



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100

Sacramento, CA. 95814-4708

June 26, 2006

IN REPLY REFER TO

HDA-CA

Document # 49242

Mr. Will Kempton, Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Rachel Falsetti, Transportation Programming, MS-82

Dear Mr. Kempton:

SUBJECT: FY 2004/05 FSTIP Amendment No. 20 – Council of Fresno County Governments (COFCG) 2004/05 – 2006/07 FTIP

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed our review of Amendment No. 20 to the COFCG's 2004/05-2006/07 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) that was submitted by your letter dated June 16, 2006. COFCG adopted this amendment with Resolution No. 2006-06 on May 25, 2006, approving these program modifications and reaffirming the conformity of the COFCG FTIP with the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality.

This amendment was requested by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to add or modify Fresno County projects funded from various programs including the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program, the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP), High Priority and Demo programs, and the Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) program.

Agencies wishing to request and receive approval to construct Federal-aid projects in advance of the apportionment or allocation of authorized Federal-aid funds may utilize the advance construction procedures detailed in 23 CFR part 630 for advancing the construction of Federal-aid highway projects without obligating Federal funds apportioned or allocated to the State. We remind COFCG and Caltrans staff that projects approved for implementation under the advance construction provisions must also be listed in the FSTIP in each year a conversion occurs.

We accept this amendment in accordance with the provisions of 23 CFR Part 450. We find that this amendment was developed through a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process carried out in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. section 134, and section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. app. §1607). Based on our review of this amendment we find that changes made to the COFCG FTIP by this amendment do not reflect a change in the design, concept and scope of projects, or the conformity analysis years as assumed for the regional emissions analysis of the currently conforming plan and FTIP. Therefore, we find that the FTIP, as amended, conforms to the applicable SIP.

This finding has been coordinated with the regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Region IX office of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in accordance with the procedures outlined on the Memorandum of Understanding between the FHWA, California Division, and the FTA, Region IX dated July 15, 2004, on Roles and Responsibilities for Multi-mode Amendments. Approval of this amendment does not constitute an eligibility determination for the projects from this amendment that are funded from the CMAQ program.

This letter also constitutes approval and inclusion of the COFCG's FTIP Amendment No. 20 into California's 2004/05 – 2006/07 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP).

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Mr. Leigh Levine of the FHWA, California Division office at (916) 498-5034, or Mr. Paul Page of the FTA Region IX office at (415) 744-2734.

Sincerely,

/s/ Leslie Rogers

Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

/s/ Mayela Sosa

For
Gene K. Fong
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

cc: (e-mail)

Randy Steen, Caltrans - Federal Resources Branch

Ross A. Chittenden, Caltrans - Transportation Programming

Penny Gray, Caltrans - Transportation Programming

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(Other):

COFCG 2004 FTIP Binder

LLevine:ac