



**U.S. Department
of Transportation**

Federal Transit Administration
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Virginia Division
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September 30, 2020

Secretary Shannon Valentine
Secretary of Transportation
Patrick Henry Building
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Subject: FY2021-FY2024 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program

Dear Secretary Valentine:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have completed the joint review of the Commonwealth of Virginia's FY2021-FY2024 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), that includes highway and transit projects to be federally funded or approved by FTA and FHWA in Virginia.

Based on the Commonwealth of Virginia and MPO self-certifications of their statewide and metropolitan transportation planning processes, review of the self-certification supporting documentation, as well as our involvement in the State and Metropolitan planning processes, FTA and FHWA find that the FY2021-FY2024 STIP is based on a statewide transportation planning process that substantially meets the requirements of 23 USC 134 and 135, 49 USC 5303-5305, and 23 CFR 450 subparts A, B, and C. Accordingly, as requested in your letter dated August 1, 2020, FTA and FHWA jointly approve the STIP subject to the following FHWA corrective action being taken by the Commonwealth:

- VDOT's Fiscal Year 2020 and 2021 Title VI/Nondiscrimination Implementation Plans that were approved by FHWA require that VDOT conduct a compliance review of metropolitan planning organizations (MPO) and/or planning district commissions (PDC) at least every four years. Compliance reviews have not been conducted within the last four years for the MPOs and most of the PDCs. Therefore, FHWA requests that within two years VDOT conducts a comprehensive Title VI/Nondiscrimination review of MPOs and PDCs in Virginia pursuant to 23 CFR 200.9(b)(7) and their FY 2020 and 2021 Title VI/Nondiscrimination Implementation Plans. Furthermore, we ask that VDOT provide the FHWA Virginia Division with a copy of reports and approval communications of all completed Title VI/Nondiscrimination reviews.

To approve the STIP, which includes the Metropolitan Planning Organizations' (MPO) Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP) contained by reference or directly in the STIP, the FHWA and FTA must make a determination that the STIP is based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive planning process. This Planning Finding is based upon the determination that all projects in the STIP meet the planning requirements of 23 USC 134 and 135, 49 USC 5303-5305, and 23 CFR 450 subparts A, B, and C. Enclosed is the Planning Finding for the Commonwealth's FY 2021-2024 STIP including all incorporated MPO TIPs. It contains additional details on the corrective action, as well as commendations, recommendations, and additional comments to help strengthen the transportation planning and program development process.

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In accordance with 23 CFR 450.218(a), the approval period for a new STIP shall not exceed four years. As a result, this joint FHWA/FTA approval of the Virginia STIP applies to the period of FY 2021 through FY 2024. 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 award by FTA. Should amendments to this STIP become necessary, any highway amendments will be acted upon by FHWA and any transit amendments will be acted upon by FTA.

We look forward to the continued cooperation of you and your staff in efforts to carry out the statewide and metropolitan planning processes in an effective manner. If you have any questions, please direct them to either Mr. Ivan Rucker, Statewide Planner, of the FHWA Virginia Division, at (804) 774-3350 or Mr. Ryan Long, Community Planner, of the FTA Region III, at (215) 656-7051.

Sincerely,

Terry Garcia Crews
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

Thomas Nelson, Jr., P.E.
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

Enclosure: FHWA/FTA Planning Finding

cc: Mr. Stephen Brich, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation
Ms. Jennifer Mitchell, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation