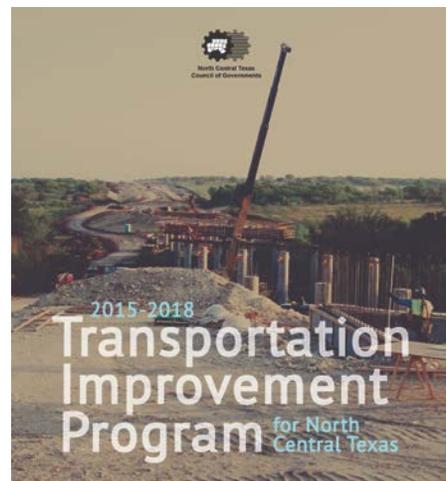


Appendix G

Federal Approval Letter

This appendix contains the letter from the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) approving the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program.





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

December 2, 2014

Refer to: HPP-TX

Joint Approval of FY 2015-2018 Statewide
Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Lt.Gen Joe Weber (Ret)
Executive Director
Texas Department of Transportation
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Attention: Marc Williams

Dear General Weber:

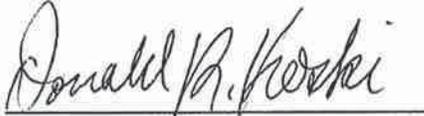
We have reviewed the FY 2015-2018 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) received on October 16, 2014. In accordance with 23 CFR 450.216 (b), the FY 2015-2018 STIP includes the Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) for each of Texas' Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) directly.

Based upon our review, we jointly find that the State of Texas and its twenty-five MPOs have generally complied with the joint statewide and metropolitan planning regulations issued by FTA and FHWA pursuant to Title 23 United States Code (USC) Sections 134 and 135, and the Federal Transit Act under Title 49 USC, as certified within the STIP documentation. Accordingly, the FY 2015-2018 STIP is hereby approved subject to the enclosed general and project specific comments generated upon review of the subject document.

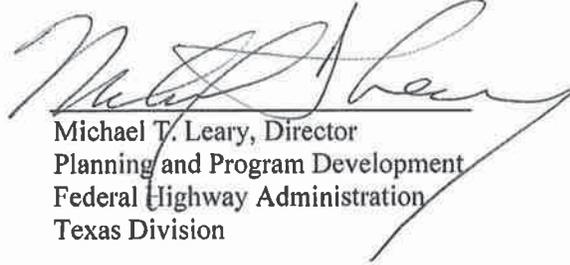
Additionally, portions of the STIP corresponding to the Dallas-Fort Worth, El Paso and Houston-Galveston non-attainment and maintenance areas, have been reviewed for consistency with their currently conforming Transportation Plans. Based upon this review we hereby find that the TIPs for these areas conform, except as otherwise noted in the enclosed project specific comments.

We look forward to continuing to work with TxDOT and Texas' MPOs on the successful implementation of the electronic STIP. Please contact Ms. Lynn Hayes, FTA at (817) 978-0565, or Ms. Genevieve Bales, FHWA at (512) 536-5941 should you have any questions concerning this action.

Sincerely yours,



Donald R. Koski, Director
Planning and Program Development
Federal Transit Administration
Region VI



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

Enclosure

cc:

Lynn Hayes, FTA, Region VI
Lori Morel, TxDOT TPP
Kelly Kirkland, TxDOT PTN
FHWA-HA-TX, HB-TX, HAM-TX, HPP-TX

