1) The department may receive or solicit proposals and,

74 with legislative approval as evidenced by approval of the 75 project in the department's work program, enter into

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76 comprehensive agreements with private entities, or consortia 77 thereof, for the building, operation, ownership, or financing of 78 transportation facilities. The department may advance projects programmed in the adopted 5-year work program or projects 79 80 increasing transportation capacity and greater than \$500 million in the 10-year Strategic Intermodal Plan using funds provided by 81 82 public-private partnerships or private entities to be reimbursed 83 from department funds for the project as programmed in the 84 adopted work program. The department shall by rule establish an 85 application fee for the submission of unsolicited proposals 86 under this section. The fee must be sufficient to pay the costs of evaluating the proposals. The department may engage the 87 services of private consultants to assist in the evaluation. 88 89 Before approval, the department must determine that the proposed 90 project:

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(a) Is in the public's best interest;

92 (b) Would not require state funds to be used unless the93 project is on the State Highway System;

94 (c) Would have adequate safeguards in place to ensure that 95 no additional costs or service disruptions would be realized by 96 the traveling public and residents of the state in the event of 97 default or cancellation of the agreement by the department;

98 (d) Would have adequate safeguards in place to ensure that
99 the department or the private entity has the opportunity to add
100 capacity to the proposed project and other transportation

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facilities serving similar origins and destinations; and

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102 Would be owned by the department upon completion or (e) 103 termination of the agreement. 104 105 The department shall ensure that all reasonable costs to the state, related to transportation facilities that are not part of 106 107 the State Highway System, are borne by the private entity. The department shall also ensure that all reasonable costs to the 108 109 state and substantially affected local governments and utilities, related to the private transportation facility, are 110 111 borne by the private entity for transportation facilities that are owned by private entities. For projects on the State Highway 112 113 System, the department may use state resources to participate in 114 funding and financing the project as provided for under the 115 department's enabling legislation. Because the Legislature 116 recognizes that private entities or consortia thereof would 117 perform a governmental or public purpose or function when they 118 enter into agreements with the department to design, build, operate, own, or finance transportation facilities, the 119 120 transportation facilities, including leasehold interests 121 thereof, are exempt from ad valorem taxes as provided in chapter 122 196 to the extent property is owned by the state or other 123 government entity, and from intangible taxes as provided in 124 chapter 199 and special assessments of the state, any city, 125 town, county, special district, political subdivision of the

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126 state, or any other governmental entity. The private entities or 127 consortia thereof are exempt from tax imposed by chapter 201 on 128 all documents or obligations to pay money which arise out of the 129 agreements to design, build, operate, own, lease, or finance 130 transportation facilities. Any private entities or consortia 131 thereof must pay any applicable corporate taxes as provided in 132 chapter 220, and reemployment assistance taxes as provided in 133 chapter 443, and sales and use tax as provided in chapter 212 134 shall be applicable. The private entities or consortia thereof 135 must also register and collect the tax imposed by chapter 212 on 136 all their direct sales and leases that are subject to tax under 137 chapter 212. The agreement between the private entity or consortia thereof and the department establishing a 138 139 transportation facility under this chapter constitutes 140 documentation sufficient to claim any exemption under this 141 section.

(2) Agreements entered into pursuant to this section may authorize the private entity to impose tolls or fares for the use of the facility. The following provisions shall apply to such agreements:

(e) The department shall include provisions in the
<u>comprehensive</u> public-private partnership agreement that ensure a
negotiated portion of revenues from tolled or fare generating
projects <u>is</u> are returned to the department over the life of the
public-private partnership agreement. In the case of a lease of

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an existing toll facility, the department shall receive a portion of funds upon closing on the agreements and shall also include provisions in the agreement to receive payment of a portion of excess revenues over the life of the public-private partnership.

156 The private entity shall provide an independent (f) 157 investment grade traffic and revenue study prepared by a an internationally recognized traffic and revenue expert as part of 158 159 the private entity proposal. The private entity shall provide a 160 traffic and revenue study that is accepted by the national bond 161 rating agencies for the financing that supports the 162 comprehensive agreement at financial close for the publicprivate partnership project. The private entity shall also 163 164 provide a finance plan that identifies the project cost, 165 revenues by source, financing, major assumptions, internal rate 166 of return on private investments, and whether any government 167 funds are assumed to deliver a cost-feasible project, and a 168 total cash flow analysis beginning with implementation of the 169 project and extending for the term of the comprehensive 170 agreement.

