



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

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
300 E. 8TH STREET, ROOM 826
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701

April 30, 2010

Refer to: HPP-TX

Joint Approval of March 2010 Out-of-Cycle Revisions for the
FY 2008-2011 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 March 2010 Out-of-Cycle Revisions to the FY 2008-2011 STIP transmitted by Mr. Amadeo Saenz's cover letter of April 20, 2010. Based upon our review, the March 2010 Out-of-Cycle 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,

Peggy Crist, Director
Planning and Program Development
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

**ENCLOSURE
MARCH 2010 OUT-OF-CYCLE STIP REVISION
COMMENTS**

General:

1. A review of the FY 2010 District/MPO Funding Categories table on page 2 of the "March 2010 Out of Cycle STIP revisions Statewide Highway Financials" document indicates changes in funding for the El Paso MPO in Categories 2 and 10, "Local Contribution" and "Other R." This is unexpected as the proposed revisions do not appear to reflect changes to these funding categories. Please explain or revise as appropriate.
2. It is noted that FY 2010 and 2011 District/MPO Funding Categories tables on pages 2 and 3 respectively, indicate programmed funding totals for the Amarillo MPO in the "ARRA II" (i.e., Economic Recovery Package Part II) category. This is unexpected as the revisions to include projects utilizing this funding transmitted as part of the February 2010 Quarterly STIP revisions were not approved. Please clarify or revise as appropriate.
3. A review of the FY 2008-2011 STIP Financial Breakdown on page 4 of the "March 2010 Out of Cycle STIP Revisions Statewide Highway Financials" document indicates the inclusion of additional Economic Stimulus funds (i.e., Economic Recovery Package Part II). Congress has not passed legislation making available additional Economic Stimulus funds nor does the passage of such legislation appear imminent. Accordingly we cannot approve the inclusion of these funds. We will reconsider approval of this revision upon passage of legislation concerning the availability of additional Economic Stimulus funding.

Additionally, it is noted that reducing the FY 2010 "total revenue" amount noted in the FY 2008-2011 STIP Financial Breakdown by the proposed amount of additional Economic Stimulus funding appears to result in an over programming of the FY 2008-2011 STIP, when compared to proposed expenditures (even after adjusting for proposed MPO/District Economic Recovery Package Part II funding). Please clarify or revise as appropriate.

El Paso District/MPO:

1. The February 26, 2010 cover memorandum to Charles Berry, Jr. identifies eight projects with an expected potential need for \$2,865,464,096 in future federal stimulus funding. However, the detailed project description identifies for approval eight projects with an expected potential need of \$216,116,096 in new federal stimulus funding. We are

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assuming that the increased cost in the summary is due to a typo in the expected costs for the two Yarbrough Approaches projects.

The proposed STIP revisions are noted as being contingent upon the availability of additional Economic Stimulus funding. At this time, Congress has not passed legislation making available additional Economic Stimulus funds nor does the passage of such legislation appear imminent. As such, we cannot approve these revisions. We will reconsider approval of these revisions upon the passage of legislation concerning the availability of additional Economic Stimulus funding.