Office of Inspector General Audit Report

Fiscal Year 1999 Financial Statements

Highway Trust Fund

Report Number: FE-2000-056 Date Issued: February 28, 2000







U.S. Department of **Transportation** Office of the Secretary of Transportation Office of Inspector General

Memorandum

Subject: <u>INFORMATION</u>: Report on Fiscal Year 1999

Financial Statements, Highway Trust Fund

FE-2000-056

K.C. hal

From: Kenneth M. Mead

Inspector General

Reply To

Attn. of: Meche:x61496

Date: February 28, 2000

то: The Secretary

Thru: The Deputy Secretary

I respectfully submit the Office of Inspector General (OIG) report on the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year (FY) 1999 ended September 30, 1999. This report is required by the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, as amended by the Government Management Reform Act of 1994.

The audit report is the responsibility of the OIG. All other information--including the Management Discussion and Analysis, Financial Statements, Notes, and Supplemental Information--is the responsibility of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Administration (FTA), National Highway Administration, and the Federal Railroad Administration (the HTF agencies).

This report presents our unqualified opinion on the HTF Balance Sheet, Statement of Net Cost, Statement of Changes in Net Position, Statement of Budgetary Resources, and Statement of Financing as of, and for the year ended, September 30, 1999.

To assist us, the Department of Treasury (Treasury) Office of Inspector General audited the schedule of assets and liabilities, and the related schedule of activity for the HTF accounts (referred to as the Corpus account) administered by the Treasury Bureau of Public Debt. The Treasury OIG issued an unqualified opinion on these FY 1999 schedules. The General Accounting Office performed agreed-upon procedures on the tax revenue receipts at the Internal Revenue Service and distributions to the HTF Corpus account, and identified no material discrepancies.

During FY 1999, the HTF agencies overcame major problems with the Statement of Budgetary Resources and Statement of Financing. The HTF agencies provided sufficient evidence to support all material line items on the Statement of Budgetary Resources, and reconciled the Statement of Budgetary Resources with the Statement of Net Cost on the Statement of Financing for FY 1999. We identified four areas involving weaknesses in internal controls and compliance with laws and regulations. While these issues are important, they did not affect our audit opinion.

- In November 1998, FTA implemented a new grants management system (TEAM).
 We examined the computer security controls, and found improved controls were needed to ensure the integrity, availability, and continuity of FTA grants management operations. A separate report addressing these weaknesses will be issued later.
- The HTF agencies had not established procedures to fully estimate and accrue liabilities, thereby underestimating goods and services received by states and transit authorities. As a result, both liabilities and expenses would have been understated by about \$1.1 billion. The HTF agencies made the appropriate adjustments on the FY 1999 HTF Financial Statements.
- The performance measures presented in the Management Discussion and Analysis did not provide information about the cost effectiveness of programs, and did not relate to the Statement of Net Cost. The nine performance measures were based on 1998 rather than 1999 performance data. None of the nine measures was linked to the cost of achieving targeted results.
- The HTF agencies were not in compliance with the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996 because liabilities were not fully accrued at yearend, the Department's accounting system did not provide all data used to prepare the HTF Financial Statements, and a managerial cost accounting system was not implemented. The Department plans to have a compliant system fully operational by June 30, 2001.

We are making no recommendations in this report. Because the control weaknesses and compliance issues we identified are common to the HTF and other Department of Transportation (DOT) Operating Administrations, we will address these issues in our report on the FY 1999 DOT Consolidated Financial Statements.

A draft of this report was provided to the FHWA Acting Chief Financial Officer on February 18, 2000. He agreed with the report.

We appreciate the cooperation and assistance of representatives of the HTF agencies and DOT. If we can answer questions or be of any further assistance, please call me at (202) 366-1959, or John Meche at (202) 366-1496.

