



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CENTRAL OFFICE • 1980 WEST BROAD STREET • COLUMBUS, OH 43223
JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR • JERRY WRAY, DIRECTOR

October 21, 2014

Ms. Laura S. Leffler, Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration - Ohio Division
200 North High Street, Room 328
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Statement of Interest – Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program

Dear Ms. Leffler:

President Obama signed the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) (P.L. 112-141) into law on July 6, 2012, with an effective date of October 1, 2012. MAP-21 creates a streamlined and performance-based surface transportation program, promotes accelerating project delivery and encourages innovation. Section 1313 of MAP-21 amends 23 U.S.C. 327, to establish a permanent Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program and allow any State to participate and for a State to renew its participation in the program.

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has a long history of working together to expedite the environmental process for transportation projects in Ohio. This has been accomplished by building efficiency and consistency into the process while ensuring the required level of protection and accountability for environmental resources has been maintained.

In accordance with 23 CFR 773.105, ODOT would like to expand our program by declaring our interest in the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program in 23 U.S.C. 327 to assume responsibilities for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and all other Federal environmental laws pertaining to the review or approval of ODOT's transportation program. With this assumption, ODOT will be responsible for complying with all applicable federal environmental laws and with FHWA environmental regulations, policies, and guidance, and will be legally responsible and liable for the environmental decisions made on all of ODOT's projects.

This letter is ODOT's declaration that we intend to submit an application to participate in the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program. Under the NEPA Assignment Program, ODOT will assume sole responsibility and liability for our NEPA actions and decisions and is subject to Federal court jurisdiction. We acknowledge that we will actively work to submit a draft application (expected by the end of this year) and meet all applicable program criteria (including the enactment of necessary State legal authority- expected in early 2015).

ODOT looks forward to working closely with FHWA during the application process and implementation of this exciting program.

Respectfully,

Jerry Wray, Director

Copies – Director, J. Barna, G. Murphy, J. Townley, T. Hill