



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

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Eric Holcomb, Governor
Joe McGuinness, Commissioner

June 27, 2019

Mr. James Turnwald, Executive Director
Michiana Area Council of Governments
277 W. Jefferson Blvd.
South Bende IN 46601

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Approval

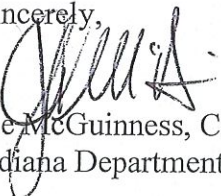
Dear Mr. Turnwald:

The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has completed its review of the FY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program for the Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG). State and locally initiated transportation projects were reviewed for accuracy and compliance under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST Act).

It is my pleasure to inform you that on behalf of Governor Eric Holcomb, I approve your FY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program. This document will serve as support for the local and INDOT projects in your area that fall within the FY 2020-2024 timeline and will be included by reference in the FY 2020-2024 Indiana Statewide Improvement Program (STIP). However, projects not shown by reference will be amended into the STIP upon request.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact Roy Nunnally at 317-234-1692.

Sincerely,


Joe McGuinness, Commissioner
Indiana Department of Transportation

JM/EN

cc: Heather Kennedy
Brad Steckler
Roy Nunnally
Adam Makuley
Joyce Newland
Michael McNeil
Todd Johnson
Mick Ruach
File



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Transit Administration
Region V
200 West Adams St., Suite 320
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Federal Highway Administration
Indiana Division
575 N. Pennsylvania St., Rm 254
Indianapolis, IN 46204-1576

July 2, 2019

Joe McGuinness
Commissioner
Indiana Department of Transportation
100 N Senate Ave. N955
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. McGuinness:

This letter documents the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) review of Indiana's State Fiscal Year 2020-2024 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the Federal Planning Finding as required under 23 CFR 450.220(b).

In order to approve the STIP document, including the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) contained by reference or directly incorporated into the STIP, FHWA and FTA must determine, through a Federal Planning Finding, that each MPO TIP is based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive (3-C) planning process. In addition, the Federal Planning Finding is based upon the extent that all the projects in the STIP are the result of a planning process in accordance with 23 USC 134 & 135 and 49 USC 5303 & 5304.

FHWA and FTA have identified the following strengths of the statewide and metropolitan transportation planning processes:

- The Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), MPOs and transit operators worked together to establish performance measures and targets. They established routine meetings between key INDOT and MPO staff on the safety, congestion, freight, bridge, pavement, and other measures. Subcommittees were formed between INDOT, the MPOs and FHWA. INDOT incorporated the performance measures into the 2045 Long-Range Statewide Transportation Plan (LRTP), STIP and Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP). All but one of the MPOs adopted INDOT's performance measures targets.
- The various performance measure subcommittees developed written procedures that were adopted into INDOT's Planning Roles and Responsibilities Cooperation Operation Manual (PRRCOM). The procedures addressed how to develop and share information related to the transportation performance data, the selection of performance targets, the reporting of performance targets, the reporting of performance to be used in tracking the progress toward attainment of critical outcomes for the regions of the MPOs, and the collection of data for the state asset management plan for the National Highway System.

- INDOT held regional meetings with the MPOs and Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs) in the development of its 2045 LRTP and FY 2020-2024 STIP during late fall 2017 through early 2018.
- INDOT increased its public outreach methods by hosting a virtual town hall meeting on transportation needs as part of input into the 2045 LRTP and the STIP. INDOT employed an on-line community survey that resulted in increased feedback and expanded the number of public meetings locations on the LRTP and STIP. Finally, INDOT created a QR Scanner app for the LRTP and STIP that linked these documents for interested persons to view electronically.
- The MPOs, INDOT, US Environmental Protection Agency, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, FTA and FHWA effectively collaborated to meet the requirements of the 1997 ozone standards.

FHWA and FTA also identified the following areas for improvement in the statewide and metropolitan transportation planning processes:

- INDOT needs to ensure projects selected by its Mobility Asset Management Team are provided earlier to the Transportation Management Areas (TMAs) MPOs for analysis in Congestion Management Process (CMP) and inclusion in the MPO's MTP.
- INDOT needs to ensure staff is knowledgeable of and fulfilling its responsibilities per the FHWA and INDOT Stewardship and Oversight Agreement and the PRRCOM. It is important INDOT follow these documents in conducting its oversight of the statewide and metropolitan planning processes.

FHWA and FTA will follow up with our observations leading to the above areas for improvement and work with you on how to best address them. In the meantime, we offer the following suggestions as possible approaches for improving the statewide and metropolitan transportation planning processes:

- We recommend INDOT work in coordination with FHWA and FTA to establish reoccurring staff and management level meetings to discuss state and federal policies, practices, procedures, and internal controls to ensure adequate stewardship and oversight of the transportation planning process in Indiana.
- We also encourage INDOT to explore and take advantage of opportunities for enhanced technical assistance, such as National Highway Institute and National Transit Institute courses on statewide and metropolitan planning and other related topics, peer exchanges, and other Transportation Planning Capacity Building program opportunities, which can be found at <https://planning.dot.gov/>.

This letter constitutes the documented Federal Planning Finding for Indiana's planning process. Based on our review of the information provided, including fiscal constraint information, air

quality determinations, public involvement, and the statewide and MPO planning certifications, FHWA and FTA approves Indiana's fiscal years 2020-2023 of the FY 2020-2024 STIP. We consider the projects in the 5th year for informational purposes as our approval is not to exceed more than four years per 23 CFR 450.218(I).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Joyce Newland with FHWA at (317) 226-5353 / joyce.newland@dot.gov or Cecilia Crenshaw with FTA at (312) 705-1268 / cecilia.crenshaw@dot.gov.

Sincerely,



Kelley Brookins
Regional Administrator
FTA Region V

Sincerely,



Mayela Sosa
Division Administrator
FHWA Indiana Division

cc: (transmitted by e-mail)
Brad Steckler, INDOT
Roy Nunnally, INDOT
Karen Hicks, INDOT
Jay Mitchell, INDOT