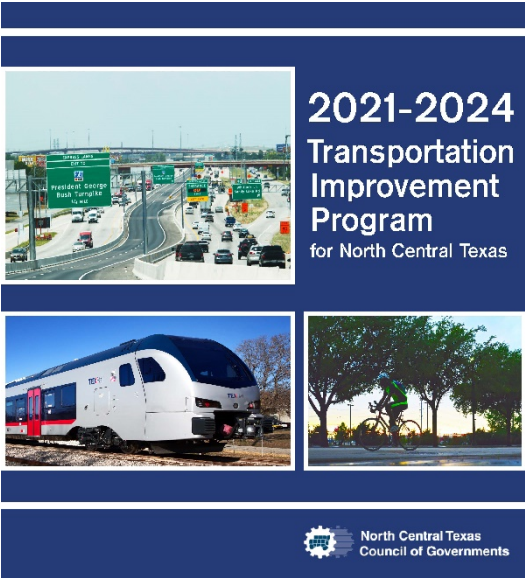


# Appendix G

## Federal Approval Letter

This appendix contains the letter from the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) approving the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program.





**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION    FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION**  
**819 TAYLOR STREET, ROOM 14A02                      300 E. 8TH STREET, ROOM 826**  
**FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-9003                      AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701**

July 22, 2021

Refer to: HPP-TX

Joint Approval of FY 2021-2024 Statewide  
Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Marc D. Williams  
Executive Director  
Texas Department of Transportation  
125 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Williams:

We have reviewed the FY 2021-2024 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) received electronically on April 12, 2021.

In accordance with 23 CFR §450.218, the FY 2021-2022 STIP includes the Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) for each of Texas' Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO). We jointly find that the State of Texas and its twenty-three MPOs have generally complied with the joint statewide and metropolitan planning regulations issued by FTA and FHWA pursuant to Title 23 United States Code (USC) §134 and 135, and the Federal Transit Act under Title 49 USC, as certified within the STIP documentation.

Based upon our review, the FY 2021-2024 STIP is hereby approved subject to the enclosed comments. Please note that individual project comments are reflected within the e-STIP portal and a listing of these comments will be provided separately. Also, please note that STIP approval for projects that are not federally funded is not intended to provide federal endorsement or action. The Federal partners look forward to continuing to work with TxDOT and Texas MPOs on the successful implementation of this STIP. We thank TxDOT-TTP staff for their effort to complete the review and approval of the FY 2021-2024 STIP.

Finally, nothing in the approval of the Texas 2021 to 2024 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, impacts or overrides the pause described in FHWA's June 14, 2021

[letter](#) to the Texas Department of Transportation. Additionally, this approval does not impact and is not a decision on the on-going Title VI investigation and NEPA Assignment MOU compliance review of the North Houston Highway Improvement Project. These actions are separate and distinct. The investigation and review of the NHIPP will continue until determinations are made.

Please contact Ms. Lynn Hayes, FTA at (817) 978-0565, or Ms. Genevieve Bales, FHWA at (512) 536-5941 should you have any questions concerning this action.

Sincerely yours,

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Donald R. Koski, Acting Regional Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration  
Region VI

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Achille Alonzi, Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
Texas Division

Enclosure

cc:

Lynn Hayes, FTA, Region VI  
Lori Morel, TxDOT TPP  
Karen Burkhard, TxDOT PTN  
FHWA-TX-Planning, TX-Finance, TX-Operations

## Enclosure

1. The Federal partners understand that fiscal constraint of the FY 2021-2024 STIP is based in part on the reduction of anticipated project expenditures due to the identification of projects in the FY 2021-2024 STIP authorized in FY 2021; and TxDOT's ability to utilize up to \$2.26 billion in short term borrowing. The Federal Partners are satisfied that the FY 2021-2024 initial STIP is fiscally constrained.
2. Portions of the 2021-2024 STIP in the Beaumont-Port Arthur, Dallas-Fort Worth, El Paso and Houston-Galveston non-attainment and maintenance areas have been reviewed for consistency with their currently conforming Transportation Plans. Based upon this review we hereby find that the TIPS for these areas conform, except as otherwise noted in the project specific comments reflected in the e-STIP portal.
3. In accordance with our October 21, 2015 letter, TxDOT has been utilizing estimated Develop Authority (DA) to demonstrate the availability of sufficient project funding for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance actions for projects in rural portions of the State not consistent with the fiscally constrained STIP. This demonstration of funding availability has been provided to FHWA and FTA within the FY 2021-2024 STIP. However, additional clarification concerning the basis of the funding reflected in the DA summary is required. As such, pending clarification of available DA funding, NEPA clearance actions for projects utilizing DA should not be completed, unless the project is consistent with a fiscally constrained MPO MTP and TIP.
4. The FY 2021-2024 STIP introduction reflects information concerning the TxDOT's adopted targets for the Federally required performance measures. However, it is noted that this information addresses the initial performance measure targets (2018) but, does not reflect TxDOT/MPO's revised performance measures targets (2020). Please clarify as appropriate. Also, please provide clarification concerning actions being taken to support achievement of the performance measure targets.