



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Transit Administration
Region V
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Federal Highway Administration
Indiana Division
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In Reply Refer To: HAD-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 2021. They are:

- Updating Planning Roles and Responsibilities Cooperating Operating Manual (PRRCOM)
- Traffic Incident Management (TIM)
- Local Road Safety Plans (LRSPs) and
- Participation Plans (PPs).

As part of the federal planning finding of the Indiana Department of Transportation's (INDOT's) FY 2020-2024 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), FHWA and FTA recommended an update of the PRRCOM. FHWA further identified this as a Risk and Opportunity Assessment for Indiana, stating if the PRRCOM is not followed, then communication and the 3-C process breaks down, and the federal planning finding cannot be issued. FHWA communicated this to INDOT and the MPOs in December 2019 and recommends the PRRCOM be updated by August 30, 2020.

FHWA encourages the MPOs to consider Traffic Incident Management (TIM) activities as part of their UPWPs. TIM directly supports multiple planning factors related to safety, mobility freight movement, air quality and transportation system reliability. TIM addresses the non-recurring congestion which causes delay that impacts all travelers, including just in time freight haulers. TIM also improves safety by reducing the likelihood of a secondary crash and responders being struck. Furthermore, TIM impacts the economy by reducing delay that impacts consumers, and results in wasted fuel and can impact air quality.

MPOs may support TIM by including various TIM activities in their UPWP. Activities may include:

- Market TIM to elected officials
- Facilitate TIM Responder Training
- Facilitate working groups and activities
- Foster relationships
- Facilitate After Action Reviews
- Fund ITS Projects
- Compile data for Performance Measures

MPOs and Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs) should consider assisting agencies in developing Local Road Safety Plans (LRSPs) to be used as a tool for reducing roadway fatalities

and serious injuries. The plan should be viewed as a living document that can be updated to reflect changing local needs and priorities. LRSPs use all available data, intense data analysis, and pull together stakeholders to produce a plan to improve safety on the jurisdiction's roads. Emphasis is usually placed on implementing systemic improvements, however, some spot locations may be included. Types of crashes to focus on – roadway departure, intersection, pedestrian, etc. – are determined by the data, as well as characteristics such as the types of facilities, corridors, and roadway conditions (e.g. wet weather, lighting). FHWA will be hosting a workshop in late spring that will assist with this PEA.

Participation Plans (PPs) and procedures (required by 23 CFR 450.210 and 450.316) help agencies ensure that all community members who might be affected by a transportation decision are invited to engage in the decision making process. FHWA and FTA will continue to review MPOs' PPs and processes during the certification process. In an effort to ensure continuous and equitable public engagement in the transportation planning and decision making process, we encourage the review of participation plans/procedures. In addition, INDOT and the MPOs should coordinate to ensure new strategies and tools (including, but not limited, to social media and virtual public involvement tools), are incorporated into public participation plans/procedures, and that those plans include documented evaluation of progress toward plan goals. FHWA will work with the MPO Council to identify training and resource opportunities, and to make those available to the MPOs and INDOT as needed.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call Joyce Newland, FHWA, at 317-226-5353/joyce.newland@dot.gov or Cecilia Crenshaw, FTA, at 317/705-1268/cecilia.crenshaw@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

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cc:

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