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300 E. 8TH STREET, ROOM 826
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-3255

February 20, 2009

Refer to: HA-TX

Joint Approval of November 2008
Quarterly Revisions to the FY 08-11 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:

We have reviewed the November 2008 Quarterly Revisions to the FY 2008-2011 STIP transmitted by Mr. Amadeo Saenz's letter of February 13, 2009. Based upon our review, the November 2009 Quarterly Revisions to the STIP are hereby approved subject to the enclosed comments.

These comments should be addressed by TxDOT and the MPOs as noted. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Kirk Fauver of the FHWA Texas Division office at (512) 536-5952 or Ms. Lynn Hayes of the FTA Region 6 office at (817) 978-0565 for additional information.

Sincerely yours,

Peggy Crist
Planning Director
Federal Transit Administration

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

Enclosure

MOVING THE
AMERICAN
ECONOMY

Enclosure

November 2008 Quarterly STIP Revision Comments

Atlanta District/TUTS:

1. November 5, 2008 and November 10, 2008 memos to Michelle Conkle from Rea Donna Jones include the wrong date for approval of Administrative Modification #1-2009 (11/3/09 instead of 11/3/08). Please correct.

2. Chapter 7-Texarkana MPO YOE Cost Highway Financial Summary Table includes local contributions of $10,250,000 for FY 2008 that do not appear in the STIP November 2008 Financial Revisions tables. Please clarify the discrepancy.

3. Statewide Transportation Improvement Program FY 09-11 TxDOT Atlanta District Financial Summary table identifies $2 under category 1 for FY 2010. Please clarify why there are two projects for FY 10 with $1 each of Category 1 funds.

Austin MPO:

1. Approval of the highway portion of the proposed November 2008 STIP revisions are withheld pending clarification of the requested STIP revisions and corresponding fiscal constraint summary for the FY 2008-2011 MPO TIP by fiscal year.

Bryan District/Bryan-College Station MPO:

1. Please correct the formatting error (with page breaks) that has the headings for pages at the base of the preceding page.

2. Pg. 37, Highway Financial Summary: please carry the Category 9 funds for FY 09 forward to the table totals. Additionally, the total for Local Contributions should be $1,110,633, not $1,040,855. The total for FY08-11 should be $78,848,708.

Dallas, -Fort Worth Districts/MPO:

1. Suggest proposed project descriptions provide more specificity than 'improve freeway' (i.e. Appendix D; p. 13).

2. Suggest proposed project descriptions be expanded from 'widen' to 'widen from 'X-lanes' to 'Y-lanes' (i.e. Appendix D including rural).

3. Please note that operating costs for most CMAQ funded projects are limited to three years of eligibility. Please see CMAQ Program Guidance dated October 2008 at: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/cmaqpgs/index.htm

4. The following projects appear to be inconsistent with the Mobility 2030 MTP and corresponding conformity determination (i.e., open to traffic date earlier than expected). Approval of these revisions is withheld pending clarification of consistency with the Mobility 2030 MTP and 2007 Transportation Conformity Determination.

Dallas:

CSJ 0135-02-900	US 380 from Custer to Lake Forest Drive
CSJ 0135-10-930	US 380 from FM 423 to Denton/Collin County Line
CSJ 0718-01-900	FM 156 from SH 114 to North Justin City Limit
CSJ 1392-01-900	FM 1378 from Rockridge Road to Stacy Road
CSJ 0196-02-073	IH 35E from Garden Ridge Blvd. to Lake Lewisville Bridge
CSJ 0281-02-063	SH 78 from SH 205 to Business 78
CSJ 0081-03-931	US 377 from Tarrant County Line to SH 114
CSJ 0081-04-025	US 377 from IH 35E to FM 1830
CSJ 0196-01-096	IH 35E from Lake Lewisville Bridge to FM 2181
CSJ 0196-02-114	IH 35E from Corporate Drive to Garden Ridge Blvd.

Fort Worth:

CSJ 1603-03-912	FM 1709 from US 377 to Elm Street.

5. The following projects do not appear consistent (i.e., open to traffic date) with the Mobility 2030 MTP and the 2007 Transportation Conformity Determination. Approval of these revisions is withheld pending clarification of the projects' open to traffic date.