(6) The procurement of public-private partnerships by the department shall follow the provisions of this section. Sections 337.025, 337.11, 337.14, 337.141, 337.145, 337.175, 337.18, 337.185, 337.19, 337.221, and 337.251 shall not apply to procurements under this section unless a provision is included

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in the procurement documents. The department shall ensure that generally accepted business practices for exemptions provided by this subsection are part of the procurement process or are included in the public-private partnership agreement.

180 The department may request proposals from private (a) 181 entities for public-private transportation projects or, if the 182 department receives an unsolicited proposal, the department 183 shall publish a notice in the Florida Administrative Register 184 and a newspaper of general circulation at least once a week for 185 2 weeks stating that the department has received the proposal 186 and will accept, between 30 and for 120 days after the initial date of publication as determined by the department based on the 187 188 complexity of the project, other proposals for the same project 189 purpose. A copy of the notice must be mailed to each local 190 government in the affected area.

191 (8) Before or in connection with the negotiation of a 192 comprehensive agreement, the department may enter into an 193 interim agreement with the private entity proposing the 194 development or operation of the qualifying project. An interim 195 agreement does not obligate the department to enter into a comprehensive agreement. The interim agreement is discretionary 196 197 with the parties and is not required on a qualifying project for 198 which the parties may proceed directly to a comprehensive 199 agreement without the need for an interim agreement. An interim 200 agreement must be limited to provisions that:

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201 Authorize the private entity to commence activities (a) 202 for which it may be compensated related to the proposed 203 qualifying project, including, but not limited to, project 204 planning and development, design, environmental analysis and 205 mitigation, survey, other activities concerning any part of the 206 proposed qualifying project, and ascertaining the availability 207 of financing for the proposed facility or facilities. 208 (b) Establish the process and timing of the negotiation of 209 the comprehensive agreement. 210 (c) Contain such other provisions that the department and 211 the private entity deem appropriate related to an aspect of the 212 development or operation of a qualifying project. 213 (9) (8) The department may enter into <u>a</u> comprehensive 214 agreement public-private partnership agreements that includes 215 include extended terms providing annual payments for performance 216 based on the availability of service or the facility being open 217 to traffic or based on the level of traffic using the facility. 218 In addition to other provisions in this section, the following 219 provisions shall apply: 220 The annual payments under such comprehensive agreement (a) 221 shall be included in the department's tentative work program developed under s. 339.135 and the long-range transportation 222 223 plan for the applicable metropolitan planning organization

225 annual payments on multiyear comprehensive public-private

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developed under s. 339.175. The department shall ensure that

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226 partnership agreements are prioritized ahead of new capacity 227 projects in the development and updating of the tentative work 228 program.

(b) The annual payments are subject to annual
appropriation by the Legislature as provided in the General
Appropriations Act in support of the first year of the tentative
work program.

233 <u>(11) (10)</u> Before Prior to entering into such comprehensive 234 agreement where funds are committed from the State 235 Transportation Trust Fund, the project must be prioritized as 236 follows:

(a) The department, in coordination with the local
metropolitan planning organization, shall prioritize projects
included in the Strategic Intermodal System 10-year and longrange cost-feasible plans.

(b) The department, in coordination with the local metropolitan planning organization or local government where there is no metropolitan planning organization, shall prioritize projects, for facilities not on the Strategic Intermodal System, included in the metropolitan planning organization cost-feasible transportation improvement plan and long-range transportation plan.

