

DRAFT 2011-2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Background

H-GAC's Transportation Policy Council will consider approving the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) at its June meeting. The TIP is a capital improvements program for transportation projects. Under federal rules, all federally assisted projects must be included in the TIP to be eligible for funding. In addition, federal rules require that regionally significant local projects must also be included in the TIP.

Programming (funding) authority for the draft 2011-2014 TIP is substantially lower for federal-aid roadway improvements than the current 2008-2011 TIP. This is due to revised financial forecasts developed by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and uncertainty surrounding authorization of a new federal transportation bill.

In order to address reduced federal and state funding, regionally selected projects for the Surface Transportation Metro Mobility (STP-MM) and Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality Program (CMAQ) categories were reviewed for readiness for contract letting. Priority was given to "ready" projects programmed in the 2008-2011 TIP that had not been let. The 2008-2011 TIP also included a list of contingency projects. Those projects were considered if there were no currently programmed projects ready for letting and dollars were available in any fiscal year.

Projects in other highway program funding categories reflect TxDOT's draft Unified Transportation Program through FY2014. Transit formula funds programmed in the draft 2011-2014 TIP are based upon funding projections from public transit providers. The resulting draft TIP shows significantly less funding from state and federal sources, but increased local and transit funding.

Current Situation

TxDOT has requested MPOs across the state to submit 2011-2014 TIPs by June 30, 2010 in order for a new statewide TIP (STIP) to be approved later this summer. The STIP will be submitted to the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration for approval in September 2010. The approval of the 2011-2014 STIP will indicate that the state and MPOs have met federal fiscal constraint requirements thereby lifting restrictions on the ability to amend the current TIP.

The draft TIP is currently undergoing a thirty-day public comment period. The draft 2011-2014 TIP, which lists all projects considered for the TIP timeframe is posted on the H-GAC Transportation website at: <http://www.h-gac.com/taq/tip/default.aspx>. Since the draft TIP was posted, Chambers County has requested the addition of the extension of FM 1409 for inclusion in the locally funded roadway portion of the document. No other comments have been received to date. The public comment period closes on June 24, 2010

Action Requested

Staff requests TAC recommendation to the TPC to approve the 2011-2014 TIP for inclusion in the STIP.