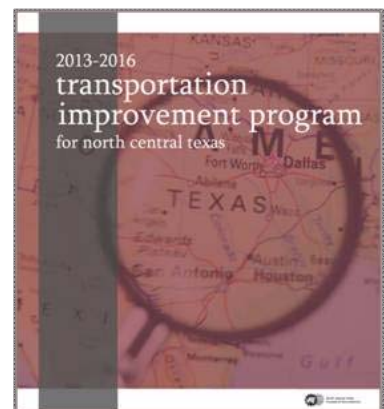


Appendix G

Federal Approval Letter

This appendix contains the letter from the United States Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) approving the 2013-2016 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

November 1, 2012

Refer to: HPP-TX

Joint Approval of FY 2013-2016 Statewide
Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Mr. Phil Wilson
Executive Director
Texas Department of Transportation
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Attention: Marc Williams

Dear Mr. Wilson:

We have reviewed the FY 2013-2016 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) received on September 18, 2012. In accordance with 23 CFR 450.216 (b), the FY 2013-2016 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 2013-2016 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 Beaumont-Port Arthur, 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. It is noted that the Beaumont-Port Arthur TIP is comprised of exempt projects consistent with the area's current transportation conformity lapse.

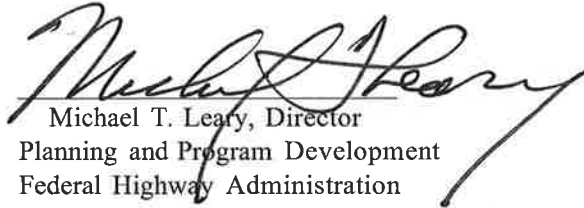
We look forward to continuing to work with TxDOT and Texas' MPOs on the successful implementation of the electronic STIP.

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,



Robert Patrick
Regional Administrator, Region VI
Federal Transit Administration



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

Enclosure

cc: Peggy Crist, FTA, Region VI
Wayne Wells, TxDOT Design
Angela Gil, TxDOT Design
Lori Morel, TxDOT TPP
Kelly Kirkland, TxDOT PTN
Karen Dunlap, TXDOT PTN
FHWA-HA-TX, HB-TX, HAM-TX, HPP-TX

**2013-2016 STIP
- Federal Comments**

	MPO /District	CSJ Number	STIP comment
1	Statewide	General	New Federal legislation, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), provides different funding categories than the STIP/TIP currently contain. Since the change in funding categories is defined as an administrative modification in the State and local STIP/TIP revision procedures, category changes can be made on the project agreement with proper notation.
2	Statewide	General	Per discussion on 10/10/2012 with TPP staff the E-STIP shall include all FHWA/FTA comments and TXDOT will certify that the electronic document is identical to the FY 2013-2016 STIP as approved on November 1, 2012. The E-STIP will also identify: phase or work codes to show whether PE for environmental document development or preliminary engineers, ROW for acquisition or utilities, specific funding sources, (NHPP, STP, CMAQ, IM, Safety, etc). Finally the E-STIP will identify NHS and PE, ROW and Construction by anticipated year.
3	Amarillo MPO/ Amarillo	2635-02-022 Misc Loop 335	Not Approved: Please note that several segments of Loop 335 are shown in the illustrative list of the 2035 MTP, including CSJ 2635-02-022 (MPO ID: A0A 076-000). These projects will need to be amended into the 2035 MTP as active projects if they are to be let to construction.
4	Amarillo MPO/ Amarillo	2635-03-015	Not Approved: This project is shown with different limits between the FY 13-16 TIP and the 2035 MTP. Either the 2035 MTP needs to be updated with the new limits or the TIP description will need to be modified in order to show consistent project limits.
5	Amarillo MPO/ Amarillo	2635-02-025	Not Approved: This project is described as "Additional 2 Lanes" on Loop 335 from IH 27 to Western Street for \$4.02M could not be located in the 2035 MTP.
6	CAMPO MPO/ Austin	3136-01-107	Not Approved: approval of this project is withheld pending resolution of the following: 1) the noted funding does not appear consistent with CAMPO's September 6, 2012 administrative TIP amendment concerning this project; and 2) it is our understanding that this project has been authorized.

