

Waco Urban Transportation Study  
**Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board**

**Meeting Date:** October 19, 2009

**Agenda Item: Consideration and Action on Proposed Amendments to the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program for the Waco Urbanized Area.**

**Comments:**

TxDOT has requested the inclusion of the construction phase for IH-35 between North Loop 340 and FM 1858 in West within the TIP. This request is being made due to 2 factors: 1.) Proposition 12 bonds are available to begin construction and 2.) TxDOT has submitted an application for TIGER funds (USDOT discretionary program under the economic stimulus act). TIGER requires that all projects must be included in the TIP.

Regarding fiscal constraint, the Federal Highway Administration has interpreted that an award of TIGER funds effectively adds those dollars to the TIP, thus not requiring the removal of other projects. Those funds, however, cannot be added to the authorized amounts within the TIP until the award has been made, scheduled for February, 2010. Proposition 12 bonds, however, do not add funds to the TIP. Thus the following actions are required to utilize these funds and maintain fiscal constraint: 1.) Remove the construction phases of SH 6 at FM 1860 in Riesel and US 84 at FM 2837 / Speegleville Rd, and 2.) Group all engineering and right of way work into statewide categories. The result of the second process is that these phases will be fiscally constrained on a statewide basis and will not subtract from the funds authorized for use within the Waco region.

Permitting the grouping of engineering and right of way work within air quality attainment areas into statewide categories is a part of recent guidance from the Federal Highway Administration. Previous guidance stated that all such work had to be constrained in individual TIP's regardless of the air quality attainment status. Waco is considered to be in attainment for all pollutants by the EPA.

As of October 12<sup>th</sup>, the MPO has received 15 formal comments regarding the proposed amendments. All comments were opposed to the removal of the US 84 at FM 2837 / Speegleville Rd construction from the TIP.

**Action Required:** Approve, disapprove or change proposed amendments to the TIP.

**Motion By:**

**Seconded:**

**Content of Motion:**

**Vote:**