



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

Indiana Division

575 North Pennsylvania Street, Room 254
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

January XX, 2011

HDA-IN

Mr. Jim Stark
Deputy Commissioner
Planning and Project Management
Indiana Department of Transportation
100 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Mr. Stark:

The Indiana Division Office of FHWA is issuing two planning emphasis areas (PEAs) for implementing SAFETEA-LU in FY 2012. These will help us focus our efforts on priority areas and prepare all of us for future work program reviews. These PEAs are:

- Status of quarterly project tracking reports
- Planning and Environmental Linkages – FHWA Every Day Counts Innovative Initiative

We request that the MPOs address them in their Unified Planning Work Programs or Statement of Works. The following are some comments to guide interpretation of each PEA:

Quarterly project tracking reports – MPOs are to document the method for tracking projects quarterly. Include how you manage those changes with your INDOT Districts or others to ensure project schedules are kept consistent and up-to-date. This continues the role of the MPO to monitor the funding and project development progress. The MPO will also help ensure a certified ERC is maintained by the LPA in order to continue to be eligible for federal funding.

Planning & Environmental Linkages – MPOs and INDOT are requested to program a work element for this initiative. The PEL initiative purpose is to help MPOs and INDOT consider environmental issues early in the transportation planning process, and use information and analysis conducted in planning in the NEPA process. Using the authority provided in 23 CFR 450.212, 23 CFR 450.318, and Appendix A to 23 CFR 450, FHWA, INDOT and the MPOs will fully consider planning work performed for a project at the beginning of the NEPA process. FHWA will provide more information on this initiative in spring 2011.



If you have any questions, please call Joyce Newland, Planning & Environmental Specialist, at (317) 226-5353 or e-mail at joyce.newland@fhwa.dot.gov.

Sincerely yours,

Robert E. Tally Jr., P.E.
Division Administrator

CC:
Indiana MPO Council
Audra Blasdel, INDOT
Dan Keefer, FHWA
Roy Nunnally, INDOT

Sincerely,

Robert F. Tally Jr., P.E.
Division Administrator

DRAFT