Attachments

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR GENERAL'S INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT ON THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND FISCAL YEAR 1999 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Federal Highway Administrator, Federal Transit Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator, and Federal Railroad Administrator

The Department of Transportation (DOT), Office of Inspector General (OIG), audited the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) Financial Statements as of, and for the year ended, September 30, 1999. In our opinion, the Balance Sheet, Statement of Net Cost, Statement of Changes in Net Position, Statement of Budgetary Resources, and Statement of Financing were fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

We also are reporting on internal controls over the HTF within the HTF agencies, and compliance with laws and regulations applicable to the Fiscal Year (FY) 1999 HTF Financial Statements. We performed audit work in the Headquarters offices of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). We examined, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the HTF Financial Statements. We assessed the accounting principles and estimates used by management. We evaluated the overall presentation of the HTF Financial Statements.

We examined the validity of financial transactions and interviewed financial management officials in FHWA Division and state Department of Transportation offices in Richmond, Virginia; Sacramento, California; Albany, New York; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and Atlanta, Georgia. We also examined financial transactions in FTA regional offices and five transit authorities: San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit; Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority; New York City Metropolitan Transportation Authority; Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority; and Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, and in the NHTSA and California Highway Patrol offices in Sacramento, California.

We examined the computer security controls in FTA's new grants management system (TEAM), a financial and management information system implemented in November 1998. We found improved controls were needed to ensure the integrity, availability, and continuity of FTA grants management operations. The weaknesses we identified will be addressed in a separate report to be issued later.

We performed the audit in accordance with <u>Government Auditing Standards</u> prescribed by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Bulletin 98-08, <u>Audit Requirements for Federal Financial Statements</u>, as amended.

Our audit objectives for the FY 1999 HTF Financial Statements were to determine whether (1) the principal HTF Financial Statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in conformance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles; (2) the HTF agencies have adequate internal controls over financial reporting, including the safeguarding of assets; (3) the HTF agencies have complied with laws and regulations that could have a direct and material effect on the HTF Financial Statements or have been specified by OMB; (4) the financial information in the Management Discussion and Analysis is materially consistent with the information in the principal HTF Financial Statements; (5) the internal control structure ensured the existence and completeness of reported data supporting performance measures; and (6) HTF stewardship information is consistent with management representations and the HTF Financial Statements.

Except for performance measures, which were based on 1998 performance data (Part C of this report), the financial information in the Management Discussion and Analysis was materially consistent with the FY 1999 HTF Financial Statements. The HTF stewardship information was consistent with management representations and the HTF Financial Statements.

We are including our reports on the internal control structure, and compliance with laws and regulations, in Parts B and C of this report.

A. OPINION ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In our opinion, the Balance Sheet, Statement of Net Cost, Statement of Changes in Net Position, Statement of Budgetary Resources, and Statement of Financing as of, and for the year ended, September 30, 1999, were fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.

B. REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL STRUCTURE

While the purpose of our work was not to express, and we do not express, an opinion on internal controls, we found one material internal control weakness. Our work was limited to applicable internal controls designed to ensure reliable financial reporting, including the safeguarding of assets against loss from unauthorized use. We obtained an understanding of the design of the internal controls, determined whether the controls have been placed in operation, assessed control risk relevant to the assertions embodied in the Financial Statements, and performed tests of the internal controls. Because of

inherent limitations in any internal control structure, misstatements and losses may occur and not be detected.

MATERIAL WEAKNESS

The following section describes a material weakness we identified and its impact on the HTF Financial Statements and management of HTF operations. The financial statement weaknesses were reported to The President and Congress on December 29, 1999, as part of the Department's report required by the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982.

Accrual of Liabilities to States and Transit Authorities

Statement of Federal Financial Accounting Standard Number 1 requires agencies to recognize a liability for unpaid goods and services that have been accepted at yearend. For two of the HTF agencies (FHWA and FTA), goods and services are accepted and paid by states and transit authorities, and subsequently reimbursed by the HTF agencies. Invoices for goods and services that are not available when financial statements are prepared should be estimated for financial statement purposes. The intent of accruing liabilities at yearend is to properly report liabilities and expenses in the appropriate accounting period.