**2013-2016 STIP
- Federal Comments**

	MPO /District	CSJ Number	STIP comment
7	CAMPO MPO/ Austin	1566-01-009	Not Approved: approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's limits. The project limits noted indicate "800' South of CR 100," however CAMPO's 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) indicates a project limit of "800' South of CR 101."
8	CAMPO MPO/ Austin	1186-01-090	Not Approved: approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work. The project description provided indicates the construction of two additional lanes, however the STIP entry does not indicate the number of existing lanes (or resulting number of lanes). It is noted that CAMPO's 2035 RTP indicates widen to four lane divided.
9	Brownsville MPO/ Pharr	1426-01-037 3626-02-001 1426-01-043 3626-03-001	Not Approved: The STIP project description is not consistent with the MTP project description which states, "Construct 4 lanes partially on new location and partially on existing roadway alignment" (MTP Project # BMPO-LP5); please verify.
10	Brownsville MPO/ Pharr	0921-06-207	Not Approved: The STIP project description is not consistent with the MTP project description which states, "Buy ROW for permanent facility and construct initial phase of permanent facility and remove temporary BSIF"; please verify.
11	Brownsville MPO/ Pharr	1138-02-015	Not Approved: The STIP project description and limits are not consistent with the MTP project description and limits which state, "Establish 2 lanes at new location & widen to 4 lanes from 0.59 mile S of SH 100 to SH 100 (limits: Realign FM 803 from US 77/83 frontage road to SH 100); please verify.
12	Bryan-College Station MPO / Bryan	General	Please Revise: Under the FY 2014 funding year in the financial summary table (shown on page 6), there is Category 4 funding (Statewide Connectivity Corridor Projects) amounting to \$15.1M, however no project descriptions are provided within the FY 13-16 TIP, please provide adequate project descriptions for these funds.

**2013-2016 STIP
- Federal Comments**

	MPO /District	CSJ Number	STIP comment
13	Bryan-College Station MPO / Bryan	049-12-086	Not Approved: Interchange at Rock Prairie Road with YOE \$3.95M could not be located within the 2035 MTP, this project is not approved.
14	Corpus Christi MPO/ Corpus Christi	General	Please revise: The TIP-page headings state FY 2011 – 2014 Transportation Improvement Program
15	NCTCOG/ Dallas	0918-00-203 0918-00-206 0918-00-219 0918-00-981	Not Approved: Placeholder projects are not eligible for approval
16	NCTCOG/ Fort Worth	0918-00-221 0918-00-207	Not Approved: Placeholder projects are not eligible for approval
17	El Paso MPO/ El Paso	0924-06-439	Not Approved: Please clarify the project phase and discription. This project needs to be consistent and included in the MTP.
18	El Paso MPO/ El Paso	0924-06-375	Not Approved: Pending clarification of continued CMAQ eligibility
19	El Paso MPO/ El Paso	0924-06-433	Not Approved: Pending clarification of eligibility under 23 USC 133
20	El Paso MPO/ El Paso	2552-02-027	Not Approved: MPO/District to clarify if this project is part of another MTP project.
21	El Paso MPO/ El Paso	0924-06-438	Not Approved: Before this project can move forward it will need to be listed in the MTP and consistent with Air Quality Conformity findings.
22	El Paso MPO/ El Paso	2121-03-131	Not Approved: Please clarify earmark description and additional award information.
23	El Paso MPO/ El Paso	0924-06-442	Not Approved: Pending clarification of continued eligibility for operating expenses under CMAQ.
24	El Paso MPO/ El Paso	0924-06-444	Not Approved: Pending clarification of continued eligibility for operating expenses under CMAQ.
25	El Paso MPO/ El Paso	0924-06-435	Not Approved: Must be listed in and consistent with MTP.

**2013-2016 STIP
- Federal Comments**

	MPO /District	CSJ Number	STIP comment
26	El Paso MPO/ El Paso	0924-06-154	Not approved: Provide clarification of ths project in relation to MPO project #A5131-MOD.
27	El Paso MPO/ El Paso	0924-06-443	Not Approved: Pending clarification of continued eligibility for operating expenses under CMAQ.
28	El Paso MPO/ El Paso	0924-06-445	Not Approved: Pending clarification of continued eligibility for operating expenses under CMAQ.
29	Hidalgo County MPO/ Pharr	General	Please revise: The projects are not identified by FY (heading). Example: FY 2013, FY 2014, FY 2015 and FY 2016.
30	Hidalgo County MPO/ Pharr	0669-01-043	Not Approved: The MTP Limit is to Conway; please verify limits.
31	Hidalgo County MPO/ Pharr	0862-01-037	Approved: The MTP has SH 365 and the STIP has SH 364; please clarify (editorial).
32	H-GAC MPO / Houston	General	Please Revise: It is noted that several projects in the FY 2013-2016 TIP/STIP reflect a Year Of Expenditure (YOE) cost greater than the noted Total Project Cost. Please clarify as this is unexpected. These projects are approved except as noted.
33	H-GAC MPO / Houston	0111-08-118	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work and consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update. H-GAC's 2035 RTP Update indicates that this project is exempt for transportation conformity purposes however, the associated project information appears to indicate that the roadway is being widened from two to four lanes.
34	H-GAC MPO / Houston	MPO ID 15222	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work and consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update. H-GAC's 2035 RTP Update indicates that this project is exempt for transportation conformity purposes however, the associated project information appears to indicate that the roadway is being widened from two to four lanes.

