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PROJECT LISTINGS AND GROUPINGS

Projects in the STIP are classified and organized in accordance with federal and state regulations to be clear and transparent. Projects are either grouped or are listed individually. The criterion used for project listings and groupings and how projects are organized in the STIP is described in this chapter.





Overview

The STIP includes the federally funded highway and transit projects funded under Title 23 USC and Title 49 USC, Chapter 53, and modal projects with phases or components funded under those titles or with state or local funds. Regionally significant projects to be funded with non-federal funds (e.g., state or local) are included in the STIP for planning, coordination, and public disclosure purposes. In a nonattainment area, only those projects determined to conform to the requirements of the Clean Air Act and which comply with the State Implementation Plan may be included in the STIP.

Project Listings

TxDOT organizes individual projects into separate lists in the STIP, including Highway, Transit, Statewide District Transit, Texas Federal Lands, and Texas Parks & Wildlife projects. These projects meet numerous transportation needs and challenges, benefiting intercity bus facilities, multimodal and intermodal facilities, non-motorized transportation facilities, intermodal connectors, and other transportation infrastructure. These listings include project description, location, estimated costs, and other information. An explanation of how to read and interpret the information in the STIP project listings can be found in the preface to each project listing found in Appendices F - J.

Some types of projects are excluded from an MPO TIP and the STIP by agreement between TxDOT, the MPO, and FHWA in accordance with requirements established in 43 TAC 16.101(d). Those projects include:

- Safety projects funded under 23 USC 402 (highway safety programs) and emergency relief projects; except those involving substantial functional, location, and capacity changes.
- Planning and research activities; except those activities funded with National Highway System or Surface Transportation Program funds other than those used for major investment studies.
- Projects under 23 USC 104(b)(1), (b)(4), and 144 that are for resurfacing, restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction, or highway safety improvement, and which will not alter the functional traffic capacity or capability of the facility being improved.

Highway Projects

This is the largest project listing in the STIP and contains a wide variety of multimodal projects for motorized and non-motorized users led by both TxDOT and local governments. Types of projects include roadways, bridges, trails, sidewalks, safety and operational improvements, and others. Highway and highway-related projects and programs are funded under the 12 UTP funding categories as shown in **Chapter 8**.

Transit Projects

This section contains federally funded transit projects, programs, and services in MPO areas including planning, capital, operating and administration activities. These projects are led by transit authorities, MPOs, or local governments. Example projects include the purchase of replacement transit vehicles, acquisition of security equipment, and transit planning. These projects benefit intercity bus and passenger rail service which reduce congestion, pollution, and energy consumption in a cost-effective manner.

Statewide District Transit Projects

Projects in this section are led by TxDOT's Public Transportation Division and include funding for transit activities in both urban and rural areas of the state for planning, capital, operating, and administration costs.

Texas Federal Lands Projects

This section includes projects funded through federal programs including the Federal Lands Access Program and the Federal Lands Transportation Program. These projects improve access to federal lands or improve transportation infrastructure within federal lands and are delivered by various federal agencies.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Projects

This section contains projects that are administered through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Examples include the construction and renovation of trails and other amenities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and off-highway vehicle users.

Additional project listings beyond these may be added periodically during STIP Revisions due to new funding programs or calls for projects. During the previous STIP period these included Tribal projects, National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) projects and Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside projects. When additional funds become available project selection is administered by various TxDOT divisions or other state or federal agencies.



Projects of Regional Significance

23 USC 135 (g)(5)(c)(i) and TAC 43 16.103(D) state regionally significant projects to be funded with non-federal funds will be included in the STIP for planning, coordination, and public disclosure purposes. Regionally significant projects play a crucial role in maintaining and improving transportation infrastructure ensuring efficient mobility and supporting economic growth within a region. Projects that are considered regionally significant must be individually listed in the STIP regardless of funding source. Regionally significant projects are those with the appropriate scale or reach to be considered stand-alone in a given program year. In metropolitan areas, MPOs identify regionally significant projects for inclusion in their respective TIPs based on the federal definition.

Regionally significant project means a transportation project (other than projects that may be grouped in the TIP and/or STIP or exempt projects as defined in EPA's transportation conformity regulations (40 CFR part 93, subpart A)) that is on a facility that serves regional transportation needs (such as access to and from the area outside the region; major activity centers in the region; major planned developments such as new retail malls, sports complexes, or employment centers; or transportation terminals) and would normally be included in the modeling of the metropolitan area's transportation network. At a minimum, this includes all principal arterial highways and all fixed guideway transit facilities that offer an alternative to regional highway travel.