**2015-2018 STIP
- Federal Comments**

	District / MPO	CSJ Number	STIP comment
1	Statewide	General	Please ensure that the MPO financial tables are transferred correctly into the Statewide fiscal constraint tables. Discrepancies noted in Houston and El Paso areas.
2	Statewide	General	Please provide Statewide fiscal constraint table with expenditures by type: Advance Construction, Grouped Projects, etc.
3	Statewide	General	Fiscal Constraint please provide documentation of STIP fiscal constraint comparison with the current UTP.
4	Statewide	General	Please revised the Statewide Self-Certification with corrected language provided by FHWA.
5	Statewide	General	TxDOT staff will require MPOs to update documents with current grouped project definitions approved in May 2014.
6	Statewide	General	Projects that meet the approved grouped project list definitions, but are listed individually in the STIP, will be treated as an individual project. Grouped projects must be distinguished as grouped projects and identified for information purposes only to qualify as a grouped project.
7	Statewide	General	TxDOT staff will identify rules and oversight process for TAP funded projects in Texas.
8	Statewide	General	MPOs will provide proposed project information to FHWA prior to inclusion in the STIP in order for FHWA to determine TAP funding eligibility.
9	Statewide	4800-00-0094	Not Approved. Please provided additional information concerning project eligibility.
10	Statewide	4800-00-092	Not Approved. Please provide additional information concerning project eligibility (brochures, research, web updates).
11	Statewide	4800-00-093	Not Approved. Please provided additional information concerning project eligibility.
12	Austin / CAMPO	0914-33-068	Not approved. The proposed project does not appear consistent with CAMPO's 2035 RTP (i.e., construction of 2-lanes versus construction of 4-lanes). Approval is withheld pending clarification of the proposed project's consistency with CAMPO's fiscally constrained 2035 RTP.

**2015-2018 STIP
- Federal Comments**

	District / MPO	CSJ Number	STIP comment
13	Austin / CAMPO	1556-01-009	Not approved. The CAMPO 2035 RTP appears to include conflicting project descriptions for this portion of FM 1660 (i.e., Regional Project listing indicates construction of 2-lane roadway on new location, while the Local Project listing indicates widening to 4-lanes for this portion of FM 1660). Approval is withheld pending resolution of the noted discrepancies.
14	Austin / CAMPO	3542-02-900	Not approved. The proposed project does not appear consistent with CAMPO's 2035 RTP (i.e., construction of 2-lanes versus construction of 4-lanes and substantially greater Total Project Cost (TPC), \$61.5 million versus \$38.5). Approval is withheld pending clarification of the proposed project's consistency with CAMPO's fiscally constrained 2035 RTP.
15	Austin / CAMPO	General	We note that Category 3 "Programmed" funding amounts noted for fiscal years 2015 and 2016 in the "Funding by Category" table on page 15, do not appear consistent with the Category 3 funding amounts noted in the "Funding Participation Source" table on page 15. Please clarify and or revise the noted discrepancies as appropriate.
16	Corpus / CCMPO	General	Regionally Significant projects regardless of the funding source need to be included in planning documents.
17	Corpus Christi	0916-38-010	Not Approved. Project is not consistent with 2012 TE funding prioritization by the TTC.
18	Corpus Christi / CCMPO	0101-06-095	Not Approved. Project does not appear to be consistent with the MTP.
19	Corpus Christi / CCMPO	0617-01-170	Not Approved. Project does not appear to be consistent with the MTP.
20	Corpus Christi / CCMPO	0916-35-174	Not Approved. Project is not consistent with 2012 TE funding prioritization by the TTC.

