

## **PROJECT READINESS FOR THE 2011-2014 TIP**

The TIP is the implementation device for the Regional Transportation Plan. It details an implementation schedule for the first four years of projects in the RTP. Therefore, one of the important criteria for selection as a TIP project is “readiness”. “Readiness” refers to the ability of a project to be ready for contract letting in the year in which it is programmed in the TIP. For federal-aid projects “readiness” is largely determined by the status of the following activities:

### **Environmental Clearance and Permits**

All federal-aid projects must complete the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process. Proposed projects must have final federal environmental clearance prior to inclusion in the TIP. Environmental clearance includes a categorical exclusion (CE), a finding of no significant impacts (FONSI), or a record of decision (ROD). In addition, all permits must be secured including railroad permits and Army Corps of Engineers permits.

### **Plans, Specifications & Estimates (P, S & E)**

The Plans, Specifications and Estimate (PS&E) package involves the complete check and coordination of all the plan elements, a review and coordination of the specifications used to control the work and an up to date estimate of the bid items, quantities and unit prices. TxDOT requires plan submittals for 30%, 60%, 90% and 100% review. To be considered for inclusion in the TIP, proposed projects must have 30% P,S & E review completed.

### **Rights-of-Way Acquisition**

Because right-of-way acquisition is potentially litigious and time consuming, a significant amount of right-of-way should have already been acquired for projects that will require additional right-of-way. Significant is defined to mean that at a minimum, rights-of-way should be acquired to the point that contract activities could proceed without interruption even if there are remaining parcels needed at the time of contract letting.

### **Transfers to Federal Transit Administration**

Surface Transportation Program – Metro Mobility and Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality program funds may be transferred from Federal Highway Administration accounts to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) accounts. In order to be considered for inclusion in the TIP for a transfer of funds to the FTA, proposed projects must be part of a previously approved grant, covered under an existing Letter of No Prejudice issued by the Federal Transit Administration, or have final federal environmental clearance approved by FTA.

**Approval Deadlines for Proposed 2011-2014 Projects**

<b>TIP Year</b>	<b>Deadline for 30% P,S&amp;E</b>	<b>Deadline for Final Environmental Clearance</b>	<b>Deadline for ROW Acquisition</b>	<b>Deadline to initiate FTA transfer</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>12/31/10</b>	<b>1/28/11</b>	<b>4/23/11</b>	<b>4/23/11</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>12/31/11</b>	<b>1/27/12</b>	<b>4/27/12</b>	<b>4/27/12</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>12/31/12</b>	<b>1/25/13</b>	<b>4/26/13</b>	<b>4/26/13</b>
<b>2014</b>	<b>12/31/13</b>	<b>1/24/14</b>	<b>4/25/14</b>	<b>4/25/14</b>