248 (12) (11) Comprehensive Public-private partnership
 249 agreements under this section shall be limited to a term not
 250 exceeding 50 years. Upon making written findings that <u>a</u>

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251 comprehensive an agreement under this section requires a term in 252 excess of 50 years, the secretary of the department may 253 authorize a term of up to 75 years for projects that are 254 partially or completely funded from project user fees. 255 Comprehensive agreements under this section shall not have a 256 term in excess of 75 years unless specifically approved by the 257 Legislature. The department shall identify each new project 258 under this section with a term exceeding 75 years in the 259 transmittal letter that accompanies the submittal of the 260 tentative work program to the Governor and the Legislature in accordance with s. 339.135. 261

262 Section 3. Subsections (12) and (13) of section 337.11, 263 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

264 337.11 Contracting authority of department; bids;265 emergency repairs, supplemental agreements, and change orders;266 combined design and construction contracts; progress payments;267 records; requirements of vehicle registration.-

268 (12) (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the 269 contrary, the department has unilateral authority to pay the 270 contractor the sums the department determines to be due to the contractor for work performed on a project. This unilateral 271 272 authority to pay by the department does not preclude or limit 273 the rights of the department and the contractor to negotiate and 274 agree to the amounts to be paid to the contractor. By acceptance of any such unilateral payment, the contractor does not waive 275

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any rights the contractor may have against the department for payment of any additional sums the contractor claims are due for the work.

(b) If it is determined that added work on the project is necessary, or if work on the project is delayed, the department shall pay to the contractor interest at the rate set forth in s. 55.03 on any unpaid amounts that remain 75 days after the completion of the added work or the elimination of the delay.

(13) <u>A motor vehicle used</u> Each contract let by the department for the performance of road or bridge construction or maintenance work <u>on a department project must</u> shall require all motor vehicles that the contractor operates or causes to be operated in this state to be registered in compliance with chapter 320.

290 Section 4. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (1) of 291 section 337.18, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

292 337.18 Surety bonds for construction or maintenance 293 contracts; requirement with respect to contract award; bond 294 requirements; defaults; damage assessments.-

(1) (a) A surety bond shall be required of the successful bidder in an amount equal to the awarded contract price. However, the department may choose, in its discretion and applicable only to multiyear maintenance contracts, to allow for incremental annual contract bonds that cumulatively total the full, awarded, multiyear contract price.

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301 1. The department may waive the requirement for all or a 302 portion of a surety bond if:

a. The contract price is \$250,000 or less and the
department determines that the project is of a noncritical
nature and that nonperformance will not endanger public health,
safety, or property;

307 b. The prime contractor is a qualified nonprofit agency 308 for the blind or for the other severely handicapped under s. 309 413.036(2); or

310 c. The prime contractor is using a subcontractor that is a 311 qualified nonprofit agency for the blind or for the other 312 severely handicapped under s. 413.036(2). However, the 313 department may not waive more than the amount of the 314 subcontract.

315 2. If the department Secretary of Transportation or the 316 secretary's designee determines that it is in the best interests 317 of the department to reduce the bonding requirement for a 318 project and that to do so will not endanger public health, 319 safety, or property, the department may waive the requirement of 320 a surety bond in an amount equal to the awarded contract price for a project having a contract price of \$250 million or more 321 322 and, in its place, may set a surety bond amount that is a 323 portion of the total contract price and provide an alternate 324 means of security for the balance of the contract amount that is 325 not covered by the surety bond or provide for incremental surety

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326 bonding and provide an alternate means of security for the 327 balance of the contract amount that is not covered by the surety 328 bond. Such alternative means of security may include letters of 329 credit, United States bonds and notes, parent company 330 quarantees, and cash collateral. The department may require 331 alternate means of security if a surety bond is waived. The 332 surety on such bond shall be a surety company authorized to do 333 business in the state. All bonds shall be payable to the 334 department and conditioned for the prompt, faithful, and 335 efficient performance of the contract according to plans and 336 specifications and within the time period specified, and for the 337 prompt payment of all persons defined in s. 713.01 furnishing 338 labor, material, equipment, and supplies for work provided in 339 the contract; however, whenever an improvement, demolition, or 340 removal contract price is \$25,000 or less, the security may, in 341 the discretion of the bidder, be in the form of a cashier's 342 check, bank money order of any state or national bank, certified 343 check, or postal money order. The department shall adopt rules 344 to implement this subsection. Such rules shall include 345 provisions under which the department shall refuse to accept 346 bonds on contracts when a surety wrongfully fails or refuses to 347 settle or provide a defense for claims or actions arising under 348 a contract for which the surety previously furnished a bond. 349 An action, except an action for recovery of retainage, (d) must be instituted by a claimant, regardless of whether in 350

