



## Section 1. Florida LRTP Amendment Thresholds

The guidance in this section sets the minimum thresholds for project changes that trigger an LRTP Amendment at the time of STIP approval, a STIP amendment or NEPA approval. Even if a project change does not require an amendment, an MPO may still elect to do an amendment at its option if appropriate circumstances warrant. For determining TIP/STIP/LRTP/NEPA consistency for approval of a NEPA document, please refer to *Section 2. NEPA Consistency and Approval* and the 2012 LRTP Expectations Letter for additional details. This document was jointly prepared by FDOT and the FHWA Florida Division. The following acronyms are used:

CFP – Cost Feasible Plan  
CST – Construction Phase  
FDOT – Florida Department of Transportation  
FHWA – Federal Highway Administration  
LRTP – Long Range Transportation Plan  
MPO – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act  
PD&E – Project Development and Environment Phase  
PE – Preliminary Engineering Phase  
ROW – Right of Way Phase  
SIS – Strategic Intermodal System  
STIP – State Transportation Improvement Program  
TIP – Transportation Improvement Program

### LRTP Amendments

#### Project Cost Changes that Require an LRTP Amendment

An LRTP amendment will be required for LRTP cost increases that exceed 50% of project cost and \$50 million.

When assessing project cost changes (including project costs documented in NEPA documents), the cost of the project includes the phases after the PD&E which, for purposes of this document, are Design/PE, ROW and Construction phases.

#### Other Changes that Require an LRTP Amendment

- A. Design Concept or Scope Changes: A major change in the project termini (e.g. expansion) or a change in a project concept(s) such as adding a bridge, addition of lanes, addition of an interchange, etc.
- B. Deleting a full project from the CFP.

- C. Adding a new project where no phases are currently listed in the CFP.
- D. Projects or Project Phase Initiation Date for projects in the CFP:
  - a) Advancing a project phase from the 3<sup>rd</sup> 5 years and the last 10 year band of the LRTP to the TIP/STIP years; advancing a project more than one 5 year band (see table with LRTP amendment examples below).
  - b) Adding a phase to an existing CFP project (e.g. if ROW is funded, adding CST Phase) where (1) the new phase is funded in the TIP/STIP years/1<sup>st</sup> 5-year band of the LRTP and (2) one or more phases of a different project must be deferred to a later band or to the Needs/Illustrative List in order to demonstrate fiscal constraint.
  - c) For advancing phases of minor projects, please see the LRTP Modifications section.
- E. Projects or Project Phase Initiation Date for projects beyond the CFP:
  - a) Moving a new project from a Needs or Illustrative List to the CFP where no phases are currently listed in the CFP.
  - b) Moving new phases from a Needs or Illustrative List to an existing CFP project where (1) the new phase is funded in the TIP/STIP years/1<sup>st</sup> 5-year band of the LRTP and (2) one or more phases of a different project must be deferred to a later band or to the Needs/Illustrative List in order to demonstrate fiscal constraint.

LRTP Amendment Examples				
CFP				Needs
1 <sup>st</sup> 5-yr band TIP/STIP years	2 <sup>nd</sup> 5-yr band	3 <sup>rd</sup> 5-yr band	Last (10-yr) band	Needs/ Illustrative List
TO	← FROM			
TO	← FROM		← FROM	
	TO	← FROM	← FROM	
← TO ANY BAND				← FROM

## LRTP Modifications

Changes that are less significant than those above that trigger an LRTP amendment would only require a modification. These include:

- A. Design Concept or Scope Changes: A minor change in the project termini equal to or less than 10% of the total project, i.e., adjusting length for turn lane tapers.
- B. Identification of planned use of Federal funds for existing CFP projects if Federal funds are added to a project funded with only state or local funds in the adopted LRTP.
- C. Project or Project Phase Initiation Date:
  - a) Advancing a project from a 5- or 10-year band to an adjacent 5 year band beyond the TIP/STIP years/1<sup>st</sup> 5-yr band.
  - b) Adding a new phase to an existing CFP project (e.g. if ROW is funded, adding CST Phase) where the new phase is funded beyond the TIP/STIP years/1<sup>st</sup> 5-year band of the LRTP.

