U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Transit Administration
Region I
55 Broadway Suite 920
Cambridge, MA 02142-1093
(617) 494-2055
(617) 494-2865 (fax)

Federal Highway Administration
Rhode Island Division
380 Westminster Street, Suite 601
Providence, RI 02903
(401) 528-4541
(401) 528-4542 (fax)

January 11, 2018

Governor Gina M. Raimondo
State of Rhode Island
State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Subject: FY 2018-2027 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Approval

Dear Governor Raimondo:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have completed our review of the Fiscal Year 2018-2027 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) transmitted by you on December 19, 2017. The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which in Rhode Island covers the entire State as the STIP, was adopted by the State Planning Council on December 14, 2017.

On July 20, 2012, the entire State of Rhode Island was designated as attainment for the 2008 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), thus transportation conformity is not required for the 2008 ozone NAAQS. Under the previous (1997) ozone NAAQS, all of Rhode Island was designated as a non-attainment area and subject to transportation conformity requirements under the Clean Air Act. Effective April 6, 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revoked the 1997 ozone NAAQS for all purposes, including transportation conformity. Therefore, transportation conformity is no longer required for any part of Rhode Island.

Therefore, in accordance with 23 CFR 450.220, and based upon the self-certification of their transportation planning process, received on January 5, 2018, and federal agency routine involvement in the transportation planning processes, FHWA and FTA hereby make the following determinations:

- The projects in the STIP are based on a transportation planning process that substantially meets the requirements of Title 23, U.S.C. 134 and 135, 49 U.S.C. Section 5303 – 5305 and 23 CFR Part 450 Subparts A, B, and C.
- The STIP is based on a continuing, comprehensive planning process carried on cooperatively by the State, the MPO, and the transit operator in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134 and 135, and 49 U.S.C. Section 5303 – 5305.

Accordingly, the FHWA and the FTA have jointly determined that the Rhode Island FY 2018-2027 STIP satisfies requirements for the obligation of Federal-aid highway funds and Federal transit funds for the period October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2021 and is hereby approved. In support of our determination, enclosed are joint FHWA/FTA findings on the transportation planning process in accordance with 23 CFR §450.220(b) and 23 CFR §450.330(a).

Approval of the STIP does not constitute project or grant approval. Both agencies may need

additional information on some of the projects in the approved STIP when a project agreement or grant submission approval is requested. If there are any questions regarding this action, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Mello
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
Region 1

for
Carlos C. Machado
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
Rhode Island Division

cc: Mr. Peter Alviti, Jr., Director, RIDOT
Mr. Amy Pettine, Acting CEO, RIPTA
Mr. Michael DiBiase, Chairman, State Planning Council
Mr. Parag Agrawal, Secretary, State Planning Council

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING FINDING

In accordance with 23 CFR §450.220 and 23 CFR §450.330, the FHWA and the FTA, based on the certifications of the statewide and metropolitan transportation planning process for and within the State of Rhode Island, and the FHWA's and FTA's participation in this transportation planning process including the quadrennial certification review, hereby find that the projects in the FY 2018 - 2027 STIP are based on a transportation planning process that substantially meets the requirements of 23 CFR Part 450 Subpart A, B, and C, 49 U.S.C. Sections 5303-5305, and 23 U.S.C. Sections 134 and 135.

FINDINGS

- FHWA and FTA acknowledge receipt of the interim metropolitan transportation plan/statewide long-range transportation plan that was adopted on December 14, 2017. FHWA and FTA are also aware that the State Planning Council is in the process of developing a comprehensive update to the MTP/LRTP and anticipate the final document in 2018.
- The State, MPO, and transit provider are reminded that the requirements for implementing a performance-based planning and programming process were established in the Final Rule published on May 27, 2016, and updates and amendments to the STIP and MTP/LRTP completed after May 27, 2018 must be compliant with the updated metropolitan and statewide planning rule. Federally-required performance measures that have been finalized must be incorporated within two years after the publication of the respective final rules.
- FHWA and FTA will be completing a certification review for the Providence, RI transportation management area this winter and anticipate a robust discussion of the region's planning process, including opportunities for improvements.