

State Transportation Improvement Program

Introduction

We are pleased to present the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for Fiscal Years 2008 through 2011. The STIP lists Federally-funded transportation projects that are located outside Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) boundaries.

Each MPO develops its own Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and questions about projects in those areas of the state may be directed to the individual MPO shown in the MPO Contacts section of this STIP. The TIPs are included in the STIP by reference without modification once approved by the MPO and the Governor, or his designee.



Purpose

In order to receive Federal transportation project funds, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) produces the STIP annually which lists all highway, public transit, and multimodal projects proposed for funding under Title 23 (highways) and Title 49 (transit) of the U.S. Code. The STIP also includes non-Federally funded regionally significant transportation projects. The STIP includes Highway, Bridge, Bicycle, Pedestrian, Safety, Transportation Enhancement Activities and Public Transportation (transit) projects.

Project-related costs, such as preliminary engineering (PE), right-of-way acquisition (ROW), and construction (CST) are shown for highway projects; capital and operating costs are shown for transit projects. The projects are organized in alphabetical order by county with information on cost, description and fiscal year. Projects that extend into multiple counties are shown in the STIP under each county the project enters. Please see the Understanding STIP Entries Section for detailed information on how to read STIP entries.

Development

Projects listed in this document were identified through GDOT's ongoing planning processes and are vital to the state's transportation program. Projects in the STIP emphasize the maintenance, safety, and improvement of existing transportation facilities and public transportation systems. The projects support GDOT's mission to provide a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to its citizens and environment.

This STIP serves as a document to provide all citizens and interested stakeholders with the opportunity to review and comment on the state's transportation priorities for the next four fiscal years. Additionally in the non-MPO areas which the STIP covers projects are identified in direct cooperation with rural (non-MPO) local governments through formal,

annual face-to-face meetings with GDOT as well as regular/ongoing informal contact with GDOT throughout the rest of the year. It is also developed with input from stakeholders and the general public.

The STIP was developed under all relevant guidelines provided by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), passed by Congress in 1998 and continued with the passage of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The STIP is submitted to the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration for final approval.

Public Involvement

Through direct contact with local elected officials, as well as stakeholders and the general public, the STIP is presented for consideration and comments throughout its development. In addition to the face-to-face meetings with local elected officials, the STIP is presented at public meetings held around the state by GDOT staff who encourage questions and input. These meetings are held at various locations and are advertised through mailings and press releases. Comments and questions can also be submitted by mail, e-mail and telephone/fax to directly to GDOT staff at any time throughout the year. The STIP is also available on the internet at www.dot.state.ga.us/DOT/plan-prog/planning/programs .

Funding

The STIP is fiscally balanced and includes only those projects with funding available or having a reasonable expectation to obtain funds. Federal funds for fiscal years 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 are program estimates and will not be final until after the Federal budget is implemented on October 1st of each year.

Cost estimates for individual projects are based on the best available engineering estimates. These costs may change as a project progresses from preliminary engineering to the purchase of right of way to construction. If a cost estimate results from a change in the original scope of the project, the STIP will be amended including the necessary public involvement. If an increased cost estimate is based on updated engineering improvements rather than a change in the actual work, no amendment to the STIP is necessary. Greater detail may be found in the Financial Plan Section contained in the FY2008-2011 STIP.

The most current Census data indicates that Georgia's population growth rate from April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2005 was 10.8%, which is more than double the U. S. average population growth of 5.3% over the same time period. Georgia's economy is also growing, leading to increased demands on the transportation system. The STIP process ensures that maximum benefits are received from available funding and that Georgia's transportation system will continue to support and promote Georgia's growth and economy.

Project List

The STIP is fiscally balanced such that it lists project phases expected for the fiscal year shown. It is worth noting that project schedules are subject to many issues and events between project conception and project conclusion that may impede or accelerate their progress. Project cost estimates are based on latest and best available engineering estimates at the time the STIP is being developed; the final cost for a project phase may be revised over time as the project is refined during its progression to construction.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Department of Transportation wishes to thank all of the citizens and local officials for taking the time to provide input on the development of this program. Comments and questions may be directed to the persons listed on the inside front cover of the STIP.