



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

**ARIZONA DIVISION**

December 23, 2008

4000 North Central Avenue,  
Suite 1500  
Phoenix, Arizona 85012-1906  
602-379-3646

In Reply Refer To:  
HPM-AZ

(727)  
Arizona FY 2009-2012  
Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)  
Approval

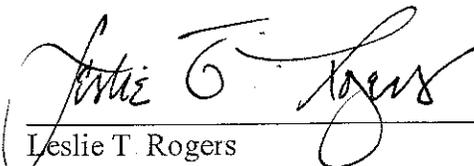
Mr. Victor M. Mendez, Director  
Arizona Department of Transportation, (100A)  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

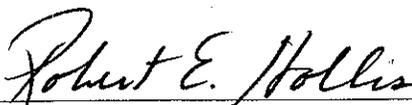
Dear Mr. Mendez:

We have completed our review of the Arizona Department of Transportation's 2009-2012 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

The FHWA and FTA find that the 2009-2012 STIP is based on transportation planning processes that substantially meet the requirements of 23 U.S.C. Section 134 and 135 and 49 U.S.C. Sections 5303-5305. This finding is based on: the self-certifications of the statewide and MPO planning process by the State of Arizona and respective metropolitan planning organizations; a review of the self-certification supporting documentation; the federal certification of planning processes in designated transportation management areas in Arizona; and, other federal involvement in the State and metropolitan transportation planning processes. Our finding includes the entire State of Arizona.

As usual, individual project approvals will require a separate action by the FHWA or FTA and the projects will need to satisfy all program requirements at that time of authorization

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Leslie T. Rogers  
FTA Regional Administrator

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert E. Hollis  
FHWA Division Administrator

Enclosure

**MOVING THE  
AMERICAN  
ECONOMY**

# FHWA/FTA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING FINDING

## Introduction/Background

To approve the STIP document, including TIP's contained by reference or directly in the STIP, the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration must make a determination that each metropolitan TIP is based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive planning process. In addition, this Planning Finding is based upon the extent that all the projects in the STIP are based on a planning process in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 134, 135, and 49 U.S.C. 5303-5305. This is the documented Planning Finding for Arizona's FY 2008-2011 STIP, and all the incorporated TIP's for the following metropolitan areas: Maricopa Association of Governments (Phoenix), Pima Association of Governments (Tucson), Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization (Yuma), Flagstaff Metropolitan Planning Organization (Flagstaff) and Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization (Prescott). Also included are the rural Council of Government TIP's: Northern Arizona Council of Governments, Western Arizona Council of Governments, SouthEastern Arizona Government Organization, and Central Arizona Association of Governments.

## **PLANNING PROCESS OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS**

The following strengths of the statewide and metropolitan planning processes have been identified:

- All of the planning organizations including ADOT meet the four year project listing requirement of SAFETEA-LU.
- All of the planning organizations including ADOT have updated their public participation plans to SAFETEA-LU standards. FMPO updated their public participation plan during the past year to SAFETEA-LU standards.
- The majority of the planning organizations have SAFETEA-LU compliant Long Range Plans and TIP's. FMPO is currently working on a new Long Range Plan that will be developed under SAFETEA-LU standards. They have been put on notice that no TIP amendments will be allowed until the Long Range Plan is SAFETEA-LU compliant.

The following areas of the statewide and metropolitan transportation planning processes have been identified for improvement:

- A process review of Fiscal Constraint was completed in 2008 and transmitted to ADOT for follow through on a number of findings. We will work with ADOT to ensure that the findings in the process review are implemented.
- Ensure that the TIP's and Long Range Plans all incorporate Year of Expenditure (YOE) dollars. The YOE requirement will be implemented through the natural course of the next TIP development cycle for each MPO.
- Ensure that the TIP's incorporate maintenance and operations funding for expenditures by local agencies with local funds.

The following suggestions are offered for enhancing the statewide and metropolitan transportation planning processes:

- To adhere to SAFETEA-LU, ensure that land management, environmental and natural resource agency stakeholders are consulted with during the planning process and that this consultation is documented. Much progress has been made in this area to date.
- To adhere to SAFETEA-LU, ensure that safety and freight continue to be considered during the planning process.

The following are outstanding Corrective Actions/Recommendations requiring follow up:

- None at this time

Accordingly, the FHWA and the FTA, based on the State DOT and MPO(s) self-certifications of their statewide and metropolitan transportation planning processes, review of self-certification supporting documentation, Federal certification of TMA's within the State, and our involvement in the State and MPO transportation planning processes, hereby find that the STIP is based on a transportation planning process that substantially meets the requirements of 23 U.S.C. Sections 134 and 135 and 49 U.S.C. Sections 5303-5305.

**Federal Highway Administration**



\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Robert E. Hollis

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

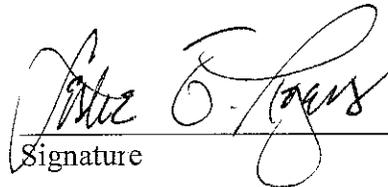
Division Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

December 23, 2008

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Federal Transit Administration**



\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Leslie I. Rogers

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

Regional Administrator Region 9

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date