

**THE FY 2008-2011 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
FOR THE CHARLESTON, WV MSA**

**I N T R O D U C T I O N**

Each urbanized area, as a condition of receiving Federal capital or operating assistance, must have a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process that results in plans and programs consistent with the comprehensively planned development of the urbanized area. The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a multi-modal transportation document required by the US Department of Transportation to fulfill the objectives of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process. RIC's TIP has been expanded to include the ozone maintenance area which is all of Kanawha and Putnam counties.

The FY 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Charleston, West Virginia Metropolitan Area includes transit and highway projects to be implemented in FY 2008 through FY 2011. It is prepared in cooperation with the US Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, the West Virginia Department of Transportation, the Kanawha Valley Regional Transportation Authority (KVRTA) and local communities.

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy For Users (SAFETEA-LU) includes provisions regarding the preparation of the TIP and the

program's contents. These provisions include project selection, project prioritization, a financial plan which is to demonstrate that funding can reasonably be expected to be available, and an opportunity for public comment prior to approval.

Projects included in the FY 2008-2011 TIP are approved by the committees providing input into the Regional Intergovernmental Council's decision-making process. The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) coordinates the activities of the agency staffs and reviews the technical procedures and standards for conducting the process. Members of the public, as well as private transit operators are also given an opportunity to provide input into the TIP. This is accomplished by means of a public notice published in the newspaper and a public comment period.

Recommendations of the TTAC are then taken to the Regional Intergovernmental Council's policy board, which is responsible for the overall policy, guidance, and direction for the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process in the Charleston, West Virginia Metropolitan Area. Its voting membership, forty-five (45) in number, consists of the mayors and county commissioners of each of the municipalities and counties in Region III as well as one citizen from each county and the City of Charleston, two minority interest representatives and nine citizens appointed by the RIC policy board. The members approve or disapprove any projects presented to them, and have the authority to propose any projects they feel should be included in the TIP or recommend changing priorities. However, any changes are subject to approval by the West Virginia Department of Transportation. The RIC policy body makes the final decision on the

document to be submitted to the WV Department of Transportation. Amendments to the TIP are made quarterly in compliance with the schedule prescribed by the West Virginia Department of Transportation (Figure 1).