The HTF agencies had not established procedures to fully accrue liabilities at yearend. During FY 1999, the HTF agencies estimated and accrued liabilities of \$900 million for goods and services received by states and transit authorities at yearend. We tested the estimate and found it did not include all goods and services that had been accepted but not yet billed to the HTF agencies. As a result, both liabilities and expenses would have been understated on the Balance Sheet and Statement of Net Cost by about \$1.1 billion. The HTF agencies revised the estimate and appropriately reported liabilities on the Balance Sheet and expenses on the Statement of Net Cost as of September 30, 1999. The HTF agencies also adjusted liabilities that were underestimated prior to FY 1999.

C. REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Our objective was not to express, and we do not express, an opinion on compliance with laws and regulations. Our work was limited to selected provisions of laws and regulations that would have a direct and material effect on the HTF Financial Statements or have been specified by OMB, and would not necessarily disclose all material noncompliances.

Performance Data

Under OMB Bulletin 98-08, our responsibility is to obtain an understanding of internal controls relating to the existence and completeness of performance data. The HTF agencies are responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal controls. The FY 1999 DOT Performance Plan contained 70 performance measures, of which 9 were in the FY 1999 HTF Financial Statements. The presentation complied with the requirements of OMB Bulletin 97-01 to report performance measures consistent with goals and objectives from agencies' strategic plans.

Linking to the Statement of Net Cost and Measuring Cost-Effectiveness

OMB Bulletin 97-01 states:

Entities should strive to develop and report objective measures that ... provide information about the cost effectiveness of programs. The reported measures ... should be linked to the programs featured in the Statement of Net Cost. ... To further enhance the usefulness of the information, agencies should include an explanation of what needs to be done and what is planned . . . to improve financial or program performance.

The HTF agencies did not have systems in place to allocate costs by major program. Consequently, the performance measures could not be linked to the Statement of Net Cost. For example, one FTA goal is to increase the percentage of key rail stations that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. FTA did not report the FY 1999 cost data for increasing the percentage of compliant key stations.

The performance measures presented in the HTF Financial Statements also did not provide information about cost-effectiveness. None of the measures was linked to the cost of achieving targeted results, or to the Statement of Net Cost. For example, one FHWA goal is to improve the condition of bridges so that, in 10 years, less than 20 percent are classified as deficient. FHWA did not report the FY 1999 cost data for improving deficient bridges.

The Departmental Accounting and Financial Information System (DAFIS) does not have the capability to track program costs. However, DOT is in the process of replacing DAFIS, and plans to have the new accounting system in full operation by June 30, 2001.

Internal Control Environment

We performed various procedures to assess the internal control environment relating to performance data. While our work disclosed no material internal control weaknesses, we were not required to, and we did not, test the validity or accuracy of performance data as part of the HTF Financial Statement audit. However, the HTF agencies are facing a significant management challenge to ensure the incoming data are complete. The HTF agencies are relying on third party organizations outside the Federal Government for most of their performance data. Performance data could be coming from hundreds of organizations, such as states; grantees; and transit authorities.

Although not part of the Financial Statement audits, the OIG began performing audits during FY 1999 addressing performance measures and data. More of these audits will be accomplished as part of selected program audits. Although not one of the nine performance measures in the HTF Financial Statements, OIG recently completed a performance audit and found the Safety Status Measurement System (SafeStat) cannot target motor carriers with the worst records because the database is incomplete and inaccurate.

The Department is in the process of implementing a system to further enhance the quality of all performance data.

Reporting of Planned Actions

To enhance the usefulness of performance information, OMB Bulletin 97-01 encourages entities to include an explanation of what is planned to improve financial or program performance. The Management Discussion and Analysis overview of the HTF Financial Statements included general comments on how to improve performance; however, specific plans to improve financial performance, by performance measures, were not included. For example, planned actions to improve the pavement quality of the National Highway System was not addressed.

Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996

The Federal Financial Management Improvement Act (FFMIA) of 1996 requires auditors to report whether agencies' financial management systems comply substantially with Federal financial management system requirements, Federal accounting standards, and the Government's standard general ledger at the transaction level. The HTF agencies were not in compliance because liabilities were not fully accrued at yearend, DAFIS did not provide the data necessary for preparation of the HTF Financial Statements, and a managerial cost accounting system had not been implemented. The HTF agencies made 77 adjustments, totaling \$4.6 billion, outside DAFIS to prepare the Financial Statements. These adjustments were recorded in the financial statements module, a tool used to prepare the annual financial statements, but were not recorded or retained in DAFIS.

On December 29, 1999, the Secretary of Transportation reported that the Department was not in substantial compliance with FFMIA because the existing core accounting

system was not the primary source of information used for preparation of Financial Statements. The Secretary also reported the Department had not fully implemented the requirements of Managerial Cost Accounting Standards, because the Department's accounting system did not have the capability to capture cost by program. The Department is working to correct these conditions by June 30, 2001, when a new, commercial off-the-shelf, FFMIA compliant, accounting system is planned to be fully implemented.

D. PRIOR AUDIT COVERAGE

Our reports on the FY 1997 and FY 1998 HTF Financial Statements contained no recommendations. However, one recommendation from our FY 1996 report relating to automated data processing controls and safeguards has not been fully implemented. FHWA still needs to prepare adequate security and disaster recovery plans, and perform required certification and accreditation reviews. FHWA officials stated corrective actions would be completed by September 30, 2000.

We issued two reports last year that impact the HTF Financial Statements. On September 27, 1999, we issued Report FE-1999-131 identifying \$672 million of recorded obligations departmentwide that no longer represented valid financial liabilities. We recommended a departmentwide policy requiring at least annual reviews of inactive obligations. On December 28, 1999, the Department issued a policy for annual reviews of obligations. The HTF agencies either deobligated or reprogrammed a total of \$174 million to other active projects.

On February 14, 2000, we issued Report FE-2000-053 identifying 42 duplicate payments totaling \$1.6 million to the State of Georgia. We recommended that FHWA determine whether additional duplicate payments occurred, recover at least \$1.6 million, verify the new accounting system has been reprogrammed, review all disbursements to the State of Georgia, and alert all FHWA Division Financial Managers to review controls in new accounting systems. The duplicate payments were recouped, and FHWA and State of Georgia officials were taking corrective actions.

This report is intended for the information of the HTF agencies and DOT. However, this report is a matter of public record, and its distribution is not limited.

Kenneth M. Mead Inspector General

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND Consolidated Balance Sheet As of September 30, 1999 (Dollars in Thousands)

890,349 28,082,618 2,768 21,683 26,897,418 7,940 42,919 154,958 2,070
28,082,618 2,766 21,683 28,997,416 7,940 42,919 154,956
28,082,618 2,766 21,683 28,997,418 7,940 42,919 154,958
28,082,618 2,766 21,683 28,997,416 7,940 42,919 154,956
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38,608
11,800
50,408
50,100
137,971
13,799
1,891,341
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2,093,519
27,111,782
27,111,782
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29,205,301

Highway Trust Fund Consolidated Statement of Net Cost For the Period Ended September 30, 1999 (Dollars in Thousands)

Program Costs (Notes 20 & 21)

Surface Transportation:

1-1				62,519
Intragovernmental Public Programs:			•	62,518
Interstate Maintenance		7		2 222 404
miles a second formation and the second seco				3,556,494
National Highway System				4,044,667
Bridge Programs	100			2,154,118
Surface Transportation				6,209,297
Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality				807,532
High Priority Projects				163,952
Minimum Guarantee				1,373,203
Mass Transit				1,502,448
Federal Lands Highways				226,120
Planning				193,967
Emergency Relief				455,808
Minimum Allocation				525,042
State Infrastructure Bank				157,331
Research				231,628
Other Highway Programs				3,238,751
Less Earned Revenues				(82,713)
Net Program Costs			\$	24,820,162
			4	
Cost Not Assigned to Programs		18	\$	57,432
Less Earned Revenue Not			40	
	**			0.00000
Attributed to Programs			\$	(1,693)
Net Cost of Operations			3	24,875,901

