



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

IDAHO DIVISION

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FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

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SEATTLE, WA 98174

Date: *DECEMBER 31, 2018*

Reply To: HPR-ID/710.1

Mr. Brian Ness, Director
Idaho Transportation Department
P. O. Box 7129
Boise, Idaho 83707

Dear Mr. Ness:

**Subject: 2019-2022 Idaho Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
and TIP Air Quality Conformity Determinations**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have reviewed the Idaho Transportation Department's (ITD's) 2019 - 2022 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), submitted on November 21, 2018 for federal approval. In conjunction with the STIP approval, the FHWA and FTA have conducted a Federal Planning Finding review to determine that the proposed STIP is based on a transportation planning process which meets the requirements of 23 CFR Part 450 Subpart A, B and C, 49 U.S.C. Sections 5303-5305, and 23 U.S.C. Sections 134 and 135.

Prior to STIP approval, FHWA and FTA must determine that areas currently designated as nonattainment for national air quality standards, or which are operating under a Federally approved air quality maintenance plan can demonstrate that their transportation improvement programs (TIPs) conform to the state's air quality state implementation plan (SIP). Consistent with this requirement, FHWA and FTA have jointly determined that the 2019-2022 TIPs for the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) and the Bannock Transportation Planning Organization (BTPO) conform to Idaho's SIP. In addition, it has been determined that there are no projects in Idaho's two rural nonattainment areas of Pinehurst and Franklin County which are subject to the Federal conformity requirements.

Based on a joint FHWA/FTA review of Idaho's 2019-2022 STIP we find that the program:

- identifies all proposed highway and transit projects in the State funded under Title 23 and the Federal Transit Act, including Federal Lands projects;
- is consistent with the State's adopted long-range statewide transportation plan;
- includes without modification the metropolitan transportation improvement programs approved by the respective metropolitan planning organizations and by ITD acting on behalf of the Governor or as delegated;
- includes in air quality non-attainment areas only projects determined to conform with the SIP;
- demonstrates adequate fiscal constraint;
- meets the requirements of 23 CFR 450.220 (project selection) for the projects listed in FY's 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022;
- has been developed with adequate public involvement.

Conditions and clarifications for this STIP approval include the following:

- individual projects located within air quality non-attainment areas but outside of metropolitan planning areas and which are not air quality exempt or neutral are subject to conformity determination requirements;
- only the projects listed for FY's 2019 through 2022 are considered to be included in the STIP and that the projects programmed for these years are hereby selected for advancement;
- this action does not serve as an eligibility determination for Federal participation nor does it serve as a Federal approval action for programs or projects for which FHWA and FTA have no approval authority, including the State's rail and aeronautics programs;
- this STIP approval expires in four years or upon approval of a new STIP, whichever occurs first;
- this STIP, as approved, may be amended consistent with the provisions of 23 CFR 450.

Based on our Federal Planning Finding Review, FHWA and FTA find that the projects in the proposed STIP are based on a transportation planning process that meets the federal planning requirements of Title 23 and 49 and, therefore, give joint approval of Idaho's 2019-2022 STIP.

In consideration for the fact that there are no corrective actions identified in this year's Planning Finding (See Attachment A), there are no specific conditions or follow up actions for this approval.

For further explanation of this this approval, please contact Mr. Scott Frey, FHWA – Idaho at (208) 334-9180, extension 115 or Ned Conroy, FTA Region 10 at (206) 220-4318.

Sincerely yours,

**R SCOTT
FREY**

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SCOTT FREY
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For

**Peter J. Hartman
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration**

**LINDA M
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**Linda M. Gehrke
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration**

ATTACHMENT A

A Federal Planning Finding For The Idaho Transportation Department's 2019-2022 STIP

A Federal Planning Finding is a formal action taken by the FHWA and FTA to ensure that STIPs and TIPs are developed according to Statewide and metropolitan transportation planning processes that are consistent with required statutory and regulatory planning and related provisions. A planning finding is a determination that the projects in the STIP (including projects from TIPs) are based on a planning process that substantially meets the requirements of Title 23 and Title 49. The finding serves as an opportunity to highlight areas that need improvement in a Statewide or metropolitan transportation planning process and is a prerequisite to FTA/FHWA approval of the STIP.

The FHWA and FTA review of the STIP and planning processes is based on overseeing and participating in the State and MPOs' transportation planning programs. FHWA and FTA reviewed the various planning activities and programs with a focus on areas in need of improvement. This reflects both our assessment of progress made by the State on recommendations and correction actions from the previous Federal Planning Finding and our observations and experiences during FY 2018 in the oversight and administration of Idaho's transportation program.

Progress On 2018 Recommendations

The Planning Finding for the 2018 STIP did not identify any corrective actions; however, the following recommendations for improvement were proposed:

1. **Performance Management Implementation:**
ITD's support for the implementation of the new Federal Performance Management processes during 2018 has been outstanding. FHWA and FTA look forward to a continuation of this emphasis during 2019.
2. **TMA Certification Review Support:**
During 2018, a TMA Certification Review of the COMPASS MPO was completed by FHWA and FTA. ITD's support and participation in this review enhanced the process and provided value to the final outcome.
3. **Air Quality Conformity:**
EPA Region 10 recommendations for improving the documentation of the COMPASS and BTPO Plan/TIP Conformity Determinations were incorporated into the 2019 determinations.

2019 Recommendations

The Planning Finding for the 2019 STIP did not identify any corrective actions; however, the following recommendations for improvements are proposed:

1. **Performance Management Implementation:**
ITD and the State's five MPOs are on track for implementing the Federal transportation performance management (TPM) requirements of MAP-21. At this point in the TPM transition schedule, the STIP and TIPs are required to discuss the anticipated effect of the STIP or TIP toward achieving statewide safety and transit asset management performance targets per 23 CFR 450.218(q) and 450.326(d). In reviewing the TPM discussions in the 2019 STIP and TIPs we felt that more should be provided to more specifically address how these transportation projects will support the achievement of the statewide targets.
2. **Air Quality Conformity:**
EPA Region 10 concurs with the COMPASS and BTPO Plan/TIP Conformity Determinations. In addition, it has offered comments on the MPOs' documentation for incorporation into future conformity determinations. These comments will be forwarded to COMPASS and BTPO for their follow up.