23 CFR 450.104

Grouped Projects

Certain projects that are not considered to be of appropriate scale do not need to be listed individually in the TIPs or STIP in a given program year, per 23 USC 135 and 43 TAC 16.101(c). Those projects (e.g., minor rehabilitation, preventive maintenance, non-urbanized transit projects) are allowed to be grouped by function, geographic area, work type, or certain funding programs in single line items. Grouping projects allows for more efficient programming and reduces the need for revisions to the TIPs and STIP. Grouped projects are programmed by TxDOT into statewide project grouped categories. Projects may be grouped by the STIP team in accordance with grouping allowances established by FHWA Texas Division, as listed in **Table 2**.

In nonattainment and attainment-maintenance areas, grouped projects must be consistent with the exempt projects classifications contained in the EPA conformity regulations. Additionally, added-capacity projects or phases of added-capacity projects are not permitted to be grouped and must be individually listed.

Table 2. FHWA Texas Division Grouped Project Allowance

PROPOSED CSJ	GROUPED PROJECT CATEGORY	DEFINITION
5000-00-950	PE-Preliminary Engineering	Preliminary engineering for any project except added capacity projects in a nonattainment area. Includes activities which do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as planning and research activities; grants for training; engineering to define the elements of a proposed action, or alternatives so that social, economic, and environmental effects can be assessed.
5000-00-951	Right of Way	Right of Way acquisition for any project except added capacity projects in a nonattainment area. Includes relocation assistance, hardship acquisition, and protective buying.
5000-00-952 5000-00-957 5000-00-958	Preventive Maintenance and Rehabilitation	Projects to include pavement repair to preserve existing pavement so that it may achieve its designed loading. Includes seal coats, overlays, resurfacing, restoration and rehabilitation done with existing ROW. Also includes modernization of a highway by reconstruction, adding shoulders or adding auxiliary lanes (e.g., parking, weaving, turning, climbing, passing, non-added capacity), or drainage improvements associated with rehabilitation [See Note 1 on next page].
5000-00-953	Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation	Projects to replace and/or rehabilitate functionally obsolete or structurally deficient bridges.
5000-00-954	Railroad Grade Separations	Projects to construct or replace existing highway-railroad grade crossings and to rehabilitate and/or replace deficient railroad underpasses, resulting in no added capacity.
5800-00-950	Safety	Projects to include the construction or replacement/rehabilitation of guard rails, median barriers, crash cushions, pavement markings, skid treatments, medians, lighting improvements, highway signs, curb ramps, railroad/highway crossing warning devices, fencing, intersection improvements (e.g., turn lanes), signalization projects, and interchange modifications. Also includes projects funded via the Federal Hazard Elimination Program, Federal Railroad Signal Safety Program, or Access Management projects, except those that result in added capacity.

PROPOSED CSJ	GROUPED PROJECT CATEGORY	DEFINITION
5000-00-956	Landscaping	Projects consisting of typical right of way landscape development, establishment and aesthetic improvements to include any associated erosion control and environmental mitigation activities.
5800-00-915	Intelligent Transportation System Deployment (ITS)	Highway traffic operation improvement projects including the installation of ramp metering control devices, variable message signs, traffic monitoring equipment and projects in the Federal ITS/Intelligent Vehicle Highway System (IVHS) programs.
5000-00-916	Bicycle and Pedestrian	Projects including bicycle and pedestrian lanes, paths and facilities (e.g., sidewalks, shared use paths, side paths, trails, bicycle boulevards, curb extensions, bicycle parking facilities, bikeshare facilities, etc.). Safe Routes to School non-infrastructure related activities (e.g. enforcement, tools, and education programs).
5000-00-917	Safety Rest Areas and Truck Weigh Stations	Construction and improvement of rest areas, and truck weigh stations.
5000-00-918	Transit Improvements and Programs	Projects include the construction and improvement of small passenger shelters and information kiosks. Also includes the construction and improvement of rail storage/maintenance facilities and bus transfer facilities where minor amounts of additional land are required and there is not a substantial increase in the number of users. Also includes transit operating assistance, preventive maintenance of transit vehicles and facilities, acquisition of third-party transit services, transit marketing, and mobility management/coordination. Additionally includes the purchase of new buses and rail cars to replace existing vehicles or for minor expansions of the fleet [See Note 4].
5000-00-919	Recreational Trails Program	Includes Off-highway vehicle (OHV), equestrian, recreational water/paddling trails, and related facilities and recreational trails related education and safety programs.

Note 1: Passing lanes include "SUPER 2" lanes consistent with TxDOT's Roadway Design Manual.

Note 2: Projects funded with Congestion Mitigation Air Quality funding require a Federal eligibility determination, and are not approved to be grouped.

Note 3: Projects eligible for grouping include associated project phases (Preliminary Engineering, Right-Of-Way, and Construction).

Note 4: In PM10 and PM2.5 nonattainment or maintenance areas, such projects may be grouped only if they are in compliance with control measures in the applicable implementation plan.

Note 5: Projects funded as part of the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program consistent with the Grouped Project category definitions may be grouped. RTP or TA funded projects that are not consistent with the Grouped Project category definitions must be individually noted in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Road diet projects may not be grouped.

