



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Ohio Division Office
200 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

July 1, 2005

Mr. Gordon D. Proctor, Director
Ohio Department of Transportation
1980 West Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43223

In Reply Refer To:
HPD-OH

Dear Mr. Proctor:

In reference to Ohio's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program: FY 2006-2009, we have completed our review of the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT's) Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for FY 2006-2009 submitted with your transmittal letter dated May 24, 2005. The STIP includes financial information for projects and programs throughout the State, a statewide listing of proposed projects outside the urbanized areas, and incorporates the FY 2006-2009 projects from each Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs). The STIP also provides information about public involvement efforts.

Our office and the United States Environmental Protection Agency have reviewed the air quality conformity analyses for each of the MPO TIPs in nonattainment areas. A United States Department of Transportation conformity determination is being provided under separate cover for each of the affected MPOs: the Akron Metropolitan area transportation Study (AMATS), the Stark County Area Transportation Study (SCATS), the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI), the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA), the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC), the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC), the Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission (LACRPC), the Licking County Area Transportation Study (LCATS), the Clark County-Springfield Transportation Coordinating committee (CCSTCC), the Toledo Metropolitan Area council of Governments (TMACOG), and the Brooke-Hancock-Jefferson Transportation Study (BHJ). Updated Transportation Plans have been submitted for the Akron and Cleveland MPOs. Air quality conformity determinations for these Plans and discussion of their consistency with USDOT Metropolitan Planning Regulations will likewise be provided in separate correspondence. Air quality conformity determinations for the KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission (KYOVA), Wood-Washington-Wirt Interstate Planning Commission (WWWIPC), and Bel-O-Mar Regional council and Planning Commission (Bel-O-Mar) are being made by the FHWA-West Virginia Division in conjunction with FTA Region 3.



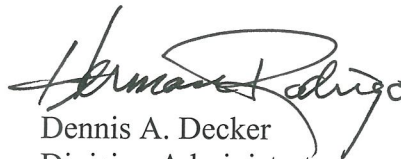
To approve the STIP document, including TIPs contained by reference or directly in the STIP, the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration must make a Statewide Planning finding and a Metropolitan Planning Finding. The Statewide Planning Finding assures that the State's development of the STIP was based on a planning process consistent with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134 and 135, 49 U.S.C. 5303-5305, and other applicable Federal requirements. Our finding is supported by ODOT's self-certification and the MPO/State DOT self-certifications, documentation of routine FHWA/FTA involvement in the statewide and metropolitan planning processes (e.g., review, concurrence, or approval of various planning documents), and the State's progress in addressing past planning findings. The Metropolitan finding assures that metropolitan TIP development was consistent with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303-5305 and is based on joint MPO/State DOT self-certification statements, documentation of routine FHWA/FTA involvement in the metropolitan planning processes (e.g., review, concurrence, or approval of various MPO documents), and findings from FHWA/FTA Certification Reviews of TMA planning processes.

In accordance with 23 CFR 450.220, the FHWA in consultation with the FTA, based on the Certifications of the statewide and metropolitan transportation planning process for and within the State of Ohio and the FHWA's and FTA's participation in those transportation planning processes, including planning certification reviews conducted in the eight transportation management areas, find that the projects in the FY 2006-2009 STIP are based on a Statewide transportation planning process and Metropolitan transportation planning processes that substantially meet the requirements of 49 USC Sections 5303-5305, and 23 USC Sections 134 and 135, as implemented by 23 CFR 450, and hereby approve the STIP.

The 2006-2009 STIP and metropolitan area TIPs mark substantial advancement by ODOT and the MPOs toward the implementation of a fully functional electronic STIP, with the introduction of a completely integrated statewide project listing in a single electronic format. ODOT and the MPOs are commended for the cooperative effort to make this noteworthy achievement.

In accordance with the July 22, 2004 Memorandum of Agreement between the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration, Region V, the FHWA Ohio Division is acting on behalf of both agencies in approving the FY 2006-2009 STIP.

Sincerely,



For: Dennis A. Decker
Division Administrator

File: 8-C

e-c:

Suzann Rhodes, ODOT
Libby Rushly, ODOT
Rhonda Reed, FTA
David Werner, FTA-V
Frank Burkett, FHWA
Tashia Clemons, FHWA
Victoria Peters, FHWA
Herman Rodrigo, FHWA
David Snyder, FHWA
Stew Sonnenberg, FHWA