- c) Adding a new phase to an existing CFP project (e.g. if ROW is funded, adding CST Phase) from a Needs or Illustrative list to the CFP where the new phase is funded beyond the TIP/STIP years/1<sup>st</sup> 5-year band of the LRTP.
- d) Adding a new phase to an existing CFP project (e.g. if ROW is funded, adding CST Phase) from a Needs or Illustrative list to the CFP where (1) the new phase is funded in the TIP/STIP years/1<sup>st</sup> 5-year band of the LRTP and (2) the added phases use new funds not contained in the LRTP Revenue Forecast to the CFP.

LRTP Modification Examples				
CFP				Needs
1 <sup>st</sup> 5-yr band TIP/STIP years	2 <sup>nd</sup> 5-yr band	3 <sup>rd</sup> 5-yr band	Last (10-yr) band	Needs/ Illustrative List
TO ←	FROM			
	TO ←	FROM		
		TO ←	FROM	

### Advancing Phases for Minor Projects

Projects and/or project phases of \$5 million or less can be moved from any 5-yr band to any 5-yr band by modification to the LRTP.

## Background and Related Information

### TIP/STIP Consistency with LRTP

TIP/STIPs are required to be consistent with LRTPs {23 CFR 450.216(k) and 23 CFR 450.324(g)}. The TIP/STIP is consistent with the LRTP when:

- A. TIP/STIP project costs are within 50% and \$50 million of projects costs shown in the LRTP.
- B. TIP/STIP initiation phase is within the first two 5-year bands of the LRTP;
- C. Project Scope (including termini, number of lanes, interchanges, etc.,) is consistent between the TIP/STIP and LRTP. Project Termini may have minor variations if there is no major scope change.

For initial STIP approval, TIPs are incorporated into the STIP unchanged {23 CFR 450.216(b)}.

### NEPA Consistency and Approval

A NEPA document is consistent with the LRTP and STIP/TIP when:

- A. NEPA discussion of the project implementation reflects the planning documents in these areas: scope, cost, general funding sources, description, and logical termini.
- B. An amendment to either the LRTP or STIP/TIP is NOT needed.
- C. The limits in the NEPA document (logical termini) are addressed in the LRTP CFP or Needs Plan, regardless of the implementing constructible segments.

Modifications should occur to the STIP/TIP or LRTP prior to NEPA approval whenever possible. However, modifications may be completed after the NEPA signature in accordance with the state and MPO established planning procedures. The NEPA document must provide reasonable assurances that the changes will occur as noted in the Commitments and Recommendations Section of the NEPA document.

For the final NEPA document to be signed:

In an MPO area

- A. The project must be described within the LRTP. The description, at a minimum, must include roadway identification, termini, implementation time frame and full project cost.
- B. Ideally, all phases of the project will be funded in the LRTP CFP.
- C. At least one subsequent phase of the entire project must be in the LRTP CFP. If the next phase for the entire project is not in the CFP, then at least one segment of the project must be fully funded in the CFP through construction.
- D. The information that is then displayed in the TIP/STIP would depend on the timing of the programming for the next phase of the project implementation.

In a non-MPO area

- A. The project must be consistent with the Florida Transportation Plan.
- B. If the project is on the SIS, the SIS 10-Year CFP may be used to show the project's planned implementation. If the project is not on the SIS, other publically available long range considerations may be used to show the project's planned implementation, such as local government comprehensive plans.
- C. The project or phase of a project must be in the STIP. If funding of the project is beyond the timeframe of the STIP, the STIP must contain an informational project with a description of the subsequent phase(s) as reflected in the SIS 10 Year Plan full project cost information or other long range public planning documents.

## **Review and Revision of Florida LRTP Amendment Thresholds**

This guidance will be reviewed and revised as needed should the state be subject to Air Quality Conformity requirements. The effectiveness of this document will be evaluated after a one-year implementation period which ends in October 2014. Revisions as agreed upon by the parties will be made as needed. This guidance sets the minimum thresholds for project changes that trigger an LRTP Amendment. Even if a project change does not require an amendment, an MPO may still elect to do an amendment at its option if appropriate circumstances warrant.