



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
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FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-9003 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

December 10, 2007

Refer to: HPP-TX

Joint Approval of November 2007 Quarterly Revisions
As Part of the FY 2008-11 Statewide Transportation
Improvement Program (STIP)

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

Dear Mr. Randall:

In response to Mr. Amadeo Saenz' letter of December 4, 2007 regarding the submittal of the November 2007 Quarterly Revisions completed under 23 CFR Part 450, we hereby approve the subject revisions as part of the FY 2008-11 STIP prepared under Title 23 United States Code (USC) Section 134 and 49 USC. However, based upon our review, we have noted the following specific comments and are withholding approval of the following projects (as shown below) listed within the November 2007 Quarterly Revisions until they have been remediated and resubmitted for our approval action.

Austin MPO/District:

- CSJ 1200-06-004: The amended CAMPO 2030 MTP indicates a 6-lane toll parkway for this section of roadway while the proposed STIP revision proposes a 4-lane toll road. Additionally, the estimated funding cost noted in the CAMPO 2030 MTP appears to be substantially lower than that proposed in the STIP revision (\$43 million vs. \$78 million). Approval of this revision is withheld pending clarification of the noted MTP project description and funding discrepancies.

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- CSJ 0700-03-077: The estimated funding cost noted in the CAMPO 2030 MTP appears to be substantially lower than that proposed in the STIP revision (\$43.9 million vs. \$133 million). Approval of this revision is withheld pending clarification of the noted funding discrepancy.

Bryan District/MPO:

- Please note that on the TxDOT Financial Summary (shown on page 6) the total amount programmed amount matches that shown within the Unified Transportation Program (UTP). However, for FY 2008, there's an apparent error shown within the Category 4 funding amounts (please check there is either an incorrect funding amount shown or there is a typographical error).
- CSJ 0049-12-069: The project is listed in the MTP as SH 6 (Earl Rudder Freeway) from BS 6-R (Texas Avenue) to Greens Prairie Road. In the current MTP, the project is described as a ramp reconfiguration project. However, the STIP description shows that this project has been expanded to include relocation of existing entrance and exit ramps as well as the construction of a new ramp. The northern project limits appear to extend beyond those specified in the MTP. These revisions are not consistent with the MTP and therefore are not approved.
- CSJ 0540-04-044 and 0540-04-056: The project as described within the current MTP is shown from FM 2154 (Wellborn Rd) to FM 2818 (Harvey Mitchell Parkway) to SH 40. However, the MTP describes this project as widening to a 4-lane divided while the STIP submittal shows this project as a six-lane divided highway. These revisions are not consistent with the MTP and therefore are not approved.
- CSJ 0050-02-082: The project is described as SH 6 (Earl Rudder Freeway) at Barron Road. However, the STIP project description significantly changed from that included in the MTP while the project costs have increased more than 50%. These revisions are not consistent with the MTP and therefore are not approved.
- CSJ 0506-01-082: The project is described as FM 60 (University Dr) from SH 6 (Earl Rudder Freeway) to FM 158 (Boonville Road). However, the current MTP has the subject project described as a widening to 4-lanes, however the STIP has shown to be widened to 6-lanes. In addition, the MTP project cost has more than doubled (\$5M to \$12.6M). This project is not consistent with the MTP and therefore is not approved.

Dallas District/MPO:

- The following CMAQ projects are withheld from STIP approval action until their eligibility has been confirmed by the FHWA:
 - CSJ 0918-00-925: software design thru TxDOT integrator
 - Deployment of a regional center-to-center plug-in;
 - Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Data Archiving project; and

- Freeway Incident Management project.
- CSJ 0918-45-820: Assessment and Implementation of Dallas Safety Program- Based upon supplemental information provided on 12/5/2007, the implementation of these proposed CMAQ projects are not deemed eligible for CMAQ funding until the proposed projects have been shown to have documented congestion reduction and emissions benefits.
- CSJ 0918-00-971: Regional Emissions Reduction Program- this project is approved subject to it meeting CMAQ Program eligibility requirements (See: FHWA/FTA Joint CMAQ Interim Program Guidance dated October 31, 2006 regarding vehicle scrappage and administrative costs.

