

OCT 04 2017



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway Administration**

**Wyoming Division**

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**Federal Transit Administration**

**Region 8**

1961 Stout St, Suite 13301  
Denver, CO 80294

October 3, 2017

*WJ*  
Mr. William T. "Bill" Panos, Director  
Wyoming Department of Transportation  
5300 Bishop Boulevard  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009

**SUBJECT: Wyoming's 2018 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and Casper and Cheyenne 2018 Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs)**

Dear Mr. Panos:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have jointly reviewed the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) 2018 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the 2018 Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) developed by the Casper and Cheyenne Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). Those documents, as well as the 2018 STIP – Wyoming Checklist and Governor Mead's letter of July 25, 2017 approving the Casper and Cheyenne MPO 2018 TIPs, were received along with your transmittal letter. The 2018 WYDOT STIP was approved by the Wyoming Transportation Commission at its September 14, 2017 meeting.

To approve the 2018 WYDOT STIP, and to accept the MPO 2018 TIPs and other plans and programs incorporated by reference or included directly in the STIP, FHWA and FTA must make a determination that the metropolitan and statewide programs are 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 and 5304.

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

- WYDOT has completed the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan to meet the multimodal transportation planning requirements of 23 CFR 450.200 (which includes accessible pedestrian and bicycle facilities), nonmotorized safety requirements of 23 CFR 450.206

(a)(2), implementation of WYDOT's ADA Transition Plan, and the U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Initiative.

- WYDOT completed a Statewide Freight Plan under the provisions of MAP-21, and has developed addenda to the plan to address the additional requirements described in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, per 49 U.S.C. 70202. WYDOT submitted an updated freight plan which is currently under review for FAST Act Compliance. This plan must be approved before December 4, 2017 to continue to receive funding under the National Highway Freight Program (NHFP).
- WYDOT has initiated an update to their Public Involvement Handbook which outlines their public involvement process supporting the requirements described in 23 CFR 450.210.

**The following Corrective Actions require follow up:**

- MPOs are required to publish a list of obligated projects on an annual basis per 23 CFR 450.334, no later than 90 calendar days following the end of the program year. The listing shall include all federally funded projects authorized or revised to increase obligations in the preceding program year, and shall include TIP information and identify the amount of Federal funds requested in the TIP, as well as obligated funds the preceding year, and Federal funding remaining and available for subsequent years. The Casper MPO did not publish the list of obligated projects after the FY16 program year, but are currently working on the FY16 obligation report, and are aware of the requirements for future reports.

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

- MAP-21 performance targets, per 23 U.S.C. 135(g)(4) requires the STIP to include a discussion of the anticipated effect of the STIP toward achieving the performance targets, and linking investment priorities to those performance targets. The MPO TIPs will also need to include a discussion of the anticipated effect of the TIP toward achieving the performance targets. WYDOT and the MPOs are working to develop performance-based criteria and process to prioritize projects for inclusion in the STIP and MTIPs.
- The FAST Act now requires in 23 U.S.C. 135(f)(7) that the Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan also include:
  - A description of the performance measures and targets used in assessing the performance of the transportation system; and
  - A system performance report and subsequent updates evaluating the condition and performance of the transportation system with respect to these performance targets.

Accordingly, FHWA and FTA, based on the WYDOT and MPO self-certifications of their statewide and metropolitan transportation planning processes, review of self-certification supporting documentation, and our involvement in the State and MPO transportation planning processes, hereby find that the 2018 WYDOT 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, and is therefore approved. This approval also constitutes the acceptance of the joint State/MPO self-certifications of the Casper and Cheyenne urban transportation planning processes that are a part of the TIPs, subject to the corrective action noted above.

As you are aware, approval of the 2018 WYDOT STIP, and acceptance of the Casper and Cheyenne TIPs, is not a Federal-aid eligibility determination, nor does it constitute an obligation of Federal funds. Each project must satisfy the specific requirements of the program from which Federal funds are to be derived, as well as the other Federal requirements appropriate before the use of those Federal funds can be authorized. Additionally, the FHWA approval of the 2018 WYDOT STIP will expire on September 30, 2018.

Upon receipt of this approval letter, we request that you inform both the Casper and Cheyenne MPOs, other affected jurisdictions, the federal land agencies, and Indian Tribal governments that the 2018 WYDOT STIP has been approved and that the MPO TIPs were accepted as part of the approval.

Furthermore, we want to point out that an amendment to the 2018 WYDOT STIP and MPO 2018 TIPs is not required to move projects within the 2018 to 2021 time-frame if they satisfy MPO and WYDOT procedures for revisions and project selection criteria. Amendments other than the movement of projects between the years cited above are to be sent to the appropriate agency (FTA or FHWA) for approval. Amendments involving transfer of funds from FTA or FHWA must be jointly approved by each of the respective agencies.

We appreciate the efforts and cooperation of your staff in developing the STIP. If you have any questions concerning this joint approval action, please contact Larry Squires of FTA at (303) 362-2394 or Walt Satterfield of FHWA at (307)771-2941.

Sincerely yours,



Digitally signed by BRYAN R CAWLEY  
DN: cn=US, o=U.S. Government,  
ou=FHWAHQ, ou=DOT Headquarters,  
c=BRYAN R CAWLEY  
Date: 2017.10.03 10:50:08 -0600

Bryan Cawley  
FHWA Division Administrator

CINDY E  
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Date: 2017.10.03 08:58:06 -0600

Cindy Terwilliger  
FTA Regional Administrator

Enclosures

cc:

Mr. Martin Kidner, P.E., WYDOT, State Planning Engineer

Mr. Tim McDowell, P.E., WYDOT, State Programming Engineer