Highway Trust Fund Consolidated Statement of Changes in Net Position For the Period Ended September 30, 1999 (Dollars in Thousands)

5	24,875,901
	39,292,607 10,505
	23,973
	26,481,400
	(30,717,390)
7 8	(1,243)
s	10,193,951
727	
3	(1,027,279)
\$	9,166,672
-	0
\$	9,166,672
4	17,945,110
3	27,111,782
	\$ \$

Highway Trust Fund Consolidated Statement of Budgetary Resources As of September 30, 1999 (Dollars in Thousands)

Budgetary Resources (Note 24):		
Budget Authority (Line 1) Unobligated Balances - Beginning of Period (Line 2A) Spending Authority From Offsetting Collections (line 3) Adjustments (Lines 4-6)	s	35,877,119 44,389,795 102,866 (43,711,930)
Total Budgetary Resources (Line 7)	\$	36,637,850
Status of Budgetary Resources:		
Obligations Incurred (Line 8) Unobligated Balances-Available (Line 9) Unobligated Balances-Not Available (Line 10)	\$	31,576,811 5,056,824 4,215
Total, Status of Budgetary Resources (Line 11)	3	36,637,850
Outlays:		
Obligations Incurred (Line 8) Less: Spending Authority From Offsetting		31,578,811
Collections and Adjustments (Lines 3A, B. D & 4A)		(152,882)
Subtotal		31,423,929
Obligated Balance, Net Beginning of Period (Line 12)		38,442,471
Obligated Balance Transferred, Net (Line 13)		0
Less: Obligated Balance, Net - End of Period (Line 14)		(38,957,604)
Total Outlays (Line 15)	3	28,908,798

Note 16. Federal Employee and Veterans Benefits:

A. Not Covered by Budgetary Resources:

Other Post-Employment Benefits:
 Federal Employees Compensation Act
 Actuarial Liability

13,799

Total Not Covered by Budgetary Resources

13,799

Total Federal Employee and Veterans Benefits

13,799

Note 19, Cumulative Results of Operations

Cumulative Results		
	(Dollar	s in Thousands)
(1) Unobligated		
a. Available	\$	45,187
 b. Unavailable Program 		4,214
c. Unavailable Corpus		21,858,378
(2) Undelivered Orders	1	5,204,003
Total	\$	27,111,782
Unobligated Balances		
Available		
Federal Aid Highways	\$	14,668
Other Trust Funds		30,519
	\$ -	45,187
Unavailable		
Federal Aid Highways	\$	4,214
Total timebilented	s	40.404
Total Unobligated	•	49,401
Funded Obligated Balances		
Federal Aid Highways	\$	3,394,366
Other Trust Funds		364,675
FTA		1,265,338
NHTSA		174,524
FRA	_	5,100
	\$	5,204,003

Corpus Trust Fund Balance of \$21,748,643,000 has not been made available to the program accounts.

Note 20. Gross Cost and Earned Revenue by Budget Functional Classification:

A. Gross Cost and Earned Revenue by Budget Functional Classification:

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Gross Cost		100	Eamed evenue	- 1	et ost
Functional Classification:						
050 National Defense	\$		\$	-	\$	_
150 International Affairs				-		
300 National Resources and Environment						
400 Transportation	24,960,	307		84,406	24,8	75,901
450 Community and Regional Development				-		
800 General Government				_	100	-
Total	\$24,960,	307	\$	84,408	\$24,8	75,901

Costs represent surface transportation programs performed by FHWA, FTA, NHTSA and FRA. Costs not assigned to programs are depreciation expenses, uncollectable accounts, receivables, expenses, cash management improvement act payments and benefit program expenses.

Earned revenue is for reimbursable work done for other government agencies.