**2015-2018 STIP
- Federal Comments**

	District / MPO	CSJ Number	STIP comment
21	DALLAS / NCTCOG	0000-18-004	Not approved. The CMAQ project description is too vague and non-descriptive in terms of scope of work for individual projects. We request additional information regarding the individual scope of work and emissions benefits for each of the individual projects. Additionally, we recommend that the blended proposed CMAQ project activities as shown be separated out individually as part of the STIP/TIP documentation. (Years 2015 and 2016)
22	DALLAS / NCTCOG	0000-18-005	Not approved. The CMAQ project description is too vague and non-descriptive in terms of scope of work for individual projects. We request additional information regarding the individual scope of work and emissions benefits for each of the individual projects. Additionally, we recommend that the blended proposed CMAQ project activities as shown be separated out individually as part of the STIP/TIP documentation. (FY 2017)
23	DALLAS / NCTCOG	0000-18-006 (FY 2016)	Not approved. The CMAQ project description is too vague and non-descriptive in terms of scope of work for individual projects. We request additional information regarding the individual scope of work and emissions benefits for each of the individual projects. Additionally, we recommend that the blended proposed CMAQ project activities as shown be separated out individually as part of the STIP/TIP documentation. (FY 2016)
24	El Paso / EPMPO	0002-01-093	Not Approved. Project does not appear to be consistent with the MTP.
25	El Paso / EPMPO	0924-06-460	Not Approved. A revision to the scope of the project is necessary before the project may be approved.
26	El Paso / EPMPO	0924-06-461	Not Approved. A revision to the scope of the project is necessary before the project may be approved.
27	El Paso / EPMPO	0924-06-465	Not Approved. The description of work needs to be amended. The purchase of a bus is eligible, however, purchase of a bus in exchange for service is not appropriate.
28	El Paso / EPMPO	0924-06-467	Not Approved. This project appears to be eligible for CMAQ funding, however, questions related to how the emissions analysis addresses the proposed project remain unresolved.

**2015-2018 STIP
- Federal Comments**

	District / MPO	CSJ Number	STIP comment
29	El Paso / EPMPO	0924-06-474	Not approved. Please review and revise air quality analysis assumptions and procedures followed to calculate the emissions benefits. Explain how the benefit applies to all vehicles crossing the POE? Provide additional information on the proposed geometric improvement.
30	El Paso / EPMPO	0924-06-486	Approved. Approval is limited to CMAQ eligible items.
31	El Paso / EPMPO	0924-06-499	Not Approved. Please modify planning documents to ensure consistency between the TIP and the MTP.
32	El Paso / EPMPO	0924-06-500	Not Approved, Please update project costs to ensure consistency between the TIP and the MTP.
33	El Paso / EPMPO	0924-06-503	Not Approved. The project does not appear to be consistent with the MTP.
34	El Paso / EPMPO	0924-06-504	Not Approved. The project does not appear to be consistent with the MTP.
35	El Paso / EPMPO	0924-06-505	Not Approved. The project does not appear to be consistent with the MTP.
36	El Paso / EPMPO	0924-06-506	Not Approved. The project does not appear to be consistent with the MTP.
37	El Paso / EPMPO	0924-06-507	Not Approved. Please clarify consistency with the MTP.
38	El Paso / EPMPO	2121-01-091	Not Approved. The project does not appear to be consistent with the MTP.
39	El Paso / EPMPO	2121-02-150	Not Approved. Approval is withheld pending clarification of the proposed project's consistency with EPMPOs conforming 2040 MTP.
40	El Paso / EPMPO	2121-03-131	Not Approved. Project does not appear to be consistent with the MTP.
41	El Paso / EPMPO	2552-03-049	Not Approved. This project does not appear to be consistent with the MTP. Specifically a PE phase is listed in the MTP, and the 2018 TIP lists as construction.
42	Houston / H-GAC	0110-05-119 0110-04-188	Not approved. Please provide estimated emission reductions for the proposed project. Also, please clarify how proposed reconfiguration is to be accomplished (i.e., restriping, conversion of HOV lanes, etc.). Approval is withheld pending clarification of proposed project's scope of work and receipt of the estimated emission reductions.
43	Houston / H-GAC	0188-07-005	Not approved. Please provide estimated emission reductions for the proposed project. Also, please revise the project limits consistent with 2035 RTP Update (SH 36 to 17th St. versus SH 35 to 17th St.). Approval is withheld pending receipt of the estimated emission reductions.

