



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

Idaho Division

August 25, 2020

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In Reply Refer To:
HPR-ID

Mr. Brian W. Ness, Director
Idaho Transportation Department
P. O. Box 7129
Boise, ID 83707

Attn: Justin Collins, Financial Officer, ITD FP&A

RE: Idaho STIP Modification Process - August 10, 2020 Update

Dear Mr. Ness:

The FHWA-ID Division and the FTA Region 10 Office have reviewed the proposed update to ITD's STIP Modifications Process, as transmitted by your August 14, 2020 letter request and we hereby approve this update for immediate and ongoing use in the management and oversight of programming changes to Idaho's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Sincerely,

R. Scott Frey
Transportation Engineer

cc: FTA: Ned Conroy
ITD: Jeanette Finch; Ken Kanownik



IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 7129
Boise ID 83707-1129

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August 14, 2020

Peter Hartman, Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
3050 Lake Harbor Lane, Suite 126
Boise, ID 83703-6217

Linda Gehrke, Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
Federal Building, Suite 3142
915 Second Avenue
Seattle, WA 98171

Attn: Scott Frey

Attn: Ned Conroy

SUBJECT: **STIP MODIFICATION PROCESS – August 10, 2020**

Dear Mr. Hartman:

The Idaho Transportation department (ITD) has revised the State Transportation Investment Program (STIP) Modification Process. The criteria has been significantly revised, specific to guidance used to determine the need for an Amendment versus an Administrative Modification. The new process was vented with FHWA/FTA during the rewrite.

The timing of this revision was driven by FHWA's request to include all **active** projects in the FY 2021 STIP. Starting October 1, 2020, the STIP will include prior year (STIP) projects regardless of year, as long as there is still obligation activity on that project. Also, ITD has streamlined the process workflow of project changes since published August 2018.

Sincerely,

Justin Collins

Justin Collins
Financial Officer, FP&A

cc:
ITD: B. Rindlisbacher
D. Kuisti
D. Tolman
C. Bray
J. Collins
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FTA: A. Changchien
K. Mcguill
District: D. Allen
D. Hoff
C. Lakey
J. Barrus
T. Hubbard
J. Minzghor
MPO: J. Miles
S. Grow
M. Stoll
T. Tisdale
T. Fuller
M. Byington
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LHTAC: J. Miles
L. Kral
D. Shirilla
S. Ellsworth

STIP Modification Process

Financial Planning and Analysis - Idaho Transportation Department

Updated August 10, 2020

Purpose

This document establishes the **process** followed by the Idaho Transportation Department in amending the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Included are **criteria** considered in determining whether a STIP change is handled as an **amendment** or an **administrative modification**. Criteria may include limits or thresholds that help dictate the handling of the change. This document also shows the processing workflow for changes to projects both within and outside of metropolitan planning areas.

Legal Authorities and Guidance

23 CFR §450.104	Definitions
23 CFR §450.206	Scope of the statewide and non-metropolitan transportation planning process
23 CFR §450.208	Coordination of planning process activities
23 CFR §450.210	Interested parties, public involvement, and consultation
23 CFR §450.216	Development and content of the long-range statewide transportation plan
23 CFR §450.218	Development and content of the statewide transportation improvement program (STIP)
23 CFR §450.220	Self-certifications, Federal findings, and Federal approvals
ITD Policy 4001	Authority to Sign Contracts, Agreements, and Grants and Requirement to Report Certain Contracts (updated 5-17-18)
ITD Policy 4011	Idaho Transportation Investment Program (updated 9-18-14)

Definitions (from 23 CFR §450.104)

Amendment - means a revision to a long-range statewide or metropolitan transportation plan, TIP, or STIP that involves a major change to a project included in a metropolitan transportation plan, TIP, or STIP, including the addition or deletion of a project or a major change in project cost, project/project phase initiation dates, or a major change in design concept or design scope (e.g., changing project termini or the number of through traffic lanes or changing the number of stations in the case of fixed guideway transit projects). Changes to projects that are included only for illustrative purposes do not require an amendment. An amendment is a revision that requires public review and comment, re-demonstration of fiscal constraint, or a conformity determination (for metropolitan transportation plans and TIPs involving “non-exempt” projects in nonattainment and maintenance areas). In the context of a long-range statewide transportation plan, an amendment is a revision approved by the State in accordance with its public involvement process.

Administrative modification - means a minor revision to a long-range statewide or metropolitan transportation plan, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), or Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) that includes minor changes to project/project phase costs, minor changes to funding sources of previously-included projects, and minor changes to project/project phase initiation dates. An administrative modification is a revision that does not require public review and comment, re-demonstration of fiscal constraint, or a conformity determination (in nonattainment and maintenance areas).

Definitions (cont'd)

Design scope - means the aspects that will affect the proposed facility's impact on the region, usually as they relate to vehicle or person carrying capacity and control (e.g., number of lanes or tracks to be constructed or added, length of project, signalization, safety features, access control including approximate number and location of interchanges, or preferential treatment for high-occupancy vehicles).

Criteria for STIP Amendments vs Administrative Modifications

A key feature of a process document regarding changes to the STIP is that it includes clear criteria to guide the decision whether to process a STIP change as an amendment or an administrative modification.

Coupled with this is an understanding that ITD's criteria for determining the processing of a STIP change is **independent** of the criteria used by a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for treating changes to TIP's for projects in their planning areas. In other words, the process followed by the state DOT – whether amendment or administrative modification – may differ from the handling chosen by the MPO through application of their policy.

