

ITEM 8 - Action

October 15, 2003

Approval of Amendment to
the FY 2003-2008 TIP for Components that are
Exempt from the Air Quality Conformity Requirement for
the Anacostia Corridor Demonstration Project,
as Requested by the District of Columbia Department of
Transportation (DDOT)

Staff

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution R4-2004 to approve amendment to the FY 2003-2008 TIP as requested by DDOT.

Issues: None

Background: As indicated in the attached letter, DDOT has requested an amendment the FY 2003-2008 TIP to fund specific components of the 2.7-mile fixed guideway transit demonstration project that are exempt from the air quality conformity requirement, as described in the attached materials.

In order to allow for public comment, this proposed amendment was released at the September 17, 2003 TPB meeting.

TPB R4-2004
October 15, 2003

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002**

**RESOLUTION ON AMENDMENT TO
THE FY 2003-2008 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)
FOR COMPONENTS THAT ARE EXEMPT
FROM THE AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY REQUIREMENT
FOR THE ANACOSTIA CORRIDOR DEMONSTRATION PROJECT,
AS REQUESTED BY THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION (DDOT)**

WHEREAS, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), which is the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Washington Region, has the responsibility under the provisions of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) for developing and carrying out a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process for the Metropolitan Area; and

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2002 the TPB adopted the Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) and the FY 2003-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and these documents were approved by the Federal Highway and Transit Administrations on October 30, 2002; and

WHEREAS, in the attached letter of October 8, 2003, DDOT has requested an amendment to the FY 2003-2008 TIP to fund specific components of the 2.7 -mile fixed guideway transit demonstration project, as described in the attached materials; and

WHEREAS, the specific components of the 2.7 -mile fixed guideway transit demonstration project are exempt from the air quality conformity requirement, as defined in Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations "40 CFR Parts 51 and 93 Transportation Conformity Rule Amendments: Flexibility and Streamlining; Final Rule," issued in the August 15, 1997 *Federal Register* (see attachment); and

WHEREAS, in order to allow for public comment information on this amendment was provided at the TPB meeting on September 17;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board amends the FY 2003-2008 TIP to fund specific components of the 2.7 -mile fixed guideway transit demonstration project that are exempt from the air quality conformity requirement, as described in the attached materials.

conformity. Such projects may proceed toward implementation even in the absence of a conforming transportation plan and TIP. A particular action of the type listed in Table 2 of this section is not exempt if the MPO in consultation

with other agencies (see § 93.105(c)(1)(iii)), the EPA, and the FHWA (in the case of a highway project) or the FTA (in the case of a transit project) concur that it has potentially adverse emissions impacts for any

reason. States and MPOs must ensure that exempt projects do not interfere with TCM implementation. Table 2 follows:

TABLE 2.—EXEMPT PROJECTS

Safety

Railroad/highway crossing.
Hazard elimination program.
Safer non-Federal-aid system roads.
Shoulder improvements.
Increasing sight distance.
Safety improvement program.
Traffic control devices and operating assistance other than signalization projects.
Railroad/highway crossing warning devices.
Guardrails, median barriers, crash cushions.
Pavement resurfacing and/or rehabilitation.
Pavement marking demonstration.
Emergency relief (23 U.S.C. 125).
Fencing.
Skid treatments.
Safety roadside rest areas.
Adding medians.
Truck climbing lanes outside the urbanized area.
Lighting improvements.
Widening narrow pavements or reconstructing bridges (no additional travel lanes)
Emergency truck pullovers.

Mass Transit

Operating assistance to transit agencies.
Purchase of support vehicles.
Rehabilitation of transit vehicles¹.
Purchase of office, shop, and operating equipment for existing facilities.
Purchase of operating equipment for vehicles (e.g., radios, fareboxes, lifts, etc.).
Construction or renovation of power, signal, and communications systems.
Construction of small passenger shelters and information kiosks.
Reconstruction or renovation of transit buildings and structures (e.g., rail or bus buildings, storage and maintenance facilities, stations, terminals, and ancillary structures).
Rehabilitation or reconstruction of track structures, track, and trackbed in existing rights-of-way.
Purchase of new buses and rail cars to replace existing vehicles or for minor expansions of the fleet¹.
Construction of new bus or rail storage/maintenance facilities categorically excluded in 23 CFR part 771.

