

TIP/STIP Subcommittee: May 24th Memo Discussion Summary

Gordon asked if the mechanism of a subcommittee meeting and reporting back to the Coordinating Group is working?

Lon voiced concerns:

- How is this process helping to make projects better? There is a concern that thousands of dollars in staff time is being funneled into this process. This work is taking a lot of time. How do we still meet Jack's needs yet not get bogged down in time allocated to fine tuning project descriptions, etc. into TIPs, STIP, and amendments?
- The TIPs and STIP are public document, but it is not the primary way of communication with the public. There is too much engineering jargon and codes that are unimportant to the fundamental understanding of the project scope and benefits.
- In the meantime, we can't have the TIP and STIP amendments held up. I don't want to spend thousands of dollars on process vs. projects.

Kelly commented that the subcommittee agrees that this is an iterative process. But so far, we've seen amendments held up until Jack's questions were answered. How does this fit in with the spirit of cooperation in which we agreed that this would be an ongoing work in progress?

Jack responded that he is willing to work with the subcommittee to work out helpful timelines for him to review projects and to continue progress with the TIPs. He is not trying to hold anything up. It's only been two weeks since he's seen a group of TIP amendments.

He has seen four amendments so far and well more than 400 projects.

Kelly stated that, in the memo, the subcommittee agrees to comply with some of the requests. But some of them we do not agree to do. Are you going to address these?

PSRC's STIP amendments have been taking two extra weeks for approval. That doesn't seem like a long time, but when you have locals calling you up wondering where their projects are, it's a long time.

Since this is the subcommittee's preliminary discussion on what Jack is proposing, could you, Jack, provide feedback on our concerns and comments?

*Jack will provide feedback on the subcommittee's responses to his requests.

*The subcommittee will continue to address issues.

Cliff Hall commented that, in the TIP/STIP training, he is learning more about the locals' and FHWA's TIP process. FHWA's area engineers are requesting additional project description information. When they get the TIPs, sometimes the description does not provide enough detailed information to move the project forward.

Jack commented that: More often, projects with state and local funding are being transferred to federal funding. The project descriptions don't have the information we need to move forward with construction. So, FHWA area engineers need to go back to the local agency or MPO/RTPO to get the additional information. Thus, the delay. Jack commented that: To the extent you do have the additional information, provide it. If you don't have it, note that.