**2015-2018 STIP
- Federal Comments**

	District / MPO	CSJ Number	STIP comment
44	Houston / H-GAC	0192-05-050 0500-03-572 0912-72-314 0912-00-499 0912-00-506 0188-07-005 0271-17-157 0912-00-496 0912-00-500 0912-00-507 0912-00-508 0912-72-324 0912-72-330 0912-72-325	Not approved. Please provide estimated emission reductions for the proposed projects. Approval is withheld pending receipt of the estimated emission reductions.
45	Houston / H-GAC	0271-17-145	Not approved. Please provide estimated emission reductions for the proposed project. Also, please clarify the proposed project's scope of work (e.g., construction of new direct connectors versus reconstruction of existing direct connectors). Approval is withheld pending receipt of estimated emission reductions and clarification of the proposed project's scope of work.
46	Houston / H-GAC	0543-03-067	Not approved. H-GAC's 2035 RTP Update indicates a 2017 transportation conformity analysis year, however assuming a 2-year construction time-frame and 2016 letting the proposed project is anticipated to be completed in 2018. Approval is withheld pending clarification of the proposed project's consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update.
47	Houston / H-GAC	0912-00-488	Not approved. Please provide estimated emission reductions for the proposed project. Also, please revise the project description to better identify the location of the proposed improvements along SH 6/FM 1092/FM 2234. Approval is withheld pending receipt of the estimated emission reductions.

**2015-2018 STIP
- Federal Comments**

	District / MPO	CSJ Number	STIP comment
48	Houston / H-GAC	0912-00-501 0912-00-502	Not approved. Please provide estimated emission reductions for the proposed project. Also, please clarify the proposed project's scope of work (i.e., what vanpool activities are proposed to be conducted with this project). Approval is withheld pending receipt of the estimated emission reductions and clarification of the proposed project's scope of work.
49	Houston / H-GAC	0912-00-503 0912-00-504	Not approved. Please clarify the proposed project's scope of work (i.e., what vanpool activities are proposed to be conducted with this project). Approval is withheld pending clarification of the proposed project's scope of work.
50	Houston / H-GAC	0912-31-291 0912-31-292 0912-72-313 0912-56-052	Not approved. Please provide clarification concerning FHWA's determination of eligibility for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding for the proposed projects.
51	Houston / H-GAC	0912-31-293	Not approved. H-GAC's 2035 RTP Update indicates a 2017 transportation conformity analysis year, however assuming a 2-year construction time-frame and 2017 letting, the proposed project is anticipated to be completed in 2019. Approval is withheld pending clarification of the proposed project's consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update.
52	Houston / H-GAC	0912-70-076	Not approved. This project is proposed for Transportation Enhancement (TE) funding, however the project's consistency with the approved TxDOT Commission approved TE project listing could not be determined. Approval is withheld pending clarification of the proposed project's eligibility for and the allocation of TE funding for the proposed project.
53	Houston / H-GAC	0912-72-312	Not approved. Please provide estimated emission reductions for the proposed project. Also, please clarify the purpose of the sidewalk reconstruction noted in the project description. Approval is withheld pending clarification of proposed project's scope of work and receipt of the estimated emission reductions.

**2015-2018 STIP
- Federal Comments**

	District / MPO	CSJ Number	STIP comment
54	Houston / H-GAC	0912-72-331	Not approved. Please provide estimated emission reductions for the proposed project. Additionally, please clarify the difference between the proposed project's Year of Expenditure (YOE) cost and Total Project Cost (TPC). Approval is withheld pending receipt of the estimated emission reductions and clarification of the YOE cost and TPC discrepancy.
55	Houston / H-GAC	0912-73-196 0912-73-197	Not approved. Please provide estimated emission reductions for the proposed project. Also, please provide information concerning the purpose of the proposed multimodal terminal (e.g., new or increased service, etc.). Approval is withheld pending clarification of the proposed project's purpose and receipt of the estimated emission reductions.
56	Houston / H-GAC	3510-06-007	Not approved. H-GAC's 2035 RTP Update indicates a 2018 transportation conformity analysis year, however assuming a 2-year construction time-frame and 2015 letting the proposed project is anticipated to be completed in 2017. Approval is withheld pending clarification of the proposed project's consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update.
57	Houston / H-GAC	3510-10-901	Not approved. H-GAC's 2035 RTP Update indicates a 2018 transportation conformity analysis year, however assuming a 2-year construction time-frame and 2015 letting the proposed project is anticipated to be completed in 2017. Approval is withheld pending clarification of the proposed project's consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update.
58	Houston / H-GAC	General	Table 2-1 on page 2-7 of H-GAC's 2015-2018 TIP provides a funding summary for the TIP. The notes for this table indicate that the funding amounts reflected in the table for certain funding categories include funding for grouped projects. Please clarify the allocation of non-grouped and grouped project funding and consistency with the statewide financial constraint summaries by fiscal year. Additionally, please also clarify which funding categories noted on Table 2-1 were utilized to determine the amount of Category 3 - Local Contributions noted in the statewide financial summaries by fiscal year.