Dallas:

CSJ 2250-02-013	Loop 288 from IH 35 to US 380
CSJ 3392-01-009	FM 2786 from Angel Parkway to FM 1378
CSJ 0918-46-937	Flower Mound Road from FM 1171 to FM 2499
CSJ 8037-18-003	Luna Road from NW Hwy to Royal Lane

Fort Worth:

CSJ 1978-01-048	FM 1938 from SH 114 to Randol Mill

6. The proposed scopes of work (i.e., number of lanes) for the following projects does appear to be consistent with the Mobility 2030 MTP and corresponding transportation conformity determination. Approval of these revisions is withheld pending clarification of the proposed scopes of work.

Dallas:

CSJ 0091-04-050	SH 289 from US 380 to BUS 289 STIP: Widen 2 lane rural to 6 lane urban divided Mobility 2030: 2/2/2/4/4 lanes (TH 1 202.0)
CSJ 0918-45-121	Trinity Parkway from US 75/US 175 and SH 183/IH 35 Split STIP: Construct new 6 lanes toll road adjacent to Trinity River

Mobility 2030: 0/0/6/6/6 and 0/0/4/6/6 lanes (FT 1680, FT 1682)

CSJ 1290-04-011 SH 276 from FM 548 to Honey Creek Circle
STIP: Reconstruct and widen 2 lane rural to 6 lane divided urban
Mobility 2030: Widen 2 lanes to 4 lanes divided urban
(TH2 1825)

CSJ 1567-02-020 FM 423 from Stewarts Creek to SH 121
STIP: SH 121 to Cougar Alley: widen 4 to 8 lane divided
Urban and Cougar Alley to Stewarts Creek: widen 4 to 6 lane divided urban
Mobility 2030: 4/6/6/6/6 lanes (TH1 372.3)

Fort Worth:

CSJ 0008-14-058
CSJ 0008-14-059 IH 820 from IH 35W to SW RR to SH 121/SH 183/SH 26
STIP: 4 to 6 mainlanes with 4 concurrent HOV/managed lanes
Mobility 2030: - /- /1+1 2way/1+1 2 way/1+1 2 way and
-/- /2+2 2way/2+2 2 way/2+2 2 way (HM 8150, HM 8155)

CSJ 0902-48-507 North Tarrant Parkway from Davis to Whitley
STIP: Widen and reconstruct from 2-lane undivided to 6-lane divided
Mobility 2030: 6/6/6/6/6 and 4/4/4/4/4 (TH1 128.5, TH1 128.6)

CSJ 0902-48-695 Lakeridge Parkway from Honeysuckle to Southwest Parkway
STIP: Rehabilitate and widen roadway from 4 to 6 lanes
Mobility 2030: 4/4/4/4/4 lanes, 4/4/6/6/6 lanes
and 6/6/6/6/6 lanes (TH1 103.0, TH1 103.1 and 103.2)

7. Approval of these revisions is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work:

Dallas:

CSJ 0918-00-145 The Regional Emissions Reduction Program is an eligible activity. However, please note that light duty vehicle scrappage programs (i.e., vehicle replacements) under the FHWA/FTA CMAQ Program Guidance (p. 14, Section VII.B.1.) and administrative costs of this proposed CMAQ project (p. 14, Section VII.B.4) are not eligible for this program activity.

CSJ 0918-00-989 IH 20 from MPA Boundary to the Tarrant County Line
CSJ 0048-08-024 IH 35E from FM 308 to FM 566 (i.e. additional ramps)

Fort Worth:

CSJ 0902-48-929 Integrated Traveler Info. System (i.e. pilot routes)
CSJ 0902-00-113 Regional Goods Movement/Outer Loop Study

8. Approval of these revisions is withheld pending corrected Dallas Non-Regionally Significant Arterials (DAL_Non RSA) information:

   Dallas:
   CSJ 1013-01-024 (corrected reference number)
   CSJ 0009-12-074 (revised design scope)

El Paso District/MPO:

1. Project 530X-15B, North Loop has as one of its project termini "El Paso City Limits." Please be advised that the El Paso City limits cannot be used as a logical terminus under NEPA and a MTP amendment will be required eventually.

