



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**Indiana Division**

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In Reply Refer To:  
HDA-IN

Dear Indiana MPO Directors and INDOT:

The Indiana Division Office of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration Region V (FTA) are issuing its annual planning emphasis areas (PEAs) for FY 2018. The PEAs will need to be addressed in the metropolitan planning organizations' (MPOs') and the Indiana Department of Transportation's (INDOT's) future work programs. The purpose of the PEAs is to focus our efforts on implementing the final rulemakings for Moving Ahead for Progress in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (MAP-21) and Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act).

The FY 2018 PEAs are:

- Implementing the National Transportation Performance Management final rulemakings and final planning regulation
- Continuing compliance efforts for Title VI Program Management

As you know, FHWA and FTA published the final rule for *Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning; Metropolitan Transportation Planning Regulation* on May 27, 2016 which updates the regulations to reflect the passage of MAP-21 and the FAST Act. Accordingly, the final rule establishes that the statewide and metropolitan transportation planning processes must provide for the use of a performance based approach to decision-making in support of the national goals described in 23 USC 150(b) and the general purposes described in 49 USC 5301. INDOT, the MPOs, and the operators of public transportation must together establish targets in key national performance areas, coordinate the targets that they set for key areas, including data collection, and describe the anticipated effect of their respective transportation improvement plans and programs toward achieving their targets.

The final planning rule has a phase-in requirement of two years from the date of the published rule (see 23 CFR 450.226 and 23 CFR 450.340). Prior to May 27, 2018, INDOT and the MPOs may respectively adopt a long-range statewide transportation plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plans (MTPs), Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) using the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) requirements. On or after May 27, 2018, FHWA and FTA may only approve a STIP update or amendment that has been developed

according to the provisions and requirements of this regulation, regardless of when the INDOT developed the STIP.


The new planning rule add new section, 23 CFR 450.314(h), that requires the MPOs, INDOT, and the operators of public transportation to jointly agree and develop specific written provisions for cooperatively developing and sharing information related to transportation performance data, the selection of performance targets, the reporting of performance targets, the reporting of performance to be used in tracking the progress toward attainment of critical outcomes for the regions of the MPOs, (see 23 CFR 450.306(d)) and the collection of data for the state asset management plan for the National Highway System. INDOT and the MPOs can decide to either update their planning Memorandums of Agreements (MOAs) or some other means outside of the MOAs to adhere to this new rule.

**National Performance Management Measures** – All of the National Performance Measures for key areas such as safety, infrastructure conditions, congestion, system reliability, emissions, freight movement, as well as public transit safety and state-of-good repair have been issued. As referenced above, the INDOT and the MPOs must work cooperatively together to set performance measures and targets. We commend INDOT and the MPOs for establishing a committee to set safety targets and recommend this format be continued for the other performance areas.


**Title VI Program Management** – We continue our emphasis on the Title VI Program Management. When considering federal-aid highway funding for a local transportation project, the MPOs need to be able to ensure the Local Public Agencies (LPAs) complies with their Title VI nondiscrimination requirements. MPOs should survey local governments and determine if they have a current Title VI Plan that identifies a person responsible for Title VI, Notification of Nondiscrimination, a complaint process and steps used to collect and evaluate data on impacts from the LPA's programs and projects. If a plan is not in place with the project sponsor (a city, town, or county) steps should be taken to provide technical assistance for the development and implementation of such a plan. Please contact FHWA or INDOT for any training needs. This will have the effect of better ensuring that programs and projects adhere to the principles of nondiscrimination, as well as making the MPO's nondiscrimination self-certifications accurate. The FHWA expects INDOT and the MPOs to monitor Title VI plan implementation and begin moving toward limiting funding to those entities that are not meeting their requirements as federal-aid recipients.

If you have any questions, please contact either me, your FHWA Planning and Environmental Specialist, or Susan Weber, FTA Community Planner, at (312) 353-3888.

Sincerely,

  
Joyce E. Newland  
Planning Program Manager  
FHWA Indiana Division

Sincerely,

  
Jay Ciavarella  
Director, Office of Planning & Program Development  
FTA Region V

**ecc:**

**Indiana MPO Council  
Roy Nunnally, INDOT  
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