September 26, 2019

Julie Lorenz  
Secretary of Transportation  
Kansas Department of Transportation  
Topeka, KS 66603

Subject: FHWA/FTA Approval of the FY 2020-2023 Kansas STIP

Dear Secretary Lorenz:

As requested by your September 16, 2019 letter, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have reviewed the FY 2020-2023 Kansas Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Based on our review, we find that the STIP is based on a statewide transportation planning process that substantially meets the requirements of 23 U.S.C. 134 and 135, 49 U.S.C. 5303 and 5304, and 23 CFR 450. We also find that the referenced metropolitan Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) are consistent with the metropolitan transportation plans produced by the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation process carried out by the Metropolitan Planning Organizations, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), and the public transportation operators in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303. This finding is based on MPO and KDOT self-certifications, our regular involvement in the State and MPO transportation planning processes, formal certification reviews, as well as other activities.

The FY 2020-2023 STIP is hereby approved. This approval shall expire four years from the date of this letter.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Paul Foundoukis of FHWA at (785) 273-2655 or Eva Steinman of FTA at (816) 329-3931.

Sincerely yours,

Mokhtee Ahmad  
Regional Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration

for Richard E. Backlund, AICP  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration
September 16, 2019

Mr. Mokhtee Ahmad
Federal Transit Administration
901 Locust St., Room 404
Kansas City, MO 64106

Dear Mr. Ahmad:

Subject: Request for Approval of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2020-2023

Federal law requires states to prepare a Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the law further requires that a draft STIP be available for public comment for a thirty-day period. The comment period for the State of Kansas draft STIP for FFYs 2020-2023 concluded on September 6, 2019.

Many factors have a role in the selection and development of the projects listed in the STIP from the guidance received at both the State and Federal legislative levels, from the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) with its broad high-level goals, from the Priority Formula that functions to rank and prioritize projects and from the newly adopted Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP) that provides a detailed assessment of current infrastructure and outlines the work and funding effort required to maintain said infrastructure. Together these factors influence and guide KDOT management decisions and project development and are embodied in the projects programmed in this STIP. The STIP is divided into two sections: the appendixes and the narratives. The project appendixes, A and B, list projects, in counties and cities as well as those on the State Highway System, regardless of funding source, that are administered by the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and that are anticipated to have funds obligated within the interim period of this STIP or in the next four federal fiscal years. Projects in the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) areas are listed by reference only. Appendix D, the advanced construction appendix, lists all projects, including those in MPO areas, that are being advance constructed and provides the estimated conversion date(s) and the estimated conversion amount(s) for each. The narrative section briefly describes KDOT’s public involvement process, project selection criteria, program financing including the fiscal constraint for the years of the STIP and public transportation program criteria.

Additionally, within the STIP narrative are brief descriptions of programs administered by entities other than KDOT. These programs are the Federal Lands & Tribal Transportation programs administered by the Office of Federal Lands Highway and the Bureau of Indian Affairs; Recreational Trails program administered by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism; and the Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) administered by each of the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) for the six urbanized areas of Kansas. As well as the printed document, the STIP is available for review online at http://www.ksdot.org/bureaus/burProgProjMgmt/stip/stip.asp. For project changes or developments that occur after the STIP is prepared, KDOT will use the STIP amendment process. All amendments to the STIP are, also, available for review online and are located on the current STIP page.
To demonstrate fiscal constraint, the STIP provides two documents: the “KDOT Cash-Flow” document and the table of “Federal Fiscal Years 2020-2023 Estimated Apportionments & Obligations”. The KDOT Cash-Flow document is prepared on a state fiscal year basis while the table of federal funding is provided on a federal fiscal year basis. The “KDOT Cash-Flow” document demonstrates fiscal constraint by considering all anticipated revenue sources (state, federal, local) and all anticipated expenditures (fixed and variable costs) and estimates how the funding and expenditure are anticipated to be received and incurred over the four-year period of the STIP. The “Federal Fiscal Years 2020-2023 Estimated Apportionments & Obligations” table demonstrates fiscal constraint at the federal fund level only and estimates, by fund category, the federal funds that Kansas anticipates being apportioned and obligated in the next four federal fiscal years.

Apportionments are estimated on the funding levels outlined in the federal transportation act “Fixing America’s Surface Transportation (FAST Act)” passed in December 2015 with the FFYs that exceed the act, 2021-2023, estimated at the same level as the last year, FFY 2020, of the FAST Act. Applying these funding levels in the STIP assures programming is based upon reasonably expected funds and ensures that the State of Kansas does not over program. Included in the estimated obligations are the conversions for projects authorized with advance construction that are expected to convert during the four federal fiscal years. Each year of total expected obligation less the “Other” obligation which is composed of allocated and special funding is either less than or equal to the total expected federal appropriation for that year. If expected obligation for a year is less than the federal appropriation for that year, KDOT intends to convert projects authorized with advance construction to equal the difference. The conversion of advance construction will assure that expected obligation and expected appropriation are balanced.

Under the current state transportation program, Transportation Works for Kansas (T-WORKS), project selection is on a rolling two-year basis that results in years three and four of this STIP document being partially selected. Additionally, FFY 2020 will have more annually selected projects and not all of these projects were programmed when the STIP was developed. All projects programmed after the STIP was developed will be amended to the STIP using the amendment process in place. Like FFY 2020, FFY 2021 is only partially programmed. The remaining projects to be selected for 2021 will predominantly be projects selected on an annual basis and are anticipated to be selected in the spring and summer of 2020. As these projects are programmed, they will either be amended to the FFY 2020-2023 STIP or will appear in the FFY 2021-2024 STIP as timing dictates.

Enclosed are copies of the FFYs 2020-2023 STIP with the current, signed Kansas State Self-Certification inserted. By this letter, the State of Kansas requests approval of our FFYs 2020-2023 STIP from the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

Please forward questions or comments concerning this letter or the STIP to Linda Fritton or Melinda Desch, Bureau of Program and Project Management, at (785) 296-2252.

Sincerely,

Julie Lorenz
Secretary of Transportation

Enclosure
September 16, 2019

Mr. Richard Backlund
Federal Highway Administration
6111 SW 29th St., Suite 100
Topeka, KS 66614-4271

Dear Mr. Backlund:

Subject: Request for Approval of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2020-2023

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[Signature]

Jill Lorenz
Secretary of Transportation

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