

**TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTE ORDER**

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Title 23, United States Code, §§ 134 and 135 require each designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) and the State of Texas (state), respectively, to develop a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as a condition to securing federal funds for transportation projects under either Title 23 or the Federal Transit Act.

Section 134(j) requires an MPO to develop its TIP in cooperation with the state and affected transit operators, and further requires the TIP to be updated at least once every four years and to be approved by the MPO and the governor of Texas.

Section 135(g) requires the state to develop a Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for all areas of the state in cooperation with the MPOs designated for each metropolitan planning area and, with respect to non-metropolitan areas, in consultation with affected local officials, and requires that the STIP be approved by the governor.

By letter dated October 4, 2005, the governor delegated the power and responsibility for approving the STIP to the Texas Transportation Commission (commission) or its designees. The commission has adopted rules governing the development of transportation plans and programs, codified as 43 TAC Chapter 15, Subchapter A.

Sections 134(j) and 135(g) and 43 TAC §§15.7 and 15.8 specify the requirements and eligibility criteria for projects to be included in the respective TIPs. In accordance with those requirements, TIPs have been developed for each metropolitan planning area, as well as those areas of the state outside designated MPO boundaries (rural TIPs). The individual TIPs are incorporated into the STIP.

The various TIPs developed by the designated MPOs have been presented for public comment by means of various public meetings conducted by relevant authorities throughout the state. Rural TIPs were made available to citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agency employees, freight shippers, private providers of transportation, providers of freight transportation services, representatives of users of public transit, and other interested parties for review and comment in each of the Texas Department of Transportation's (department's) 25 district offices and at the department's headquarters in Austin. A public hearing on the STIP was held on August 24, 2010. No oral or written comments were received.

After due deliberation and consideration, the commission finds that the requirements of §134 have been fully satisfied as they pertain to the development of the prescribed TIPs by each of the 25 MPOs and that the STIP, attached as Exhibit A to this order, fully satisfies the requirements of §135 and 43 TAC §15.8 and is consistent with the Statewide Transportation Plan, the Unified Transportation Program, and the Strategic Plan.

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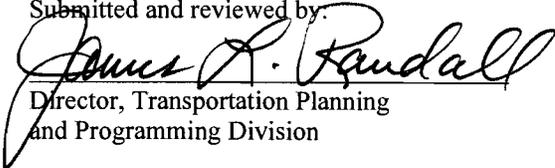
The commission also finds that the STIP:

- (A) develops, operates, and maintains efficient and effective transportation systems and services;
- (B) improves public safety and security on transportation systems;
- (C) facilitates economic and social prosperity through the efficient movement of people and goods;
- (D) protects, when feasible, and enhances, when practicable, the environment in transportation activities;
- (E) improves and promotes the connectivity of transportation services and systems; and
- (F) optimizes transportation funding to meet the mobile needs of the state.

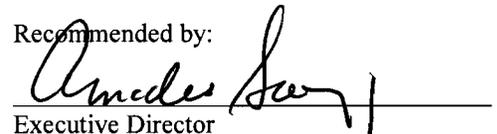
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Fiscal Year 2011-2014 STIP, which incorporates the respective TIPs of each designated MPO, as well as rural TIPs and is attached as Exhibit A to this order, is hereby adopted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the executive director, or his designee, shall sign all necessary certifications required by federal regulations.

Submitted and reviewed by:

  
Director, Transportation Planning  
and Programming Division

Recommended by:

  
Executive Director

**112433 SEP 30 10**

Minute Number      Date Passed