



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Transit Administration
Region III
1760 Market Street, Suite 500
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-656-7100
215-656-7260 (fax)

Federal Highway Administration
MD Division
10 Howard Street, Suite 2450
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
410-962-4440
410-962-4054 (fax)

The Honorable Peter Rahn
Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Box 548
Hanover, Maryland 21076

AUG 30 2016

Re: Maryland Department of Transportation FY 2017-2020 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Dear Secretary Rahn:

We are pleased to inform you that the joint Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) review of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) FY 2017-2020 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) has been completed. In accordance with 23 CFR 450.218(c), the approval period for a new STIP shall not exceed four years. As a result, this joint FHWA/FTA approval of the Maryland STIP applies to the period FY 2017 through FY 2020.

To approve the STIP document, including the Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) contained by reference or directly in the STIP, FHWA and FTA must make a determination that the STIP and each metropolitan TIP are based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive planning process. This Planning Finding is based upon the extent that all projects in the STIP are based on a planning process in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 134 and 135, 49 U.S.C. 5303-5305, and subparts A, B, and C of 23 CFR Part 450.

This is the documented Planning Finding for the MDOT FY 2017-2020 STIP, and all incorporated TIPs for the following Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO): Baltimore Region Metropolitan Planning Organization, Metropolitan Washington Region Metropolitan Planning Organization, Wilmington Area Planning Council, Cumberland Urbanized Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, Hagerstown/Eastern Panhandle Metropolitan Planning Organization, and Salisbury/Wicomico Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Based on the MDOT and MPO self-certifications of their statewide and metropolitan transportation planning processes, review of self-certification supporting documentation, and our involvement in the State and Metropolitan planning processes, FHWA and FTA hereby find that the STIP is based on a transportation planning process that substantially meets the requirements of 23 U.S.C Sections 134 and 135, 49 U.S.C. Sections 5303-5305, and subparts A, B, and C of 23 CFR Part 450.

2017 MARYLAND STIP PLANNING FINDING ISSUED BY FTA AND FHWA FOR STATEWIDE AND METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESSES

To approve the STIP document, including TIPs contained by reference or directly in the STIP, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) must make a determination that each metropolitan TIP is based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive planning process. In addition, this Planning Finding is based on statewide and metropolitan transportation planning processes that meet the intent and requirements of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU); 23 U.S.C. Sections 134 and 135; 49 U.S.C. Sections 5303-5306; and 23 CFR part 450 subpart A, B and C. This is the documented Planning Finding for the Maryland FY 2017-2020 STIP, and all the incorporated TIPs.

PLANNING PROCESS OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS

The following strengths of the statewide and metropolitan transportation planning processes have been identified:

- Implementation of performance measures and targets in State and MPOs plans and programs.
- Coordination and participation in many freight activities including updating State freight plan and freight network.

The following areas of the statewide and metropolitan transportation planning processes have been identified for improvement by the next STIP update:

- The State, in conjunction with the MPOs, should work to achieve FAST Act requirements in all planning and program areas.
- The State should continue to work with the MPOs to better align the development of new TIPs to coincide with the development of the new STIP.
- The State should prepare an annual report detailing how CMAQ funds have been invested. The CMAQ annual report should be submitted through the Web-based CMAQ Tracking System. This report should be approved by the FHWA Division office by the first day of March following the end of the previous Federal fiscal year.
- MDOT should review and provide timely information to all of its MPOs regarding the remaining balances of all available transportation planning funds for programming of the Unified Planning Working Programs (UPWPs).

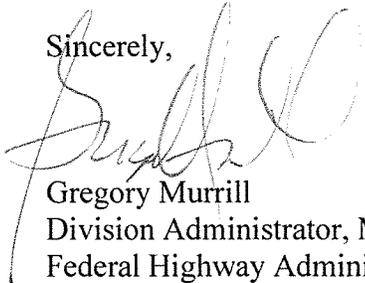
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Improvement Program

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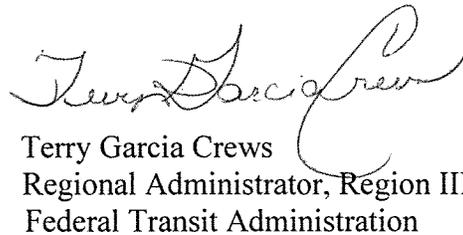
This STIP approval does not constitute a final commitment of Federal funds. Federal funding for projects included in the STIP is finalized when a request for project authorization is approved by FHWA or upon approval of a grant by FTA. Should amendments to this STIP become necessary during the course of the year, any highway amendments will be acted upon by FHWA and any transit amendments will be acted upon by FTA.

Any questions concerning this approval should be directed to Kwame Arhin, Planning Program Manager, FHWA Maryland Division, at (410) 779-7158, or Kathleen Zubrzycki, Community Planner, FTA Region III, at (215) 656-7262.

Sincerely,



Gregory Murrill
Division Administrator, Maryland Division
Federal Highway Administration



Terry Garcia Crews
Regional Administrator, Region III
Federal Transit Administration

Enclosure

cc: Paul Comfort, MTA
Gregory Slater, SHA
Heather Murphy, MDOT