Air Quality

Continuation of ride-sharing and van-pooling promotion activities at current levels.
Bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Other

Specific activities which do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as:
Planning and technical studies.
Grants for training and research programs.
Planning activities conducted pursuant to titles 23 and 49 U.S.C.
Federal-aid systems revisions.
Engineering to assess social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed action or alternatives to that action.
Noise attenuation.
Emergency or hardship advance land acquisitions (23 CFR 712.204(d)).
Acquisition of scenic easements.
Plantings, landscaping, etc.
Sign removal.
Directional and informational signs.
Transportation enhancement activities (except rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities).
Repair of damage caused by natural disasters, civil unrest, or terrorist acts, except projects involving substantial functional, locational or capacity changes.

Note: ¹In PM₁₀ nonattainment or maintenance areas, such projects are exempt only if they are in compliance with control measures in the applicable implementation plan.

§ 93.127 Projects exempt from regional emissions analyses.

Notwithstanding the other requirements of this subpart, highway and transit projects of the types listed in Table 3 of this section are exempt from regional emissions analysis requirements. The local effects of these

projects with respect to CO or PM₁₀ concentrations must be considered to determine if a hot-spot analysis is required prior to making a project-level conformity determination. These projects may then proceed to the project development process even in the absence of a conforming transportation

plan and TIP. A particular action of the type listed in Table 3 of this section is not exempt from regional emissions analysis if the MPO in consultation with other agencies (see § 93.105(c)(1)(iii)), the EPA, and the FHWA (in the

case of a highway project) or the FTA (in the case of a transit project) concur that it has potential regional impacts for any reason. Table 3 follows:

TABLE 3.—PROJECTS EXEMPT FROM REGIONAL EMISSIONS ANALYSES

Intersection channelization projects.
Intersection signalization projects at individual intersections.
Interchange reconfiguration projects.
Changes in vertical and horizontal alignment.
Truck size and weight inspection stations.
Bus terminals and transfer points.

§ 93.128 Traffic signal synchronization projects.
Traffic signal synchronization projects may be approved, funded, and implemented without satisfying the requirements of this subpart. However,

all subsequent regional emissions analyses required by §§ 93.118 and 93.119 for transportation plans, TIPs, or projects not from a conforming plan and TIP must include such regionally

significant traffic signal synchronization projects.

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GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Office of the Director

October 8, 2003

Mr. Ronald Kirby
Director
Department of Transportation Planning
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002

Re: Amendment to the FY 2003-2008 Transportation Improvement Program

Dear Mr. Kirby:

This letter is being provided to amend the September 17, 2003 letter from DDOT requesting amendment of the FY 2003-2008 Metropolitan Washington Transportation Improvement Program to include the Anacostia Corridor Light Rail Demonstration Project. Specific air quality conformity exempt elements of that project are included in this amended request, including three separate amendments: one for planning activities associated with a light rail system in the District of Columbia; a second for hardship acquisition of railroad right-of-way; and third, for retrofit of the existing railroad right-of-way to accommodate the Anacostia Corridor Light Rail Demonstration Project, as follows:

- 1) Alternatives Analysis for light rail system planning throughout the District of Columbia, including Environmental Assessment and General Plans for the Anacostia Corridor Light Rail Demonstration Project in particular (\$8 million).
- 2) Hardship acquisition of existing CSX Shepherd Branch Industrial Spur railroad right-of-way (\$5 million); and
- 3) Retrofit of the existing railroad right-of-way to accommodate the Anacostia Corridor Demonstration Project (\$15 million), including:
 - Purchase of three transit vehicles for expansion of transit fleet;
 - Rehabilitation or reconstruction of track structures, track and trackbed in existing right-of-way;
Construction of power, signal and communications systems;
Construction of rail storage and maintenance facilities; and
 - Purchase of operating equipment for vehicles.

