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Federal Transit
Administration

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SUBJECT: Guidance on Grouping Transit Projects in Transportation
Improvement Programs/State Transportation Improvement
Programs

FROM: *Wilbur E. Hare*
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TO: All Region VI Grantees

Please find attached guidance on the grouping of transit projects in Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) and Statewide Transportation Improvement Programs (STIPs). This guidance is intended to provide Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), State Department of Transportation (DOTs), and public transportation operators with greater flexibility in the development of these programming documents, as well as to minimize the need for TIP or STIP amendments. The attached guidance is based largely on the structure provided by the activity line item codes for capital expenditures used in the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant budget and is to assist transit operators and MPOs with differentiating between programming of major projects versus grouping of minor projects for the TIP/STIP and their relationship to grant application descriptions.

The guidance establishes eight categories that transit operators and MPOs may use to group FTA-funded transit projects and activities in the TIP/STIP. Please note that for each category, budget line item codes are included only to indicate the types of expenditures to be included in each category; they need not be referenced in the TIP/STIP. All projects which fall under each category would be represented by a summary dollar amount. Grantees may then provide a project appendix to the TIP which would permit an eligibility determination during FTA review of the improvement program (this is FTA's preferred approach, particularly with grantee's use of Electronic Grant Making and Management (EGMM)). In the subsequent grant request, the grantee may note any changed projects in the TIP/STIP groupings which might require an eligibility review. However, so long as reasonable fiscal constraint is maintained for the groups, no TIP/STIP amendments would be required for the new/ revised projects.

To provide further flexibility, grantees can include their capitalized maintenance costs under either the operations category or under any other applicable grouping, at their discretion.

Please note, too, that 450 CFR Section 324(g)(6) requires that the TIP shall include "in nonattainment and maintenance areas, indication of those projects which are identified as TCMS in the applicable SIP," Section 324(g)(7) similarly requires that "in areas with Americans with Disabilities Act-required key station plans (the TIP shall include) identification of those projects which will implement the plans." It is a requirement that FTA-funded projects which meet these criteria be programmed separately from the project groupings provided in the guidance.

Attachment

STIP/TIP Groupings

I. Passenger Services

1. Revenue Rolling Stock, incl. Engineering and Design (xx.11.xx), Purchase-Replacement (xx.12.xx*), Purchase-Expansion (xx.13.xx), Rehabilitation (xx.14.xx), Rebuild (xx.15.xx), and Lease (xx.16.xx).
2. Transit-way Lines, incl. Engineering and Design (xx.21.xx), Acquisition (xx.22.xx), Construction (xx.23.xx), Rehab/Renovation (xx.24.xx), and Lease (xx.25.xx).
3. Station Stops/Terminals, incl. Engineering and Design (xx.31.xx), Acquisition (xx.32.xx), Construction (xx.33.xx), Rehab/Renovation (xx.34.xx), and Lease (xx.35.xx).

II. Support Services

4. Support Equipment & Facilities, incl. Engineering and Design (xx.41.xx), Acquisition (xx.42.xx), Construction (xx.43.xx), Rehab/Renovation (xx.44.xx), and Lease (xx.45.xx).
5. Electrification/Power Distribution/Signal & Communication, incl. Engineering and Design (xx.51.xx, xx.61.xx), Acquisition (xx.52.xx, xx.62.xx), Construction (xx.53.xx, xx.63.xx), Rehab/Renovation (xx.54.xx, xx.64), and Lease (xx.55.xx, xx.65.xx).

III. Other

6. Other Capital Program Items (xx.7x.xx).
7. Major Investment Planning (41.xx.xx)
8. Operations (30.09.00)

* Budget line item codes are provided to indicate types of expenditures to be included in each category. They do not need to be referenced in the TIP; rather, only a summary amount for *all* projects under *each* of the eight categories is required.