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351	privity with the contractor or not , against the contractor or
352	the surety on the payment bond or the payment provisions of a
353	combined payment and performance bond within 365 days after the
354	performance of the labor or completion of delivery of the
355	materials or supplies. An action for recovery of retainage must
356	be instituted against the contractor or the surety within 365
357	days after final acceptance of the contract work by the
358	department. A claimant may not waive in advance his or her right
359	to bring an action under the bond against the surety. In any
360	action brought to enforce a claim against a payment bond under
361	this section, the prevailing party is entitled to recover a
362	reasonable fee for the services of his or her attorney for trial
363	and appeal or for arbitration, in an amount to be determined by
364	the court, which fee must be taxed as part of the prevailing
365	party's costs, as allowed in equitable actions.
366	Section 5. Section 337.195, Florida Statutes, is amended
367	to read:
368	337.195 Limits on liability
369	(1) As used in this section, the term:
370	(a) "Contract documents" means those contract documents
371	defined in Section 1-3 of the department's Standard
372	Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction which are
373	applicable under the contract between the department and the
374	contractor.
375	(b) "Contractor" means a person at any contractual tier,
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376	including any member of a design-build team, who, pursuant to s.
377	337.11, constructs, maintains, or repairs a highway, road,
378	street, bridge, or other transportation facility for the
379	department or in connection with a department project.
380	(c) "Design engineer" means a person, including the design
381	consultant of a design-build team, who contracts at any tier to
382	prepare or provide engineering plans, including traffic control
383	plans, for the construction or repair of a highway, road,
384	street, bridge, or other department transportation facility.
385	(d) "Traffic control plans" means maintenance of traffic
386	plans designed by a professional engineer, or otherwise in
387	accordance with the department's maintenance of traffic
388	standards, and approved by the department.
389	<u>(2)</u> In a civil action for the death of or injury to a
390	person, or for damage to property, against the department of
391	Transportation or its agents, consultants, or contractors for
392	work performed on a highway, road, street, bridge, or other
393	transportation facility when the death, injury, or damage
394	resulted from a motor vehicle crash within a construction zone
395	in which the driver of one of the vehicles was under the
396	influence of alcoholic beverages as set forth in s. 316.193,
397	under the influence of any chemical substance as set forth in s.
398	877.111, under the influence of marijuana authorized by s.
399	381.986, excluding low-THC cannabis, or illegally under the
400	influence of any substance controlled under chapter 893 to the

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401 extent that her or his normal faculties were impaired or that 402 she or he operated a vehicle recklessly as defined in s. 403 316.192, it is presumed that the driver's operation of the 404 vehicle was the sole proximate cause of her or his own death, 405 injury, or damage. This presumption can be overcome if the gross 406 negligence or intentional misconduct of the department of 407 Transportation, or of its agents, consultants, or contractors, 408 was a proximate cause of the driver's death, injury, or damage. 409 (3) (a) $\frac{(2)}{(2)}$ A contractor is immune from liability for who constructs, maintains, or repairs a highway, road, street, 410 411 bridge, or other transportation facility for the Department of 412 Transportation is not liable to a claimant for personal injury, 413 property damage, or death arising from the performance of the 414 construction, maintenance, or repair if, at the time of the 415 personal injury, property damage, or death, the contractor was 416 in compliance with contract documents material to the condition 417 that was the proximate cause of the personal injury, property 418 damage, or death arising from: 419 1. The performance of the construction, maintenance, or 420 repair of the transportation facility if, at the time the 421 personal injury, property damage, or death occurred, the 422 contractor was in compliance with the traffic control plan 423 material to the personal injury, property damage, or death. 424 2. Acts or omissions of a third party who furnishes, or 425 contracts at any contractual tier to furnish, services or

