



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Driving Indiana's Economic Growth

100 North Senate Avenue
Room N955
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

PHONE: (317) 232-5292
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Michael R. Pence, Governor
Karl B. Browning, Commissioner

September 19, 2014

Ms. Marisol R. Simon
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
200 West Adams Street, Suite 320
Chicago, IL 60606

RE: FY2014 - FY2017 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Administrative Modification #30

Dear Ms. Simon;

Please find attached a Metropolitan Planning Organization TIP administrative modification **from the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission**. The Administrative Modification was requested on September 19, 2014. We concur with this administrative modification and it will be reflected by reference in the 2014-2017 STIP.

We have determined that the administrative **modification** is: 1) consistent with the transportation plan; 2) the TIP remains fiscally constrained in that federal funding resources are sufficient to support the new or modified projects and 3) conform to state and national air quality standards as required by the Federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

Please contact me at (317) 232-5292 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Larry Buckel
Manager
Office of Transit

CC: Reggie Arkell, FTA
Tony Greep, FTA

STIP AMENDMENT and/or MODIFICATION REQUES

09/18/14

Amendment
Modification

NIRPC Admin Modification N

Belinda Petroskey

Sponsor	DES	Work Type	Location	Federal Category	Federal	Match	2014	2015	2016	2017	Remarks	MPO
NIRPC	1173556	Transit Operating	Lake	Transit	1,278,501	0	1,278,501				Increase by \$510,500 04-05 CMAQ	NIRPC
NIRPC	1173559	Transit Operating	Lake	Transit	1,278,501	0	1,278,501				Increase by \$510,500 04-05 CMAQ	NIRPC

Buckel, Larry

From: Belinda Petroskey [bpetroskey@nirpc.org]
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 5:46 PM
To: Buckel, Larry
Cc: David Wright (planningmanager@gptcbus.com)
Subject: RE: GPTC IN-90-X443 CMAQ - Addition of Scope
Attachments: 20 Transit Admin Mod September 18.xls

Larry,

As you can see by the attached admin mod request, David assigns the funds to 2 projects that do have DES numbers. So, please accept this as a request for NIRPC administrative modification No. 20.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Belinda

From: Buckel, Larry [mailto:LBUCKEL@indot.IN.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 4:01 PM
To: Belinda Petroskey
Subject: RE: GPTC IN-90-X443 CMAQ - Addition of Scope

Belinda,

Send me a request for a DES # and I will try to get it for you tomorrow.

After you get des number maybe you can request admin modification.

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

----- Original message -----

From: Belinda Petroskey <bpetroskey@nirpc.org>
Date: 09/18/2014 4:38 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: "Buckel, Larry" <LBUCKEL@indot.IN.gov>
Subject: FW: GPTC IN-90-X443 CMAQ - Addition of Scope

Hi Larry,

As you can see reading the information below, GPTC is going to be re-purposing some 2004-2005 CMAQ funds. NIRPC is on board with this. Our position is not to lose the funds, and if GPTC doesn't re-program them, they are forfeit. No one else can use them.

My question for INDOT is, should I get a DES number for this project? Or should I just do the administrative amendment noting the loss of funds to the region if not re-programmed? I'm just not sure how it goes with an old project like this.

Looking forward to your reply!
Belinda

From: Planning Manager [<mailto:PlanningManager@gptcbus.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 3:17 PM
To: reginald.arkell@dot.gov; Belinda Petroskey
Cc: Derek.Davis@dot.gov; anthony.greep@dot.gov; Procurement Director; General Manager
Subject: RE: GPTC IN-90-X443 CMAQ - Addition of Scope

Reggie:

Thanks again for the time and effort of yourself, Derek and the other staff at FTA in researching and advising on this. We will work on the grant amendment on our end. You will be hearing from Mr. Cates when it comes to that.

David

From: reginald.arkell@dot.gov [<mailto:reginald.arkell@dot.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, September 18, 2014 2:56 PM
To: Planning Manager; bpetroskey@nirpc.org
Cc: Derek.Davis@dot.gov; anthony.greep@dot.gov
Subject: RE: GPTC IN-90-X443 CMAQ - Addition of Scope

David/Belinda:

My understanding from our communications is that GPTC has about \$1M in awarded 04' and 05' CMAQ funds that can no longer be used for the intended purpose (IN-90-X443), which was primarily the University Park Transit Center in Gary. These type of flex-funds are allocated to grantees for activities selected pursuant to the CMAQ project selection process. It cannot be presumed that funds in these types of situations will necessarily stay with the original grantee when a project is canceled. Transparency and fairness are critical factors in how CMAQ funds are distributed. NIRPC's online guidance states that funds not used due to canceled projects revert to the CMAQ project selection committee for reprogramming.

I have learned that the 04' and 05' CMAQ funds will be lost if they are deobligated and not reobligated by the time TEAM closes on 9/23/14. Effectively, to avoid the loss of these funds to NW Indiana, they need to stay obligated and GPTC would do a grant amendment to add new scope for another project. I understand the proposed new project would be added service for existing operating assistance that is currently funded in a separate CMAQ grant. This service would include coverage for the University Park Transit Center area.

Given these unique circumstances, GPTC should put in a grant amendment to IN-90-X443 and let me know when it is ready for review. For transparency, in coordination with the next call for CMAQ projects, NIRPC/GPTC should advise the other CMAQ committee members/project sponsors that these funds were repurposed for GPTC's use due to the aforementioned circumstances. This way they can decide if this should be taken into account when considering future CMAQ project selections.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you.