Total funding proposed for the three requested amendments is as follows:

Funding Source	Federal Amount	Local Amount	Total Amount
WMATA TIF		\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
District of Columbia		\$18,000,000	\$18,000,000
Total		\$28,000,000	\$28,000,000

Each of the elements under these three requests was included in our original September Seventeenth amendment request.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,



Michelle Pourciau
Deputy Director

Enclosures

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
CAPITAL COSTS (in \$1000)**

		FY 02	Carry Over	FY03	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	Source Total	Source	Eviron. Review
Facility:	Anacostia Starter Line Alternatives Analysis				8,000					LOCAL	8,000	CE(1)
	Pennsylvania Avenue, SE											
	South Capitol Street, SW											
	District of Columbia									Total:	8,000	
<p>The District of Columbia, in cooperation with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority will prepare an alternatives analysis, general plans and environmental assessment for a rail demonstration project. The study area encompasses 2.7-miles of unused CSX Shepherd Branch Industrial Railroad track between Pennsylvania Avenue, SE and the entrance to Bolling Air Force Base at DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency) Access Road and South Capitol Street, SW. Study elements will include determining the number and location of passenger stops and the selection of a mode of fixed guideway operation.</p>												
	CSX Shepherd Branch Spur Acquisition				5,000					WMATA	5,000	CE(1)
	Pennsylvania Avenue, SE											
	South Capitol Street, SW											
Jurisdiction:	District of Columbia									Total:	5,000	
<p>The project will acquire existing CSX Shepherd Branch Industrial Spur railroad right-of-way (ROW). The acquisition will preserve the transportation value of the ROW.</p>												
Facility:	CSX Shephard Branch Spur Retrofit				15,000					LOCAL	10,000	CE(1)
	Pennsylvania Avenue, SE									WMATA	5,000	
To:	South Capitol Street, SW											
Jurisdiction:	District of Columbia									Total	15,000	
Description:	<p>Purchase transit vehicles to enhance the transit fleet, rehabilitate track structures, construct power, signal and communications systems and operating equipment for vehicles, and construct rail storage and maintenance facilities.</p>											

**CONSTRAINED LONG RANGE PLAN (CLRP)
PROJECT DESCRIPTION FORM
Proposed Project or Action
2003-2030**

1. Agency: District of Columbia Department of Transportation

2. Project Type: Construction Project
 Transportation Control Measure (TCM)
 Major Investment Study
 Other Action/Study (engineering studies)

3. Location and Jurisdiction(s): I-295 Corridor, Washington, DC
Route: CSX Shepherd Branch Industrial Railroad Right-of-Way
From: Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
To: South Capitol Street, SW

4. Description of Project or Action:
The District of Columbia, in cooperation with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority will prepare an alternatives analysis, general plans and environmental assessment for a rail demonstration project. The study area encompasses 2.7-miles of unused CSX Shepherd Branch Industrial Railroad track between Pennsylvania Avenue, SE and the entrance to Bolling Air Force Base at DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency) Access Road and South Capitol Street, SW. Study elements will include determining the number and location of passenger stops and the selection of a mode of fixed guideway operation.

5. Purpose/Contribution to Regional Goals:
The study will evaluate using the best available technology to maximize the effectiveness of the transportation system by evaluating choices of new transit technology to be applied to a demonstration project. Future extensions of the Demonstration Project will be determined by the simultaneous DC Light Rail Transit Alternatives Analysis, expected to be completed in 2004-2005.

6. Total Cost: \$8.0 million

7. Source of Funds:
• District of Columbia

8. Date of Completion or Implementation:
Study completion is expected in 2004.

9. Is any part of this project intended for programming in the FY 04-09 TIP?
No
 Yes (Attach TIP PROJECT DESCRIPTION FORM)

10. Is this a highway capacity-increasing project on a limited access or other principal arterial highway?
Yes
 No

If yes, does this project require a Congestion Management Documentation form under the criteria on page 12 of the instructions?

