

2009-14 TIP Update: Proposed Approach, Tentative Schedule, and Consideration of New Project Candidates

Introduction

CDTC has made a commitment to completing the 2009-14 TIP update. The draft project listings approved by the Planning Committee through May 2009 reflect the internal NYSDOT program effort of the fall of 2008, replenished regional set-aside budgets, reconciled project costs and schedules for all state, local and transit projects, and incorporation of ARRA programming.

Remaining activities from a typical TIP update would be: soliciting and evaluating projects to be assigned any remaining five-year funding balances; adjustment of schedules to assure year-by-year fiscal constraint; air quality conformity determination; release of the draft program for public review; adoption of the TIP and incorporation into the STIP.

Because of the statewide delays caused by ARRA programming, NYSDOT does not plan to complete or submit a new STIP for FFY09-10. Instead, current plans are to initiate the development of a new STIP in the fall for submission for FFY10-11. These leaves choices for CDTC regarding next steps with the 2009-14 TIP.

CDTC New Project Consideration Issues

CDTC's approach to completing the 2009-14 TIP and soliciting, evaluating and adding new projects to the TIP must address the following issues:

1. The summary tables for the 2009-14 TIP update show funding balances.
2. The true funding balances are uncertain.
3. NYSDOT has proposed projects but none have been solicited from other sponsors.
4. A new federal legislation *may* be enacted in coming months and *may* increase funding levels.
5. Any further acceleration of federal-aid projects requires an adequate number of projects in the project development pipeline.
6. Additionally, formal adoption of a new 2009-14 CDTC TIP mandates manual STIP amendment transactions to make the current STIP match the new TIP exactly as long as fiscal constraint in the current STIP is preserved.

Possible Approach for CDTC Programming

Rather than viewing the issues listed above as problems, CDTC can see the current situation as a unique opportunity for CDTC to undertake a comprehensive, thoughtful, New Visions-oriented solicitation and evaluation of candidate projects. This effort could be considered for the time

between now and late fall and serve both to complete the current TIP update effort and get a head start on the development of the 2010-15 TIP which will become part of the next STIP.

Staff suggests that the Planning Committee and Policy Board seriously consider the following approach or a variation to it *as an alternative to completing the 2009-14 TIP in a traditional fashion*. The suggested approach both preserves the value of work completed to date and also allows CDTC to solicit for the next set of projects with an adequate amount of time.

1. Estimate a working budget target for “competitive fund sources” for the 2009 through 2015 programming period. That is, add one year’s approximate worth of funding to the current estimates of un-programmed balances in the 2009-14 TIP update. The Planning Committee will need to exercise judgment in estimating the additional funding levels for NHS, CMAQ and STP fund sources (or their successors in new federal legislation).
2. Undertake a full CDTC TIP solicitation, evaluation and programming exercise as intended by New Visions. (The process is described in detail in Appendices G and H in CDTC’s 2007-12 TIP document.) In short, a full programming exercise involves:
 - soliciting a wide range of additional candidate projects from a wide range of sponsors (including those already on the table from the 2009-14 update)
 - screening projects against established New Visions principles and criteria
 - evaluating merit quantitatively and qualitatively using CDTC fact sheets
 - using New Visions budgets to identify underfunded project categories in the current TIP and assigning a majority of unprogrammed funds to those categories
 - programming projects in those categories that score best quantitatively regardless of location or sponsor (round one)
 - assigning remaining funds to other projects for which qualitative factors are more important or which are necessary to maintain reasonable geographic balance (round two)
3. Amend the current STIP to reflect the project listings of the 2009-10 and 2010-11 years of the draft 2009-14 TIP. These amendments would give status to the work done by the Planning Committee over the past six months without requiring a wholesale adoption of the 2009-14 TIP. The amendments would be completed through action at either the September or December 2009 CDTC Policy Board meetings, depending upon the need for air quality conformity assessment.
4. Use the draft 2009-14 TIP and the prioritized list of new projects as the building blocks of a draft 2010-15 TIP. CDTC would be well ahead of the curve in producing the 2010-15 TIP and could adjust schedules and the overall budget to new allocations of funding once agreed to with NYSDOT.
5. Reconcile the draft to new legislation, new NYSDOT allocations, etc., and release the draft 2010-15 TIP in March, 2010.
6. Adopt the 2010-15 TIP in June, 2010 for inclusion in the new STIP.