Reggie Arkell
FTA, Region 5
312-886-3704

From: Planning Manager [<mailto:PlanningManager@gptcbus.com>]
Sent: Friday, September 05, 2014 9:05 AM
To: Arkell, Reginald (FTA)

Cc: Davis, Derek (FTA)
Subject: RE: X443/X016 federal share consistency, GPTC, IN, VC#1200

Reggie:
See comments below, in red. Thanks, and please alert me if you have any other questions.

David

From: reginald.arkell@dot.gov [<mailto:reginald.arkell@dot.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2014 2:44 PM
To: Planning Manager
Cc: Derek.Davis@dot.gov
Subject: RE: X443/X016 federal share consistency, GPTC, IN, VC#1200

David: I am still consulting internally about whether these old CMAQ funds can be repurposed. In the interim, I want to be sure I fully understand.

You want to either:

- deobligate 04' and 05' CMAQ funds in IN-90-X443 and move them to IN-95-X016 to supplement the operating assistance project in the latter grant; OR
 - add an operating assistance ALI to IN-90-X443 and move the 04' and 05' funds within the grant to the new ALI.
- Reggie: This is correct. The opinion is the second option is preferred, but my understanding of your explanation last week sounds similar to the first option.

Questions:

1. Why? The costs for our University Park project are greatly reduced and the desire is to re-commit these funds to another CMAQ-eligible ALI.
2. What is the exact dollar amounts for both the 04' and 05' funds that would be used for operating assistance? \$1,021,000.
3. Will the scope of the newly funded operating assistance be the same (i.e. same route/location/purpose) as for the existing current operating project in IN-95-X016 or for an entirely different route/location/purpose?
 - a. If the same, how are you justifying it, including CMAQ eligibility? The project in IN-95-X016 has been through the eligibility process and the re-direction of funds would be for that same purpose. This specific course of action was the recommendation of NIRPC staff.
 - b. If different, describe the project, including how it would be CMAQ-eligible.
4. Is there anything I'm misinterpreting or additional information I should know? No. I believe this is pretty accurate.

Thank you.

Reggie Arkell
FTA, Region 5
312-886-3704

From: Planning Manager [<mailto:PlanningManager@gptcbus.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, September 02, 2014 4:50 PM
To: Arkell, Reginald (FTA)
Cc: Davis, Derek (FTA)
Subject: RE: X443/X016 federal share consistency, GPTC, IN, VC#1200

Hi Reggie. Just going over my project notes and thought I'd see if there was any guidance on this here. I have NIRPC on hold for any TIP action. Please advise when you have some guidance. Thanks!

David

From: Planning Manager
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2014 3:58 PM
To: reginald.arkell@dot.gov
Cc: Derek.Davis@dot.gov; Planning Manager
Subject: RE: X443/X016 federal share consistency, GPTC, IN, VC#1200

Reggie:
Thank you. I will hold off on TIP action until I hear back.

In addition to de-obligating the funds and getting them shifted to the operating line-item via the NIRPC process, could adding the operating element as a new ALI in X443 be possible? That would serve the same purpose essentially. Please advise.

David

From: reginald.arkell@dot.gov [<mailto:reginald.arkell@dot.gov>]
Sent: Friday, August 29, 2014 3:28 PM
To: Planning Manager
Cc: Derek.Davis@dot.gov
Subject: RE: X443/X016 federal share consistency, GPTC, IN, VC#1200

David:

The first issue I have been trying to resolve is if these CMAQ funds can be repurposed at all as they are very old. I will advise you as soon as possible. Thank you.

Reginald Arkell, AICP – Community Planner
U.S. DOT, Federal Transit Administration, Region 5
200 West Adams Street, Suite 320
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: 312-886-3704
Facsimile: 312-886-0351
Email: reginald.arkell@dot.gov
<http://www.fta.dot.gov/>



From: Davis, Derek (FTA)
Sent: Wednesday, August 27, 2014 1:38 PM
To: 'Planning Manager'
Cc: Davis, Derek (FTA); Arkell, Reginald (FTA)
Subject: RE: X443/X016 federal share consistency, GPTC, IN, VC#1200

David,

Per our discussion today with Reggie Arkell, FTA, please follow the instructions he provided regarding following the CMAQ project selection process. Feel free to contact Reggie or myself if additional information is needed.

DEREK DAVIS
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM SPECIALIST
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606
312.353.2874
312.886.0351 (FAX)
202689.9768 (Blackberry)
773.612.7020 (c)

From: Planning Manager [<mailto:PlanningManager@gptcbus.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2014 2:30 PM

To: Davis, Derek (FTA)

Subject: X443/X016 federal share consistency

Derek:

A follow-up to our conversation about using the bus acquisition line-item in IN-90-X443 to pay for vehicles and moving an equal share of bus acquisition funds in IN-95-X016 into the CMAQ operating line-item.

In X016 the vehicle purchase was at 100% and we would like to complete this purchase at that federal level in the X443 grant. Since these buses are on the production line now we would be pulling the trigger very soon after your OK, with an administrative modification for the TIP and a budget change in the grants. Please advise.

Thanks!

David

100 W. 4th Avenue Gary, IN 46402
(219) 885-7555


Gary Public Transportation Corp.
PLANNING & MARKETING DEPARTMENT
David W. Wright, Director