



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION      FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
819 TAYLOR STREET, ROOM 8A36      300 E. 8TH STREET, ROOM 826  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-9003      AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

May 12, 2011

Refer to: HPP-TX

Joint Approval of the November/February 2011 Quarterly Revisions to the  
FY 2011-2014 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

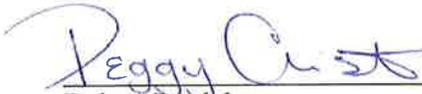
Mr. James Randall, P. E.  
Director, Transportation Planning and Programming Division  
Texas Department of Transportation  
125 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

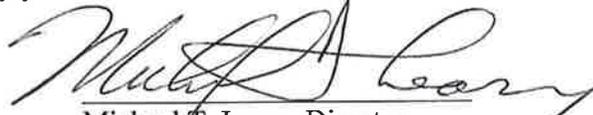
Dear Mr. Randall:

We have reviewed the November/February 2011 Quarterly Revisions to the FY 2011-2014 STIP transmitted by Mr. Amadeo Saenz's cover letter of March 23, 2011. Based upon our review, the November/February 2011 Quarterly Revisions to the STIP are hereby approved subject to the enclosed comments.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact either Mr. Kirk Fauver of the FHWA Texas Division at (512) 536-5952 or Ms. Lynn Hayes of FTA Region 6 office at (817) 978-0565 for additional information.

Sincerely yours,

*for*   
Robert Patrick  
Regional Administrator, Region 6  
Federal Transit Administration

  
Michael T. Leary, Director  
Planning and Program Development  
Federal Highway Administration

Enclosure



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cc: FHWA-HA-TX, HB-TX, HAM-TX  
Peggy Crist, FTA, Region VI  
Wayne Wells, TxDOT Design  
Angela Gill, TxDOT Design  
Lori Morel, TxDOT TPP(S)  
Kelly Kirkland, TxDOT PTN  
Robert Granberg, FHWA-TX

## Specific MPO/District Comments on the November/February 2011 Quarterly Revisions

### **General:**

1. It is recommended that TxDOT work with the MPOs and Districts to develop a uniform process for reporting project funding in the MPO/District financial summaries associated with the STIP revisions. This process should address the basis for the project funding reflected in the MPO/District financial summaries regarding funding associated with the proposed STIP revisions only, or funding associated with the entire MPO/District TIPs including the proposed STIP revisions.

### **Amarillo District:**

1. The Amarillo District FY 2011-2014 funding summary provided with the proposed STIP revisions indicates \$2,713,541 in Category 9 funding for FY 2011, however, the statewide financial summary indicates \$3,535,330 in Category 9 funding for FY 2011. Please provide an explanation for the noted funding discrepancy and/or correct the statewide financial summary as appropriate within one month of this letter.

### **Atlanta District:**

1. The TxDOT Atlanta District financial summary table does not show Category 9 funds in FY 2011 in the amount of \$1,183,117 as shown in the statewide financial summary table. This needs to be corrected in the financial summary table within one month of this letter.
2. The statewide financial summary table is missing \$1,502,595 in Category 9 funds for the FY 2014 time period. This needs to be corrected in the financial summary table within one month of this letter.

### **Austin MPO**

1. CSJ 0914-04-131: This revision proposes to program ARRA funds; however it is our understanding that we cannot authorize any additional ARRA funding. As such approval of this revision is withheld pending the clarification of project funding.
2. CSJ 2102-01-050: This revision proposes turn lane improvements at various locations within the City of West Lake Hills. However, the project roadway is noted as RM 2244. Approval of this revision is withheld pending clarification of the project's location/limits.
3. CSJ 0016-02-127: This revision is approved contingent upon the clarification of the number of frontage road lanes to be constructed.

