



# TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Planning for People in the Greater Lansing Region Since 1956

## REGIONAL PLANNING FOR TRANSPORTATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 2011 OFFICERS

#### CHAIRPERSON

David Pohl, Clinton County

#### VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Howard Pizzo, Eaton County

#### TREASURER

Carol Wood, City of Lansing

#### SECRETARY

Dianne Holman, Ingham County

#### COMMISSIONERS

##### **Clinton County**

Russel Bauerle  
Larry Martin  
David Pohl

##### **Eaton County**

Daryl Baker  
John Boles  
Jim Osieczonek  
Howard Pizzo  
Darrell Tennis

##### **Ingham County**

Kevin Beard  
James Dravenstatt-Moceri  
Dianne Holman  
Brian McGrain  
John Veenstra

##### **City of Lansing**

Tina Houghton  
Ralph Monsma  
Shirley M. Rodgers  
Carol Wood  
Jessica Yorko

**Michigan Department of  
Transportation**  
Denise Jackson

#### EX-OFFICIO

City of Lansing Mayor  
Clinton, Eaton and Ingham  
County Chairpersons

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Susan M.C. Pigg, CEcd

**WHAT IS THE TIP?** The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is our region's four-year list of proposed road and transit projects. TIP projects affect our region's transportation network. Projects in the TIP must be balanced across the region (Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Counties) to meet financial and air quality standards and they are eligible for federal, state, and local funding. State and federal governments require Metropolitan Planning Organizations like Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC) to prepare a TIP as a short-range planning document. It must complement the region's Long Range Transportation Plan.

**WHAT IS THE ILLUSTRATIVE LIST?** The illustrative list is a collection of projects proposed or being considered for possible future implementation in our region. Illustrative lists are not a formal part of the regional TIP (short range plan) or of the Long Range Transportation Plan. They are an addition to each. Illustrative list projects do not have their funding committed and may lack engineering detail. Including them in the illustrative list, but not the TIP, recognizes that the project is being considered, that it is regionally significant, and that it may be eligible for federal funds. Amending or changing a project in the illustrative list offers a chance to consider how the project would fit with the regional transportation vision.

**WHY ADD TO THE ILLUSTRATIVE LIST?** In lieu of a letter or other support for the transportation project proposed, the region can demonstrate its support by including the project in the TIP illustrative list. Showing that a project fits with our regional vision for transportation improvements is good planning and could improve a project's competitiveness.

**DOES GETTING ON THE ILLUSTRATIVE LIST ASSURE THE PROJECT WILL BE FUNDED AND CONSTRUCTED?** NO. The Illustrative list is just for planning purposes. If it is funded with state or federal funds, it can be added to the TIP. The project must have committed funding and show that it is part of the regional package of projects (TIP) that together meet regional financial constraints and air quality conformity requirements. This is the planning phase. Then, to move to a construction phase, the project must meet specific public notice and environmental reviews to continue.

**HOW DO PROJECTS GET AMENDED INTO THE ILLUSTRATIVE LIST?** Additions or changes to the TIP illustrative list are submitted by the staff, departments, or officials of our region's Act 51 designated transportation agencies including cities, villages, county road commissions, or the state department of transportation. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's advisory committees consider and issue recommendations to the full Commission board. The Capital Area Regional Transportation Study (CARTS) Committee offers a technical review, and the Transportation Review Committee (TRC) considers policy issues. With those recommendations, the full Tri-County Commission decides about amendments during its open public meeting.

**IF TCRPC ADDS OR CHANGES A PROJECT IN THE ILLUSTRATIVE LIST, IS THE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY/IMPLEMENTING AGENCY REQUIRED TO FUND OR CONSTRUCT THAT PROJECT?** NO. TCRPC does not control or direct local municipal funding. So, while the project may be considered in a regional plan, the local road agency or department will decide.