**2015-2018 STIP
- Federal Comments**

	District / MPO	CSJ Number	STIP comment
59	Houston / H-GAC	MPO Project ID 10052	Approved. However, it is recommended that the project's description of work be revised consistent with the response provided by H-GAC to FHWA/FTA's August 2013 Quarterly STIP revision comments.
60	Houston / H-GAC	MPO Project ID 11815	Not approved. Please verify that the proposed project does not provide additional capacity. Approval is withheld pending clarification of the proposed project's scope of work.
61	Houston / H-GAC	MPO Project ID 13730	Not approved. The project description indicates the addition of one northbound and one southbound through lane. However, the project is noted as "N/A" regarding transportation conformity in H-GAC's 2035 RTP Update. Additionally, H-GAC's 2035 RTP Update includes a project (MPO Project ID 13643) that proposes the widening of this section of roadway from 4 to 6-lanes. Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the proposed project's scope of work and applicability of/consistency with the transportation conformity requirements.
62	Houston / H-GAC	MPO Project ID 15475	Not approved. The proposed project does not appear to be consistent with H-GAC's 2035 RTP Update (i.e., project limits and transportation conformity analysis year). Approval is withheld pending clarification of the proposed project's consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update.
63	Lubbock /LMPO	0905-06-090	Not Approved. The project does not appear to be consistent with the MTP.
64	Lufkin	0911-38-068	Not Approved. Project is not consistent with 2012 TE funding prioritization by the TTC.
65	Pharr / Brownsville	0921-06-270	Not Approved. The project does not appear to be consistent with the MTP.
66	Pharr / Brownsville	0921-06-275	Not Approved. The project does not appear to be consistent with the MTP.
67	San Angelo	0035-03-047, 0035-04-032, 0070-04-033	Not Approved. The projects descriptions need to include more detail (will there be widening?). The current descriptions read as grouped projects (grading, base, paving and structures). If the projects are grouped projects, should be included as an appendix versus an individual project. Please review and revise as necessary.

**2015-2018 STIP
- Federal Comments**

	District / MPO	CSJ Number	STIP comment
68	San Angelo / STJ MPO	2574-01-044, 0069-07-103, 0077-06-090, 0158-02-085	Not Approved. Please clarify if the “Grouped CSJ Highway projects” are grouped projects or individual projects. If the projects are grouped, these should be listed in an appendix for information. Alternatively, if these are listed individually in the STIP, they cannot be described as grouped projects. Please review and revise as necessary.
69	San Antonio / AAMPO	0915-00-172	Not Approved. The funding identified does not appear to fully fund the Lone Star Rail project or phase. Please review and revise with supporting documentation as necessary.
70	San Antonio / AAMPO	0915-12-496	Not Approved. Require eligibility determination of Federal funds.
71	San Antonio / AAMPO	0915-46-041	Not Approved. The project does not appear consistent with 2012 list of eligible TE projects.
72	San Antonio / AAMPO	General	Please revise the 2015-2018 TIP document to consistently identify the newly named Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO). Throughout document there are references to the San Antonio Bexar County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).
73	Tyler / TAMPO	0919-01-063	Not Approved. The project does not appear to be consistent with the MTP.