4. CSJ 0914-05-149: Approval of this revision is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope. It is noted that the CAMPO 2035 MTP indicates the construction of CR 274 as a 6-lane boulevard.
5. CSJ 0265-04-057: This revision is approved contingent upon the clarification of project's source of funding. It is noted that the CAMPO 2035 MTP indicates that the project is contingent upon Proposition 12 funding, however, Category 8 and 12 funding is noted in the proposed STIP revision.
6. CSJ 0914-04-242: Approval of this revision is withheld pending clarification of the project's inclusion in the fiscally constrained CAMPO 2035 MTP. It is noted that the CAMPO 2035 MTP indicates that this project was previously "let" and does not appear to provide funding for this project.
7. CSJ 0914-33-032: Approval of this revision is withheld pending clarification of the proposed scope work.

**Brownsville MPO**

1. The project listed for FY2011 – Olmito Switchyard is not consistent with the MTP. The latest version of the MTP Project Listing is 12/09 and there is no new update listed on the MPO website. The 12/09 version of the MTP Project Listing also has ARRA funds tied to this project. Please provide an updated MTP Project Listing within one month of this letter. Approval of this revision is withheld pending resolution of the noted inconsistency.

**Bryan-College Station MPO and District**

1. Approval of the SH 47 (3138-02-010) project is withheld pending clarification of fiscal constraint for the total project cost. Resolution 11-02 included an amendment to add this project into the MTP with a total project cost of \$8,000,000 in Prop 14 and Local Contributions. The total project cost in the STIP is \$15,200,000, which exceeds the allowable threshold for cost variability. Please verify the current total project cost estimate or provide documentation of MPO action to address the higher cost in the MTP and demonstrate fiscal constraint within one month of this letter.

2. Approval of the following projects is withheld pending resolution of inconsistencies in the individual project listing financials, the TIP/STIP financial summary, and the Statewide Financials:
  - College Station Bike Loop (0917-29-108) for inconsistencies in local contribution amount,
  - SH 21 (0117-02-034) for inconsistencies in Category 11 funds,
  - FM 1179 (1316-01-034) for inconsistencies in Categories 3 and 11 funds,
  - FM 60 (0506-01-082) for inconsistencies in Categories 3, 10, and 11 funds, and
  - SH 47 (3138-02-010) for inconsistencies in Category 11 funds

**Dallas-Fort Worth MPO**

**February 2011, FY 2011-2014 STIP Revisions**

**Fort Worth District:**

1. CSJ 0902-48-693: This project revision is approved contingent upon receipt of information clarifying the proposed source of funding (i.e., TIGER versus ARRA).

**Dallas District:**

1. CSJ 0918-45-669: It is noted that this CSJ appears in the subject STIP revisions in more than one fiscal year with the same project limits and scope of work but with different funding information. Based upon discussions with NCTCOG staff it is understood that inclusion of the various STIP entries is due to fiscal constraint (i.e., multi-year pay-out of project activities). Although it is understood that project reimbursements will occur over several years, inclusion in the TIP/STIP should reflect the availability of required funding for the project or project phase in the anticipated implementation year (i.e., TIP year). Based upon discussions with NCTCOG, only the Year 2011 project revision is approved.
2. CSJ 0918-45-861: This project revision is approved contingent upon receipt of information clarifying the proposed source of funding source.
3. CSJ 0918-00-932: This project revision (vanpool program) is approved. However, federal funding is limited to federally eligible project activities. It is noted that this project is also included in the proposed November 2010 STIP revisions, however, this approval action addresses the proposed February 2011 STIP revision only, as it appears to supersede the November 2010 revision.

**November 2010, FY 2011-2014 STIP Revisions**

**Fort Worth District:**

1. CSJ 0902-48-762: The TIP modification page indicates eight project locations (streamlined project delivery) and four CSJs. Approval of this revision is limited to the eight project locations listed on the TIP modification page.

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2. CSJ 0902-48-972: The TIP modification page indicates eight project locations (streamlined project delivery) and four CSJs. Approval of this revision is limited to the eight project locations listed on the TIP modification page. Note: CSJs 0902-00-113 and 0902-48-973, as listed on the TIP modification page, were not found within the originally approved 2011-2014 STIP or February 2011 revision.