**2013-2016 STIP
- Federal Comments**

	MPO /District	CSJ Number	STIP comment
35	H-GAC MPO / Houston	MPO ID 13586 1258-03-042 3510-04-041 MPO ID 13820 MPO ID 7465 MPO ID 15522 MPO ID 13645	Not Approved: Approval of these projects is withheld pending clarification of the projects' analysis year and consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update. It is noted that H-GAC's 2035 RTP Update indicates a 2014 analysis year for these projects. Assuming a two-year construction cycle it is anticipated that these projects would not be completed until 2015.
36	H-GAC MPO / Houston	MPO ID 11182	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work and consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update. The information provided in H-GAC's 2035 RTP Update appears to indicate the construction of a 4-lane roadway; however the project descriptions noted in the FY 2013-2016 TIP/STIP and 2035 RTP Update do not appear to indicate the number of lanes being constructed.
37	H-GAC MPO / Houston	MPO ID 13712	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work and consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update. It is noted that H-GAC's 2035 RTP Update indicates the project to be exempt for transportation conformity purposes.
38	H-GAC MPO / Houston	MPO ID 15517	Not approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's limits and consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update.
39	H-GAC MPO / Houston	MPO ID 14580	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work and consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update. It is noted that information provided in H-GAC's 2035 RTP Update appears to indicate widening of the roadway from two to four-lanes; however the project description in the FY 2013-2016 TIP/STIP and the 2035 RTP Update do not indicate the number lanes being constructed.

**2013-2016 STIP
- Federal Comments**

	MPO /District	CSJ Number	STIP comment
40	H-GAC MPO / Houston	MPO ID 14581	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work and consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update. It is noted that the project information provided in H-GAC's 2035 RTP Update appears to indicate widening of the roadway from two to four-lanes, however the project is noted as exempt for transportation conformity purposes.
41	H-GAC MPO / Houston	MPO ID 15212 MPO ID 15213 MPO ID 15214	Not Approved: Approval of these projects is withheld pending clarification of the number of frontage roads being constructed. It is noted that H-GAC's 2035 RTP Update indicates the construction of two two-lane frontage roads.
42	H-GAC MPO / Houston	MPO ID 13527	Not approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project description and consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update. Please clarify the project scope for which right-of-way is being acquired and intent of "environmental preservation" noted in the FY 2013-2016 TIP/STIP project description.
43	H-GAC MPO / Houston	0912-00-424 0912-34-162 3312-02-012 3312-01-008	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work. Please provide clarification concerning the bicycle and pedestrian improvements proposed for implementation with this project.
44	H-GAC MPO / Houston	0912-71-627	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work. Please provide clarification concerning the traffic control device improvements proposed for implementation with this project.
45	H-GAC MPO / Houston	0912-72-199	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work. Please provide clarification concerning the Phase 3 RCTSS Program proposed for implementation with this project.

**2013-2016 STIP
- Federal Comments**

	MPO / District	CSJ Number	STIP comment
46	H-GAC MPO / Houston	0912-71-004	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work (i.e., is this project intended to construct new signals).
47	H-GAC MPO / Houston	0523-10-034	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work, analysis year and consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update. It is noted that information provided in H-GAC's 2035 RTP appears to indicate that the roadway is being widened from two to four-lanes. Additionally, the 2035 RTP Update indicates a 2015 analysis year, however 2015 is not a current analysis year.
48	H-GAC MPO / Houston	3510-07-004	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project description and consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update. Please clarify the project scope for which right-of-way is being acquired and intent of "environmental preservation" noted in the FY 2013-2016 TIP/STIP project description.
49	H-GAC MPO / Houston	0912-00-463	Approved: Please clarify the basis for the noted emission reductions (i.e., are the noted emission reductions a subset of the emission reductions noted for CSJ 0912-00-462).
50	H-GAC MPO / Houston	0912-34-143	Approved: This project is approved, however it is noted that although Category 3 - Local Contribution is noted as a proposed funding source, no Category 3 funding is reflected in the FY 2013-2016 TIP/STIP project entry.
51	H-GAC MPO / Houston	3256-04-061	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work and consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update. The noted extension of Beltway 8 appears to add capacity.

