

The 2009 Transportation Improvement Program

Information for Interested Agencies and the Public

Overview

The federally required Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a comprehensive listing of Bay Area surface transportation projects that receive federal funds or are subject to a federally required action, or are regionally significant. Transit, highway, local roadway, bicycle and pedestrian investments are included in the TIP with the exception of some improvements to the region's airports, seaports, and privately owned bus and rail facilities. Below are some key facts about the TIP:

- The current TIP includes approximately 1,026 individual transportation projects and includes committed federal, state, and local funding of approximately \$12 billion. The 2009 TIP is anticipated to have slightly more projects and funding. Most of the projects in the 2009 TIP will be carried over from the 2007 TIP.
- Inclusion in the TIP is required in order for a project to access federal funding and be granted federal permits. The TIP project listing indicates in which given year a project receives funding, its schedule and its budget. A project's presence in the TIP does not, however, represent a commitment of funds or an obligation to fund the project. A subsequent approval, involving a project-level NEPA document of the project is required before the project may be implemented. The TIP document itself is not subject to the provisions of NEPA or CEQA.
- All projects included in the MTC-prepared TIP must be consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for the Bay Area. The Commission decision to fund a program or a significant project is made at the RTP stage. Ideas for projects emerge from a variety of planning efforts at the city, county, transit operator, and regional levels. Some of the major sources for projects are the county congestion management programs, countywide transportation plans, transit operator short-range transit plans, and the state highway planning process conducted by Caltrans. These efforts are then merged with the planning efforts of the Regional Transportation Plan. When the project scope, schedule, and budget are fully developed, the project may then be proposed for funding. The TIP implements the transportation priorities and investment decisions of the RTP.
- The 2009 TIP programs transportation funding from a wide variety of sources. Several of the major sources from which funds are programmed are Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Programs, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Programs, and State, Regional, and local transportation programs.
- The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) prepares and adopts the TIP at least once every four years, covering at least a four-year period and containing a priority list of projects grouped by year. The 2009 TIP will cover four years of programming for fiscal years 2008-09 through 2011-2012.
- The TIP must be financially constrained by year, meaning that the amount of dollars committed to the project (also referred as "programmed") must not exceed the amount of dollars estimated to be available. The TIP must include a financial plan that demonstrates that programmed projects can be implemented.

- Adoption of the TIP must be accompanied by an evaluation and finding of air quality conformity, demonstrating that federal air quality standards are met.
- Federal regulations also require an opportunity for public comment and consultation with affected agencies. Per the MTC Public Participation Plan, Interagency consultation for the TIP occurs at the same time as the development of the long-range RTP, the earliest and key decision point regarding project and program priorities. Specifically this occurs starting with the scoping process for the RTP and its CEQA environmental document. In contrast, the TIP is a short-term programming document detailing the funding for only those investments identified and adopted in the RTP. During TIP development, additional opportunities are provided to interested agencies to comment on the Draft TIP Update. Upon the request of any agency, MTC staff will provide additional consultation.
- MTC also develops the TIP in cooperation with the Bay Area Partnership and its constituent members including individual cities and counties, transit operators and other project sponsors. The Partnership consists of the top managers of some three-dozen agencies responsible for moving people and freight in the Bay Area and for protecting the region's environment. Members include other regional agencies, federal and state agencies, county congestion management agencies (CMAs), public transit providers, and city and county public works representatives.
- Once the 2009 Draft TIP has been developed, it is then released for a 30-day public review and comment period. As part of the public review process, the draft document is sent to 27 major libraries throughout the Bay Area as well as the MTC-ABAG library. Notices are also sent to an extensive list including transportation agencies, other state, federal and tribal agencies and other transportation interests with the objective to continue the consultation process for transportation planning and investments in the Bay Area. A public hearing is also conducted to solicit public comment. After the close of the public comment period, MTC's responses to significant comments are compiled into an appendix in the Final 2009 TIP. After the public comment period, the 2009 TIP document is then presented to the Commission's Programming and Allocations Committee. After its review, the Committee forwards the document to the full Commission for adoption. After Commission adoption, it is sent to the Caltrans Office of Federal Programs for inclusion into the California Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) or Statewide TIP. After review and approval by Caltrans, the Statewide TIP is forwarded to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for their review and approval. Approval by FHWA/FTA constitutes the final approval of the TIP.

The current status of the 2009 TIP update, summary information, and the Draft 2009 TIP including project listings (available after March 27, 2008), is available on the MTC Website at <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/funding/tip/>

The public may also access specific projects contained in the current TIP through MTC's Fund Management System (FMS) that allows searches of projects using various criteria (such as project sponsor, project type, or project location). The FMS is available on the MTC website: http://www.mtc.ca.gov/funding/fms_intro.htm

TIP Development Schedule

- March 28, 2008: Draft 2009 TIP and Draft AQ Conformity Analysis released for public review and comment.
- April 9, 2008: Public Hearing (during Programming and Allocations Committee meeting).
- May 1, 2009: Close of 2009 Draft TIP/AQ Conformity Analysis public review and comment period.
- May 14, 2008: MTC Policy Advisory Committee Review of Draft TIP and AQ Conformity Analysis and referral to Commission
- May 28, 2008: Final 2009 TIP and Final AQ Conformity analysis approved by Commission
- May 30, 2008: 2009 TIP submitted to Caltrans / AQ Conformity Analysis submitted to FHWA/FTA
- December 1, 2008: 2009 TIP Approval (anticipated) by FHWA / FTA

MTC Contacts for Questions About the TIP

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