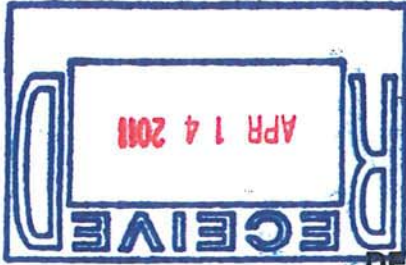


Notification of Available Local Surface Transportation Funds (STP)



**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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505 DEADERICK STREET  
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-0349  
(615) 741-2848

**JOHN C. SCHROER**  
COMMISSIONER

**BILL HASLAM**  
GOVERNOR

March 31, 2011

The Honorable Manuel Rico  
Chairman, Executive Board  
Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Authority  
1250 Market Street, Suite 2000  
Chattanooga, TN 37402

Dear Chairman Rico:

As you know, federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds are allocated to your MPO on an annual basis. The State of Tennessee also receives an allocation of STP funds. After these allocations are made, the FHWA places limitations on how much can be obligated in the fiscal year. The percentage of obligation varies from year to year, but averages around 92%. STP allocations which have not been obligated will lapse by the end of the fourth year following their allocation per FHWA guidance. Lapsed funds are taken off of Tennessee's available balance. We have been able to prevent the lapsing of MPO funds in the past by managing all of the STP balances (local and state) and by expending the oldest allotments first.

Rather than impose obligation limitations on MPOs, the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) has chosen to cover the MPO's unused obligation limitation within our federal allocations. We have planned and reserved the fair share of obligation authority for MPOs each year.

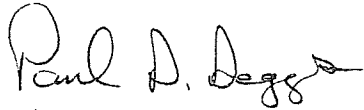
As we are well into the 2011 fiscal year, it is time to examine the status of potential funding obligation of STP funds by your MPO for the remainder of the federal fiscal year. As we have indicated before, TDOT is spending all of its Interstate (IM), National Highway (NH), and STP allocations each year; however, the obligation of STP allocations available to MPOs is not being spent proportionally. This lack of obligation of STP funds by MPOs has created a growing balance of funds, while at the same time making it difficult for us to use our annual allocation of obligation authority. Steps must be taken to position your funds for obligation during the remainder of fiscal year 2011 to ensure that TDOT is in a position to use the obligation authority available to the State of Tennessee.

The current balance of STP funds available to your MPO for obligation is \$14,414,332.00 as of February 22, 2011. Please review your TIP and provide a list of local STP funded projects, with estimated cost, that you intend to obligate during the remainder of fiscal year 2011. Send your list to Ms. Teresa Estes,

Manager of the Local Program Development Office, by mail to Local Program Development Office, Suite 600, James K. Polk Building, 505 Deaderick Street, Nashville, TN. 37243 or to [teresa.estes@tn.gov](mailto:teresa.estes@tn.gov) by April 25, 2011. If you have any questions, please call 615-741-5329. Partnering with the Department may also be an option for consideration.

I urge you to continue your efforts to lower your balance of STP funds to insure that the Department of Transportation can continue to maintain our current percentage of obligation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul D. Degges". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Paul D. Degges, PE  
Chief Engineer

CC: Chris Christianson  
Jim Moore  
Ronnie Porter  
Teresa Estes  
Melissa Taylor

## **Summary of Events STP-M (Local) TN Portion Supplemental Call for Projects**

**TCC TIP Selection Subcommittee Met in April to propose recommended projects to the TCC May 3, 2011 and Board will take action on projects in June.**

### **Call for Projects Information Emailed TCC/Board on March 4, 2011:**

To expedite the application process staff created a website application/survey for gathering information on existing cost overruns and applying for new projects which can be found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9HDK5RF> (click on this link and it will take you directly to the survey). You must reopen and recomplete the survey for each new project being submitted. If you are submitting more than one project, please rank each project in parenthesis in the project title field with #1 being the first priority (e.g. Various Intersection Improvement in Town X (#1)). You only need to fill out the cost overrun section once. The deadline for project submittals is April 1, 2011.

In light of certain situations, RPA staff suggested to the TCC the following considerations for a portion of the funds:

- Close out cost overruns from previous TIPs
- Conduct the Retroreflectivity Inventory

### **Information TCC March 1, 2011, TCC Approved April 1, 2011 Submittal Deadline:**

#### **Notice of Available Local STP TN Funds for a Supplemental “Call for Projects”**

Last year, in 2010, the Chattanooga-Hamilton County/North Georgia Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), as required by federal statute (Title 23 U.S.C 134 (g) & (h)), prepared a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that was officially approved in November of 2010. The TIP allocates revenues across all surface transportation modes based on the Chattanooga-Hamilton County/North Georgia mobility needs and the planning requirements of the continuing resolution of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). Recently, it was brought to staff’s attention that a surplus of local metropolitan urban area Surface Transportation Program funds (STP-M) exists and is available for programming in the current TIP for fiscal year 2011 and/or future years.

The total amount clarified by TDOT local programs office from the 2010 yearend balance was \$14,414,332.25 (federal). The amount budgeted (allocated) in the current 2011-2014 TIP for expenditure in fiscal year 2011 is \$5,626,017 plus the inadvertently omitted Signal Mtn. sidewalk project estimated at \$157,600 (federal). Since there was nothing obligated in January, the remaining available for new programming in 2011 and/or future years is \$8,630,715.

To expedite the call for projects, we will be sending out an online survey for you to complete for any project cost overruns and new project requests to begin this supplemental project selection process. The selection of projects will follow the selection criteria outline in the current 2011-2014 TIP. A couple of project suggestions, we as staff would suggest, are closing out cost overruns and the regional retroreflectivity inventory that was ineligible for “PL” funds. However, all projects will be evaluated through the standard selection process as previously mentioned.