Note 21 Net Cost by Program:

Program Costs		
1. Public		
Interstate Maintenance	\$ 3,556,494	
National Highway System	4,044,667	
Bridge Program	2,154,118	
Surface Transportation	6,209,297	
Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality	807,532	
High Priority Projects	163,952	
Minimum Guarantee	1,373,203	
Federal Lands Highways	226,120	
Planning	193,967	
Emergency Relief	455,808	
Minimum Allocation	525,042	
State Infrastructure Bank	157,331	
Research	231,628	
Mass Transit	1,502,448	
Other Highway Programs	3,238,751	
Total Public	\$ 24,840,356	
2. Intragovenmental	(20,194)	

Total Surface Program Costs

\$ 24,820,162

The present accounting system does not provide identifiable links to strategic goals and performance measures, but identifies costs to major program delievery to the states.

Note 22. Taxes and Other Non-Exchange Revenue:

4 (28)	(Dolla	rs in Thousands
A. Taxes and Other Non-Exchange Revenue:	750	
 Gasoline, Fuel, Tires, etc. 	\$	39,292,607
2. Fines and Penalties		6,688
Other Non-Exchange Revenue (Describe)		
CMIA Interest		1,890
Billed Uncollected Fines and Penalties		1,927
Total Taxes and Other Non-Exchange Revenue	\$	39,303,112
Tax Receipts:		
Excise Taxes were collected in the following catagories:		
Diesel Fuel	\$	9,165,312
Tires		416,034
Use of Certain Vehicles		813,698
Trucks		2,809,900
Gasoline	40	25,430,676
Gasohol		2,067,968
Total Taxes	\$	40,703,588
Less Transfers:		
Land and Water	\$	(1,000)
Aquatic Resources		(275,658)
Total Transfers	\$	(276,658)
Gross Tax Revenue	\$	40,426,930
Less Reimbursements to the General Fund		
Diesel powered Vehicle	\$	(779)
Gasoline 9.1/14.1		(361,049)
Gasohol 3.1/8.7		(21,869)
Diesel 15.1/20.1	F	(685,732)
Special Motor Fuel 9.1/14.1		(16,103)
Gas to make Gasohol	- 1	(32,962)
Diesel Fuel Bus Use		(35,829)
Total Reimbursement Tax Receipts	\$	(1,134,323)
Net Tax Receipts	\$	39,292,607

Note 23. Prior Period Adjustments:

(Dollars in Thousands)

A. Prior Period Adjustn

(1) Grant Administration Transfers NHTSA \$ 14,990
(2) FY 1998 Accrual Adjustment FHWA (886,659)
(3) FY 1998 Accrual Adjustment FTA (155,610)
Total \$ (1,027,279)

Grant Administration transfers from the Highway Trust Fund to the General Fund for prior periods for NHTSA.

A change in accounting estimates for the unbilled program costs identified that the FY 1998 accrual was understated for both FHWA and FTA. Identification that the change in accounting estimate was needed to more fairly present the financial information contained in these financial statements. FY 1999 costs have been adjusted accordingly. Policy has been developed to recognize actual expenses for the current period.

Note 24. Statement of Budgetary Resources:

Total Unfunded Contract Authority

(Dollars in Thousands) A. Net Amount of Budgetary Resources Obligated for Undelivered Orders as of September 30, 1999; 37,095,912 B. Available Contract Authority as of September 30, 1999: 5,005,963 C. Adjustments During FY 1999 to Budgetary Resources Available at the Beginning of the Year: (8,868)Provide a Complete Itemization and Explanation of These Adjustments: Cumulative Authorizations in Excess of **Obligation Limitation** Rescissions (441) **Prior Year Recoveries** Other Adjustments (Lapses) (8,427)**Total Adjustments to Budgetary** Resources (8,868) D. Unfunded Contract Authority Unobligated balances program accounts \$ 20,846,591 Obligated balances, program accounts 38,957,604 Total Budgetary Resource, program accounts 59,804,195 Less: Cash balances program accounts Less: Unrequistioned liquidating cash (945,722) (6,174,402)

\$ 52,684,071