

## **Frequently Asked Questions about the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

### **What is the TIP?**

The TIP is a list of transportation projects receiving federal funding in Southeast Michigan. The Transportation Improvement Program represents the priorities of cities and transportation agencies for implementing the region's long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The RTP documents the future development of the transportation system. For a community or agency to receive federal highway or transit funds, the project must first be in the RTP. To get in the TIP, projects pass through a rigorous technical review that determines the impact on our community's air quality, environment, and population. In addition, financial analysis assures funding is available for all projects. Comments from stakeholders and the public are actively sought during the this process.

### **Who approves the TIP?**

Projects are subject to an extensive committee review that includes recommendations from SEMCOG's TIP Development Committee and the Transportation Advisory Council, and final approval from the Executive Committee. In addition, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), acting on behalf of the governor, and the Federal Highway Administration must approve the TIP. Because agency priorities change from time to time, the TIP is subject to change with ample notification. To ensure that the TIP reflects current priorities, projects are added or deleted three times each year.

### **What's in the TIP?**

The TIP contains transportation projects for the years 2008 through 2011. As of July, 2007, the list includes approximately 540 projects totaling \$1.8 billion from the Michigan Department of Transportation, the five major transit agencies, cities, villages, and county road commissions in the seven-county region.

### **What's not in the TIP Database?**

The TIP database is limited in the amount of information available for each project. The database does not include engineering details or the exact location of all the projects. Some projects or programs are of such a general nature that specific locations may not be known at the time the TIP is authorized. Specific construction schedules are not included. Please contact the project sponsor directly for more information. The TIP is capital-improvement oriented; therefore, you will not find information on day-to-day operating and maintenance activities of the cities, county road commissions, and MDOT.