Houston-Galveston MPO:

1. CSJ 0508-01-319 (Amendment 37): This project does not appear to be eligible for the "Landscaping" category of grouped projects. Approval of this revision is withheld pending the clarification of eligibility as a grouped project.

2. CSJ 0389-05-017 (Amendment43): The "Purpose of Amendment" narrative provided for this amendment indicates a transfer of CMAQ funding to this project. However the amended project table does not include this project. Approval of this revision is withheld pending clarification of the proposed project revision.

3. CSJ 0912-72-156 (Amendment 44): This project is proposed for CMAQ funding however the description of work does not provide sufficient information concerning the scope of the "transit services pilot programs" to determine CMAQ eligibility. Approval of this revision is withheld pending clarification of the scope of work.

4. Amendment 46: The MPO documentation concerning this amendment appears to be missing page 11 of 24 (amended table). As such approval of the revisions noted in amendment 46 is limited to those projects noted in the amended table on pages 1–10 and 12 of 24, subject to comments "5 and 6" below.

5. CSJ 0271-07-242 (Amendment 46): This revision proposes to move this project from FY 2008 to FY 2009 of the TIP. However, the project's YOE cost appears to remain the same, which is unexpected due to the rate of inflation associated with YOE costs. This revision is approved contingent upon the clarification of the project's FY 2009 YOE cost.

6. CSJ 0027-12-114 (Amendment 46): This project proposes the construction of HOV lanes with CMAQ funds. However it is unclear whether the proposed HOV lanes will be operated as managed lanes. Approval of this revision is withheld pending the clarification of the operation of the proposed HOV lanes.

7. CSJs 0338-12-001 and 0338-12-002 (Amendment 70): The proposed project revisions do not appear consistent with the Houston-Galveston 2035 RTP (i.e., projects could not be located within the 2035 RTP). Additionally, the revision proposes to move one of the projects (CSJ 0338-12-002) from FY 2008 to FY 2009 of the TIP however the YOE cost of the project does not change. This is unexpected due to the rate of inflation associated with YOE costs. Approval of these revisions is withheld pending clarification of consistency with the 2035 RTP and the noted YOE cost.

Laredo MPO:

1. We note that our previous STIP revision comments (i.e., February/March STIP revisions) have been satisfactorily address by the response provided by the Laredo MPO as part of the proposed November 2008 STIP revisions.

Laredo District (Rural):

1. CSJ 0922-11-031: The description of work provided for this project does not provide sufficient information concerning the project's scope of work (i.e., number of lanes). Approval of this revision is withheld pending the clarification of the proposed scope of work.

2. CSJ 0922-11-032: The description of work provided for this project does not provide sufficient information concerning the project's scope of work (i.e., number of lanes). Approval of this revision is withheld pending the clarification of the proposed scope of work.

Tyler District/MPO:

1. All of projects included in the November 2008 revisions note only the 'construction' phase of work. Please confirm that this is the MPOs intent. These revisions are approved except as noted in the following comments.

2. CSJ 2075-02-058, this revision is not approved as the MTP ($5,260,000) and STIP ($1,727,444) cost figures differ significantly.

3. CSJs 3487-01-004 and –900, the MTP reference (SM-31) is not found in Chapter 6. Transportation Improvements. Approval of this revision is withheld pending clarification of the MTP reference.

4. CSJ 0191-01-063, this revision is not approved as the MTP ($5,000,000) and STIP ($13,847,129) cost figures differ significantly.

5. CSJs 3487-01-006, -900 and 0190-04-033, -900, these revisions are not approved as the

MTP ($135,000,000) and STIP cost figures ($94,951,926, $4,988,633, $91,721,770, $4,902,400) and limits differ.

Waco District/MPO:

1. CSJ 0055-08-099 is not approved as the MTP/Connections 2030 ($24,100,000) and STIP $36,939,932) cost figures differ significantly.

2. CSJ 0162-01-056: This revision is approved contingent upon the clarification of the significant cost difference between the MTP/Connections 2030 ($56,300,000) and STIP ($39,501,000).