ITD Criteria for STIP Modifications	Amendment	Administrative Modification
1. Adding a new non-grouped project into the 4-year STIP	X	
2. Removing a non-grouped project within first four years of the approved STIP	X	
3. Adding or removing projects that;	X	
a. Are not exempt (per Title 40 §93.126)		
b. Have been determined to trigger air quality conformity action		
c. Have a NEPA document for the corridor		
d. Are funded by GARVEE bonds		
4. Make major changes to one or more projects using the following guidelines	X	
a. Either an individual project's Total Project Cost changes by at least \$5,000,000 or the percentage change is at least 30% and at least \$1,000,000 .		
b. Either the changes to one or more grouped projects result in a dollar cost change to the group control total of at least \$5,000,000 or the percentage change is at least 30% and at least \$1,000,000 .		
c. Major changes in project scope (e.g. number of through traffic lanes).		
d. Major changes in project location limits, where the increase triggers a NEPA re-evaluation.		
5. All changes other than those categorized as major changes in (4)(a) and (4)(b) above.		X

Processing of Changes to the STIP

The processing of changes to the STIP can be categorized based on whether they are for projects inside or outside of a metropolitan planning area, and whether the change to the STIP meets the criteria for an Amendment or an Administrative Modification.

All changes are placed in the Office of Transportation Investment System (OTIS). Changes to projects inside of a Metropolitan Planning Area should be communicated to the Metropolitan Organization (MPO) by the ITD District Engineer or the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) dependent on who is making the request. **All obligations regardless of program year follow the same requirements.**

Change Steps

1. The originator initiates a Change Request or Obligation in OTIS.
2. Following review by the planning section the Obligation or Change Request is sent to necessary sections for review and action and eventually to FP&A.
3. If the request is for an unscheduled budget the criteria must be considered for STIP modification.

MPO Processing

4. If the project is within an MPO area, the specific MPO evaluates the project change and must consider TIP modification.
5. Based on their TIP modification criteria, the MPO decides whether to process the change as an Amendment or an Administrative Modification. If an Administrative Modification, the MPO's Executive Director or delegate follows their handling procedures for this type of change.
6. If an Amendment, the MPO prepares a proposed agenda item, applies their Public Involvement process, and present the item to their policy board for approval.
7. The Policy Board for the MPO approves the TIP Amendment.
8. Following the process of their TIP Amendment or Administrative Modification, the MPO updates their TIP.
9. The MPO informs ITD's Financial Planning and Analysis (FP&A) of the completed change.

ITD Processing

10. FP&A evaluates the request.
11. Based on ITD's modification criteria, FP&A determines whether to process the change as an Amendment or Administrative Modification.
12. If an Amendment or Administrative Modification is required, FP&A determines whether the Idaho Transportation Board (ITB) approval is required based on overarching ITD Administrative and Board policies.
13. If ITB approval is required, a Board Agenda Item is prepared and presented at the next Board meeting.
14. The board item is approved during the meeting, either as part of the consent calendar or the resolution of an agenda item.
15. FP&A creates the STIP Amendment request letter and attachment for transmittal to the FHWA and/or FTA or adds the Administrative Modification to the periodic list.
16. The FHWA and/or FTA approve the STIP Amendment Request and forward their approval to ITD.
17. FP&A notifies all stakeholders.
18. FP&A completes processing of the change request (OTIS) or the obligation (FMIS).
19. FP&A updates budget/schedule in OTIS to match approved obligations.

The summary of approved Amendments and Administrative Modifications is maintained on the ITD website.

The following guidance is used in to determine whether an Amendment type of change requires Board Approval or approval by the Director or his delegate:

Type of Change	IT Board Consent*	STIP Amendment Request
a. Addition/deletion of individually identified projects	Yes	Yes
b. Major work type or location (scope) and costs changes <i>(Not required if the project was previously approved under another key number and is now being broke out)</i>	Yes	Yes
c. Major changes to Group Control Totals	No	Yes
d. Project advance/delay within first 4 years	Yes	No
e. Project advance/delay outside of first four years	Yes	Yes
*Note: as per Idaho Transportation Board Policy 4011, IT Board Consent is not required for changes to projects in the Pavement, Bridge, Supporting Asset Infrastructure, or Safety and Capacity Programs. Changes to projects in these programs may be approved by the ITD Director or his delegate. Federal considerations still apply regarding the processing of STIP amendments for these changes.		

Correspondence Regarding STIP Changes

ITD requests to modify the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program through **Amendments** are made in writing to the administrators of the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration or their delegates. These requests from ITD to the FHWA/FTA are signed by the Idaho Transportation Department Director or delegate.

ITD processing of **Administrative Modifications** to the STIP are communicated to the FHWA/FTA on a regular and consistent basis. These communications will occur as warranted by the volume of changes. Communications are accomplished through electronic mail from the FP&A staff.

IT Board items regarding amendments for changes that originate within the metropolitan planning organizations will reference the relevant MPO Policy Board action or executive director action, whichever pertains.

Amendment Request Letters will reference review and decisions made by MPO Policy Board, executive directors, and/or IT Board as appropriate.

ITD Board Policy 4001 titled "Authority to Sign Contracts, Agreements, and Grants and Requirement to Report Certain Contracts" states:

Delegated Authority

The Director or delegate shall approve contracts, agreements, and grants, and is authorized to sign all contracts, agreements, and grants required for the proper functioning of the Idaho Transportation Department. Signing authority may be delegated to Executive Officers, Division Administrators, District Engineers, and Section Managers when acting within their jurisdictional duties. Any authority so delegated shall conform to all applicable laws, rules, and regulations. Such authority shall not be exercised by the delegate in the event of a conflict of interest or if apparent personal gain is evidenced.

For the purposes of the administrative handling of STIP amendment requests, the ITD Director delegates signatory authority to the Section Manager responsible for the development and upkeep of the STIP.