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MEMORANDUM

TO: MPO, TCC, & CAC Stakeholders

FROM: Robert E. Smith Jr., Transportation Planner

DATE: April 5, 2007

RE: Request for Input in the Development of the Fiscal Years
2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

This memo is to advise that the MPO transportation planning staff is requesting input into the development of the **Draft Fiscal Years 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) document**.

The TIP is a short-range transportation improvement program that has included in it the transportation improvements that will be funded and constructed within a 4 year time frame. This document must be financially constrained in order to gain federal and state approval. This means that any project(s) submitted must have funding sources clearly identified inclusive of any required local match. Also, we have more Federal requirements that we must follow for the updated document based on the new Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFFETEA-LU).

This memo is to notify you of the opportunity to identify projects for inclusion in the draft TIP. We are requesting you to submit specifics detailing any transportation improvement project(s) you believe will further area-wide transportation improvement goals. Non-capacity expansion projects must be on functionally classified (federal aid) roadways range from a major rural collector and above to an interstate.

Projects that substantially expand road capacity by adding additional through lane(s) must be in the approved **Montgomery Study Area 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan** and must have all funding sources identified. Projects that are in the Long Range Transportation Plan have been modeled using our regional travel demand model during the last update in 2005 and also in the approved amendment in 2006. Projects that will add roadway capacity that are not in the 2030 LRTP will have to be modeled and justified for inclusion into the TIP.

An estimated \$3,314,554 is available for FY-2007, \$2,118,716 is available for FY-2008, \$2,842,878 is available for FY-2009, \$5,927,040 is available in 2010, and \$9,971,202 is available for programming in 2011 by the MPO. However, because of cost over-runs, which do happen, 30% is what we recommend that we retain, of the available funds per fiscal year for cost over-runs. Use of these funds will require the provision of 20% local matching funds by the sponsoring local or state government entity unless the ratio is changed and approved by ALDOT. To date all projects that are programmed for each year through 2011 are viable projects and each jurisdiction is assumed to want to keep projects as they are programmed.

You may propose a project(s) for State and Federal funding and, if appropriate, this type of project will be included in the draft TIP document that is provided to the ALDOT. The ALDOT will have the option to fund or not to fund these projects. Those that the State will support will remain in the TIP in the funding category identified by the ALDOT. Those that the ALDOT will not fund will be removed.

Transit projects must likewise have federal and local matching funds identified.

This is the first step in developing a new TIP. All projects in the current TIP that are not authorized in FY-2007 will be automatically included or carried-over to FY 2008, but changes can be made.

The current TIP (FY 2006-2008) has projects already programmed and really can't take many more programming due to the small amounts of available funds remaining as a balance. If anything is added please make the project(s) small ones that don't cost a whole lot of money so that we have funds available at all times for cost overruns and cost increases due to the price of gasoline derivatives used to make asphalt and other natural roadway construction materials. It is recommended that if you add anything that you remove a project that you have and replace it with one that you will really do. Projects are also programmed in FY 2009 with little funds remaining as a balance. Year 2010 has one project and 2011 has no projects programmed with both years having a good balance of available funds.

The time to make adjustments to all projects is now. Please take the time to review all projects that you have programmed and make adjustments if needed. For old and new projects please use the attached forms to provide new estimated project information and revised project information.

The MPO Transportation Planning Staff will be available at 241-2249 to answer questions you may have. Please provide your response to this project request as soon as possible so that extra projects can be included in the draft TIP in order to go through the public involvement process.

Also, let's remember that this is a **3-C's process (Continuing, Cooperative and Comprehensive)**. We must all get along to grow together if this MPO process is to be a success. Remember, we are all connected by way of the existing roadway

infrastructure and other natural features alike. Let's do the appropriate transportation planning that will make for a better quality of life for everyone in the River Region.