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426 materials to the transportation facility, including a 427 subcontractor; sub-subcontractor; laborer; materialman; owner, 428 lessor, or operator of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, 429 truck, heavy truck, truck tractor, or commercial motor vehicle 430 as those terms are defined in s. 320.01; or person who performs services as an architect, a landscape architect, an interior 431 432 designer, an engineer, or a surveyor and mapper. 433 3. Acts or omissions of a third party who trespasses 434 within the limits of the transportation facility or otherwise is 435 not authorized to enter the area of the transportation facility 436 in which the personal injury, property damage, or death was 437 caused. 438 4. Acts or omissions of a third party who damages, 439 modifies, moves, or removes a traffic control device, warning 440 device, barrier, or any other facility or device used for the 441 public's safety and convenience. 442 (b) (a) The limitations limitation on liability contained 443 in this subsection do does not apply when the proximate cause of 444 the personal injury, property damage, or death is a latent 445 condition, defect, error, or omission that was created by the 446 contractor and not a defect, error, or omission in the traffic 447 control plans contract documents; or when the proximate cause of 448 the personal injury, property damage, or death was the

449 contractor's failure to perform, update, or comply with the 450 maintenance of the traffic control plans safety plan as required

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451 by the contract documents.

452 <u>(c) (b) Nothing in This subsection does not relieve</u> shall 453 be interpreted or construed as relieving the contractor of any 454 obligation to provide the department of Transportation with 455 written notice of any apparent error or omission in the contract 456 documents.

457 (d) (c) Nothing in This subsection does not shall be
 458 interpreted or construed to alter or affect any claim of the
 459 department of Transportation against such contractor.

460 <u>(e) (d)</u> This subsection does not affect any claim of any 461 entity against such contractor, which claim is associated with 462 such entity's facilities on or in department of Transportation 463 roads or other transportation facilities.

464 (4) (3) In all cases involving personal injury, property 465 damage, or death, a design engineer person or entity who 466 contracts to prepare or provide engineering plans for the 467 construction or repair of a highway, road, street, bridge, or 468 other transportation facility for the Department of 469 Transportation shall be presumed to have prepared such 470 engineering plans using the degree of care and skill ordinarily 471 exercised by other engineers in the field under similar conditions and in similar localities and with due regard for 472 473 acceptable engineering standards and principles if the 474 engineering plans conformed to the department's Department of 475 Transportation's design standards material to the condition or

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476 defect that was the proximate cause of the personal injury, 477 property damage, or death. This presumption can be overcome only 478 upon a showing of the design engineer's person's or entity's 479 gross negligence in the preparation of the engineering plans and 480 does shall not be interpreted or construed to alter or affect 481 any claim of the department of Transportation against such 482 design engineer person or entity. The limitation on liability 483 contained in this subsection does shall not apply to any hidden 484 or undiscoverable condition created by the design engineer. This 485 subsection does not affect any claim of any entity against such 486 design engineer or engineering firm, which claim is associated 487 with such entity's facilities on or in department of 488 Transportation roads or other transportation facilities. 489 (4) In any civil action for death, injury, or damages 490 against the Department of Transportation or its agents, 491 consultants, engineers, or contractors for work performed on a 492 highway, road, street, bridge, or other transportation facility, 493 if the department, its agents, consultants, engineers, or 494 immune from liability pursuant contractors 495 or are not parties to the litigation, they may not be named on 496 the jury verdict form or be found to be at fault or responsible 497 for the injury, death, or damage that gave rise to the damages. 498 Section 6. Section 339.28201, Florida Statutes, is created 499 to read: 500 339.28201 Local Agency Program.-

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501	(1) There is created within the Department of
502	Transportation a Local Agency Program for the purpose of
503	providing funds to subrecipient counties, cities, and towns for
504	developing, designing, and constructing transportation
505	facilities.
506	(2) Local Agency Program agencies shall prioritize and
507	fund local projects in accordance with subsection (1). Such
508	agencies shall then be eligible for reimbursement by the
509	Federal-Aid Highway Program for the services provided to the
510	traveling public through compliance with applicable federal
511	statutes, rules, and regulations.
512	(3) Federal-Aid Highway Program funds are only available
513	to local agencies that are certified by the department on their
514	qualifications, ability to comply with federal requirements, and
515	ability to undertake and satisfactorily complete the work.
516	(4) The department is responsible for oversight of funded
517	projects on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration.
518	(5) At a minimum, such local agencies shall include the
519	department's Division I General Requirements and Covenants for
520	local agencies in their contracts and include a contingency
521	amount in the project cost to account for unforeseen conditions.
522	Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

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