Fort Worth District/MPO:

- The following project is approved subject to further clarification of the decrease in CMAQ funding: 0902-48-954: Regional Rail projects as defined by RTC FY 09 for Johnson County. We understand from 12/05/2007 supplemental information provided to the FHWA that the intent is to reduce "the CMAQ funds in this project and removing the Johnson County pieces. The Johnson County pieces will be paid for using RTC/Local funds."

Houston MPO/District:

- CSJ 0912-34-137: The project description for the proposed STIP revision indicates right-of-way acquisition. It is noted that a corresponding project could not be located in H-GAC's 2035 RTP. Right-of-way acquisition for non-exempt transportation projects should be consistent with the area's conforming 2035 RTP. Approval of this revision is withheld pending clarification of the project's consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP.
- CSJ 3312-02-012: The proposed STIP revision indicates the use of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ) funds. Approval of this revision is withheld pending the submittal of emission reduction estimates.
- CSJ 0912-72-941: It is noted that this project is included in the proposed STIP revisions twice with the same CSJ and MPO project identification number, but with different funding sources and amounts (pages 5 and 6 of 12). Please clarify.
- CSJ 0912-72-944: It is noted that this project is included in the proposed STIP revisions twice with the same CSJ and MPO project identification number, but with different funding sources and amounts (pages 5 and 6 of 12). Please clarify. Additionally, the description of work noted for the proposed STIP revisions does not provide sufficient detail to determine the projects consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP. Approval of these revisions is withheld pending clarification of the project scope of work.

- CSJ 0271-14-220: The project description for the proposed STIP revision indicates right-of-way acquisition. It is noted that a corresponding project could not be located in H-GAC's 2035 RTP. Right-of-way acquisition for non-exempt transportation projects should be consistent with the area's conforming 2035 RTP. Approval of this revision is withheld pending clarification of the project's consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP.
- CSJ 3510-06-001: The estimated funding cost noted in H-GAC's 2035 RTP appears to be substantially lower than that proposed in the STIP revision (\$40 million vs. \$70 million). Approval of this revision is withheld pending clarification of the noted funding discrepancy.

Laredo MPO/District:

- CSJs 0922-33-043, 0922-33-096 and 0922-33-115: The description of work and project limits covered by these STIP revisions appears consistent with that of the Cuatro Vientos project noted in Laredo's 2030 MTP "short-term transportation improvements" list. However, the estimated funding cost noted in Laredo's 2030 MTP appears to be substantially lower than that proposed in these STIP revisions (\$39.6 million vs. \$85 million). Approval of these revisions is withheld pending clarification of the noted funding discrepancy.

Sherman-Denison MPO/Paris District:

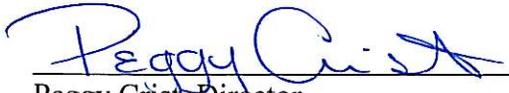
- The following projects are not approved as part of the FY08-11 STIP until their MTP and TIP consistency has been demonstrated by the MPO: SH 289 and FM 996 (FY 2008): CSJ 0091-01-037, -038 and CSJ 0728-04-008.

Texarkana MPO/Atlanta District:

- The financial summary table needs to be updated to reflect allocated and programmed amounts as shown in the UTP.
- CSJ 0610-07-084: The subject project includes only an 11% match to federal funds. Please explain why this State/local match level (< 20%) is appropriate.
- For the listed transit projects, we would recommend consulting with FTA Region 6 on matching levels for 5307 funds. For operating expenses, the use of federal 5307 funds typically are capped at 50% of net project cost of operating assistance. For capital purchases, however this match is raised up to 80% federal funds (or up to 90% for vehicle-related equipment). Please consult with FTA on these funding issues.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this action, please contact Ms. Peggy Crist, FTA at (817) 978-0555 or Kirk Fauver at (512) 536-5952.

Sincerely yours,



Peggy Crist, Director
Planning and Program Development
Federal Transit Administration



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

cc:

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