February 13, 2020

Federal Highway Administration
Tennessee Division

Federal Transit Administration
Region IV

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Mr. Clay Bright
Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Transportation
James K. Polk Building, Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37243

In Reply Refer To:
HPD-TN

Subject: Approval of Fiscal Years 2020-2023 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program

Dear Commissioner Bright:

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) 2020-2023 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) including the incorporated Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) for Tennessee’s eleven Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).

Based on this review, FHWA and FTA jointly approve the Tennessee Department of Transportation’s (TDOT’s) FY 2020-2023 STIP and incorporated TIPs. This approval for the FY 2020-2023 STIP supersedes the January 6, 2017 approval for the FY 2017-2020 STIP and shall remain in effect through September 30, 2023.

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 United States Code (U.S.C.) and Titles 23 and 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (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 the Federal requirements.

The enclosed FY 2020 Federal Planning Finding identified six commendations and five recommendations for TDOT and the MPOs to consider in carrying out the transportation planning process. The Federal Planning Finding also carried forward a Corrective Action from the 2018 Nashville TMA Federal Certification Review.
The recommendation related to STIP fiscal constraint is of a high priority and must be promptly addressed to ensure continued compliance of the STIP with Federal regulations. An Action Plan identifying a path to resolution of this concern is included.

We appreciate your leadership in Tennessee’s statewide and metropolitan transportation planning processes. If you have any questions regarding the FY 2020 Federal Planning Finding or the FY 2020-2023 STIP approval, please contact Theresa Claxton from the FHWA Tennessee Division at (615) 781-5772 or Andres Ramirez from the FTA Region IV Office at (404) 865-5611.

Sincerely,

Pamela M. Kordenbrock
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
Tennessee Division

Yvette G. Taylor, PhD
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
Region IV

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Sabrina David, Deputy Division Administrator, FHWA TN Division
Ms. Theresa Claxton, Program Development Team Leader, FHWA TN Division
Ms. Bernadette Dupont, Acting Environment, Planning & System Performance Team Leader, FHWA KY Division
Mr. Richard Duran, Community Planner, FHWA VA Division
Ms. Ann-Marie Day, Transportation Planner, FHWA GA Division
Ms. Shundreka Givan, Project Development Team Leader, FHWA MS Division
Mr. B. Keith Melton, Director of Planning and Program Development, FTA Region IV
Mr. Andres Ramirez, General Engineer, FTA Region IV Planner, FTA Region IV
Mr. Paul Degges, Deputy Commissioner / Chief Engineer, TDOT
Ms. Lyndsay Botts, Deputy Commissioner / Chief of Staff, TDOT
Mr. Daniel Pallme, Assistant Chief of Environmental & Planning Bureau, Freight and Logistics Director, TDOT
Mr. Ronnie Porter, Director of Program Development and Administration, TDOT
Mr. Kwabena Aboagye, Assistant Director of Long Range Planning, TDOT
Mr. David Jung-Hwi Lee, Assistant Director of Long Range Planning, TDOT
Mr. Steve Allen, Director of Strategic Transportation Investments, TDOT
Ms. Suzanne Carlson, Director of Multimodal Transportation Resources, TDOT
Ms. BJ Doughty, Director of Community Relations, TDOT