Yes: Please complete and attach form
 No: Identify criteria that exempt the project:
Planning and technical studies

TIP PROJECT DESCRIPTION FORM
Proposed Project or Action
2003-2009

Agency: District of Columbia Department of Transportation

2. Project Number:

3. Location and Jurisdiction(s): I-295 Corridor, Washington, DC

Route: CSX Shepherd Branch Industrial Railroad Right-of-Way

From: Pennsylvania Avenue, SE

To: South Capitol Street, SW

4. Description of Project or Action:

The District of Columbia, in cooperation with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority will prepare an alternatives analysis, general plans and environmental assessment for a rail demonstration project. The study area encompasses 2.7-miles of unused CSX Shepherd Branch Industrial Railroad track between Pennsylvania Avenue, SE and the entrance to Bolling Air Force Base at DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency) Access Road and South Capitol Street, SW. Study elements will include determining the number and location of passenger stops and the selection of a mode of fixed guideway operation.

5. Project Status:

First time in TIP (indicate date of completion: 2004)

Was in previous TIP (indicate status below):

Proceeding as scheduled

Delayed or Reprogrammed (Please Explain):

TIP PROJECT DESCRIPTION FORM

Proposed Project or Action

2003-2009

1. **Agency:** District of Columbia Department of Transportation

2. **Project Number:**

3. **Location and Jurisdiction(s):** I-295 Corridor, Washington, DC

Route: CSX Shepherd Branch Industrial railroad Right-of-Way

From: Pennsylvania Avenue, SE

To: South Capitol Street, SW

4. **Description of Project or Action:**

Purchase transit vehicles to enhance the transit fleet, rehabilitate track structures, construct power, signal and communications systems and operating equipment for vehicles, and construct rail storage and maintenance facilities.

5. **Project Status:**

First time in TIP (indicate date of completion: 2005)

Was in previous TIP (indicate status below):

Proceeding as scheduled

Delayed or Reprogrammed (Please Explain):

**CONSTRAINED LONG RANGE PLAN (CLRP)
PROJECT DESCRIPTION FORM
Proposed Project or Action
2003-2030**

1. Agency: District of Columbia Department of Transportation

2. Project Type: Construction Project
 Transportation Control Measure (TCM)
 Major Investment Study
 Other Action/Study (engineering studies)

3. Location and Jurisdiction(s): I-295 Corridor, Washington, DC
Route: CSX Shephard Branch industrial railroad Right-of-way
From: Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
To: South Capitol Street, SW

4. Description of Project or Action:
The project will acquire existing CSX Shephard Branch Industrial Spur railroad right-of-way (ROW). The acquisition will preserve the transportation value of the ROW.

5. Purpose/Contribution to Regional Goals:
This action is intended to support the region's ability to plan transportation systems that protect environmental quality, cultural resources and communities by preserving the transportation value of the CSX Shephard Branch railroad right-of-way.

6. Total Cost: \$5.0 million

7. Source of Funds:
• WMATA Transit Infrastructure Investment Fund (TIIF)

8. Date of Completion or Implementation:
Construction is expected to begin in 2004, and operation is expected to begin in 2005.

9. Is any part of this project intended for programming in the FY04-09 TIP?
 No
 Yes (Attach TIP PROJECT DESCRIPTION FORM)

10. Is this a highway capacity-increasing project on a limited access or other principal arterial highway?
 Yes
 No

If yes, does this project require a Congestion Management Documentation form under the criteria on page 12 of the instructions?

Yes: Please complete and attach form
 No: Identify criteria that exempt the project:
Hardship advance land acquisition of existing railroad right-of-way;

TIP PROJECT DESCRIPTION FORM
Proposed Project or Action
2003-2009

1. **Agency:** District of Columbia Department of Transportation

2. **Project Number:**

3. **Location and Jurisdiction(s):** I-295 Corridor, Washington, DC

Route: CSX Shephard Branch industrial railroad Right-of-way

From: Pennsylvania Avenue, SE

To: South Capitol Street, SW

4. **Description of Project or Action:**

The project will acquire existing CSX Shephard Branch Industrial Spur railroad right-of-way (ROW). The acquisition will preserve the transportation value of the ROW.

5. **Project Status:**

First time in TIP (indicate date of completion: 2005)
Was in previous TIP (indicate status below):

Proceeding as scheduled

Delayed or Reprogrammed (Please Explain):