**2013-2016 STIP
- Federal Comments**

	MPO /District	CSJ Number	STIP comment
52	H-GAC MPO / Houston	MPO ID 10052	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work and consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update. Does this project provide for the reconstruction or construction of a roadway.
53	H-GAC MPO / Houston	0912-71-046 0912-71-045	Not Approved: Approval of these projects is withheld pending clarification of the projects' scope of work. Please provide clarification concerning the traffic signal enhancements proposed for implementation with these projects.
54	H-GAC MPO / Houston	0912-72-071	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work. Please provide clarification concerning the highway improvements proposed for implementation with this project, as noted in H-GAC's 2035 RTP Update and FY 2013-2016 TIP/STIP.
55	H-GAC MPO / Houston	0912-72-132	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work. Please provide clarification concerning the signal program proposed for implementation with this project.
56	H-GAC MPO / Houston	0912-72-190	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work. Please provide clarification concerning the ITS improvements proposed for implementation with this project.
57	H-GAC MPO / Houston	0912-00-920	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's eligibility for 100 percent federal funding. Additionally, please clarify the basis for the noted emission reductions (i.e., are the noted emission reductions a subset of the emission reductions from an overall clean air action program).
58	H-GAC MPO / Houston	MPO ID 13730	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work and consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update. The project description provided in the 2035 RTP Update and FY 2013-2016 TIP/STIP, appears to indicate added capacity, however the 2035 RTP Update notes the project as exempt for transportation conformity purposes.

**2013-2016 STIP
- Federal Comments**

	MPO /District	CSJ Number	STIP comment
59	H-GAC MPO / Houston	1683-01-037 0027-06-056	Not Approved: Approval of these projects is withheld pending clarification of the projects' scope of work and consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update. Please provide clarification concerning the projects description reflected in the 2035 RTP and FY 2013-2016 TIP/STIP (e.g., added capacity, reconstruction, etc.).
60	H-GAC MPO / Houston	0720-03-102 0720-03-103 0720-03-123 3187-01-005 3510-06-007 0720-02-074	Not Approved: Approval of these projects is withheld pending clarification concerning the projects' analysis year and consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update. It is noted that H-GAC's 2035 RTP Update indicates a 2018 analysis year for these projects. However, assuming a two-year construction cycle it is anticipated that these projects would be completed in 2017.
61	H-GAC MPO / Houston	0598-01-904	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's proposed scope of work. Please clarify the project description provided in H-GAC's 2035 RTP Update and FY 2013-2016 TIP/STIP concerning the number of toll lanes to be constructed. It is noted that information provided in H-GAC's 2035 RTP Update appears to indicate the construction of an additional 4-lanes.
62	H-GAC MPO / Houston	0050-09-087	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project description and consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update. Please clarify the project scope for which right-of-way is being acquired.
63	H-GAC MPO / Houston	MPO ID 7780	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's scope of work and consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update. Please provide clarification concerning the road improvements proposed for implementation with this project.

**2013-2016 STIP
- Federal Comments**

	MPO /District	CSJ Number	STIP comment
64	H-GAC MPO / Houston	0598-01-090	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification concerning the project's analysis year and consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update. It is noted that H-GAC's 2035 RTP Update indicates a 2017 analysis year for this project. However, assuming a two-year construction cycle it is anticipated that the project would not be completed until 2018.
65	H-GAC MPO / Houston	0050-09-088	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project description and consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update. Please clarify the project scope for which right-of-way is being acquired.
66	H-GAC MPO / Houston	MPO ID 15475	Not Approved: Approval of this project is withheld pending clarification of the project's consistency with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update. It is noted that the project limits, funding and analysis year noted in the FY 2013-2016 TIP/STIP do not appear consistent with H-GAC's conforming 2035 RTP Update.
67	Midland-Odessa MPO/ Odessa	2224-01-085	Not Approved: Loop 338 from Yukon Road to 0.5 mi. W of US 385 is shown as costing \$7.5 M YOE in Category 2U funds in the FY 13-16 STIP, however the 2035 MTP shows it under RC-01 (Chapter 8- Roadway Plan) as costing \$6.98 M YOE in Category 3 (Urban) funds. Please clarify which source of UTP funding is being programmed for the subject project.
68	Lufkin	0336-04-015	Not Approved: Please clarify project description and funding source for Cat-10 Misc.
69	Lufkin	0304-02-038	Not Approved: Please clarify funding source for Cat-10 Misc.
70	San Angelo MPO/ San Angelo	2284-01-028	Not Approved: In the TIP this project is funded with Category 3 funds according and the additional remarks say "Urban Corridor Projects." The MTP identifies another source. Please clarify which funds are being used for this project.

**2013-2016 STIP
- Federal Comments**

	MPO /District	CSJ Number	STIP comment
71	Victoria/ Yokum	0143-10-050	Not Approved: the US 87 project in Victoria County (CSJ 0143-10-050) cannot be found in the 2010-2035 MTP. There are some projects in the MTP that include US 87 but none with the limits on FM 447. Please clarify if this project is in the MTP and if so, what particular project it is.