Dallas District:

1. CSJ 0918-00-177: This project revision (vanpool program) is approved. However, federal funding is limited to federally eligible project activities.
2. CSJ 0918-00-933: This project revision (vanpool program) is approved. However, federal funding is limited to federally eligible project activities.
3. CSJ 0918-00-934: This project revision (vanpool program) is approved. However, federal funding is limited to federally eligible project activities.

El Paso MPO and District

1. Please provide a signed copy of the TPB resolution dated February 4, 2011.
2. Approval of amendment to remove remaining balance of funds (\$547,189) from project CSJ 0924-06-268 for the El Paso Drive construction and ROW acquisition is withheld pending clarification of how putting this project on hold could affect the area conformity determination. This project is in the MTP with a 2010 network listing. Based on the information provided in STIP revision, it appears that only ROW acquisition has occurred to date. When will the project be constructed? How does the delay in construction impact the conformity determination for the area?
3. Approval of the following projects is withheld pending clarification on project scope of work, CMAQ eligibility, and emissions reductions:  
2121-02-141, 2121-03-147, 0924-06-374

Houston-Galveston MPO

1. CSJ 0762-03-018: Approval of this revision is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work (i.e., number of lanes).
2. MPO Project ID 7737: Approval of this revision is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work (i.e., number of lanes).
3. CSJ 0271-14-217: Approval of this revision is withheld based upon our understanding that the project was previously "let."
4. CSJ 0271-14-222: Approval of this revision is withheld based upon our understanding that the project was previously "let."

5. CSJ 0912-70-084: Approval of this revision is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work and eligibility for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program funding.
6. CSJ 0912-71-042: Approval of this revision is withheld pending the clarification of project elements eligible for CMAQ funding (e.g., streetscape improvements, landscaping, trees and site furnishings).
7. CSJ 0912-73-141: Approval of this revision is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work and eligibility for CMAQ funding (e.g., beautification).
8. CSJ 0912-72-195: Approval of this revision is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work and eligibility for CMAQ funding (e.g., Rail Road crossing equipment and upgrade signal infrastructure).
9. CSJ 0912-72-184: Approval of this revision is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work and eligibility for CMAQ funding (e.g., benches and lighting).
10. MPO Project ID 14580: Approval of this revision is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work (i.e., number of lanes).
11. CSJ 0912-71-924: Approval of this revision is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work and eligibility for CMAQ funding (e.g., upgrade existing HATSS intersections).
12. Amendment 1: The supporting documentation provided for the proposed STIP revisions includes a change for MPO Project ID 13628 (page 4 of 5). However, the proposed change noted in Amendment 1 does not appear to be included in the revised STIP pages. Please explain.

### **Hidalgo MPO**

1. The following projects are inconsistent with the Amendment #4 (1/31/11) MTP Project Listing:
  - CSJ: 0921-02-283, Bicentennial Blvd is programmed for FY 2012
  - CSJ: 0921-02-282, US 281 is programmed for FY 2013
  - If this information noted above is outdated, please provide the most current and complete list of MTP Project Listings. Approval of these revisions is withheld pending resolution of the noted inconsistencies.

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**Lufkin District**

1. The TxDOT Lufkin District statewide financial summary table shows \$1,433,201 in Category 11 funds however the Lufkin District TIP financial summary table shows \$1,334,320 in Category 11 funds for FY 2011. This needs to be corrected within the financial summary tables within one month of this letter.

**San Angelo MPO**

1. Red Arroyo Shared Use Pathway is in the MTP (11/16/09) and has an estimate of \$1.2 million (p. 135) but in the February 2011 revision the project cost is \$3,999,140. This is a significant increase and should be approved by the MPO Policy Board. Please provide documentation if the Board approved an MTP amendment concerning this increase. Approval of this revision is withheld pending resolution of the noted funding discrepancy.

**Yoakum District**

1. The Yoakum District statewide financial summary table shows \$547,055 in Category 9 funds, however the TxDOT Yoakum District TIP financial summary table shows \$574,055 in Category 9 funds as part of the November/February Quarterly revisions for FY 2011. This needs to be corrected in the financial summary tables within one month of this letter.