



U.S. Department
of Transportation

June 21, 2023

**Federal Highway Administration
Tennessee Division**

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**Federal Transit Administration
Region IV**

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In Reply Refer To:
HPD-TN

Mr. Howard H. Eley
Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Transportation
James K. Polk Building, Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37243

Subject: Approval of Fiscal Years 2023-2026 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program

Dear Commissioner Eley:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Tennessee Division and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Region IV Office have completed the review of the Federal Fiscal Years (FY) 2023-2026 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) including the incorporated Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) for Tennessee's eleven Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) submitted by the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) on May 22, 2023.

This submittal followed a previous request from TDOT for Federal review and approval of the FY 2023-2026 STIP, dated March 9, 2023. The FHWA and FTA found that the proposed STIP did not meet the requirements of Title 23 of the United States Code (U.S.C.) Part 135, 49 U.S.C. 5304, and Title 23 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 450. This finding was communicated to TDOT on April 5, 2023.

Based on review of the revised STIP to address the identified areas of noncompliance, FHWA and FTA jointly approve the TDOT's FY 2023-2026 STIP and incorporated TIPs as submitted on May 22, 2023. This approval supersedes the February 13, 2020, approval for the FY 2020-2023 STIP and shall remain in effect through September 30, 2026.

The FHWA and FTA have joint responsibility to ensure that the statewide and metropolitan planning processes in Tennessee meet the Federal planning requirements in Titles 23 and 49 of the U.S.C. and Titles 23 and 49 of the CFR. In accordance with the requirements of 23 CFR 450.220, the FHWA and FTA have completed a Federal Planning Finding determining the extent to which the draft STIP is based on a statewide and metropolitan transportation planning process that meets Federal requirements.

The enclosed FY 2023 Federal Planning Finding identified one commendation and three recommendations for TDOT and the MPOs to consider in carrying out the transportation planning process.

Following this approval, FHWA and FTA request TDOT conduct necessary revisions to reflect the fiscal impact of the State's recent passage of the Transportation Modernization Act in the STIP. FHWA and FTA staff are fully prepared to assist TDOT in successful implementation of the Transportation Modernization Act and other Federal and State initiatives.

We appreciate your leadership in Tennessee's statewide and metropolitan transportation planning processes. If there are any questions regarding the FY 2023 Federal Planning Finding or the FY 2023-2026 STIP approval, please contact Melanie Murphy, Transportation Planning Specialist, FHWA Tennessee Division at (615) 781-5767 or Michael Sherman, Community Planner, FTA Region IV Office at (404) 865-5616.

Sincerely,

Pamela M. Kordenbrock
Division Administrator
FHWA TN Division

Yvette J. Taylor

Dr. Yvette Taylor
Regional Administrator
FTA Region IV

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Gilberto DeLeon, Deputy Division Administrator, FHWA TN Division
Mr. Sean Santalla, Program Development Team Leader, FHWA TN Division
Mr. John Ballantyne, Environment, Planning & System Performance Team Leader,
FHWA KY Division
Mr. John Simkins, Planning, Environment, Realty and Freight Team Leader,
FHWA VA Division
Ms. Ann-Marie Day, Planning Team Leader, FHWA GA Division
Ms. Kim Thurman, Project Development Team Leader, FHWA MS Division
Ms. Melanie Murphy, Transportation Planning Specialist, FHWA TN Division
Mr. Robert Sachnin, Director of Planning and Program Development, FTA Region IV
Mr. Michael Sherman, Community Planner, FTA Region IV
Mr. Andres Ramirez, Community Planner, FTA Region IV
Mr. Steve Townsend, Chief of Staff, TDOT
Mr. Preston Elliott, Deputy Commissioner / Chief of Environment and Planning, TDOT
Mr. Will Reid, Deputy Commissioner / Chief Engineer, TDOT
Mr. Joe Galbato, Deputy Commissioner / Chief Financial Officer, TDOT
Mr. Ronnie Porter, Director of Program Development and Administration, TDOT
Mr. Matt Meservy, Director of Long Range Planning, TDOT
Mr. Brian Hurst, Transportation Manager II, TDOT
TN MPO Coordinators