

Alliance for Health Promotion
401 West Michigan Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202

December 20, 2011

Michael B. Cline, Commissioner
Indiana Department of Transportation
100 North Senate Ave., Room N758
Indianapolis, IN 46204



Dear Commissioner Cline:

As 2011 draws to a close, the partners of Health by Design wish to check in with you on the status of a number of pending Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) plans and processes:

Long Range Transportation Plan – What is the status of the 2010-2035 long range transportation plan for which public comments were due in May 2011? We have not received any follow-up communication or information from you with regard to the significant concerns expressed about the public involvement process that was followed, nor as to the substantive comments that partners provided on the plan itself. One of our requests last spring was that you rerelease the plan, as a draft, after responding to the comments received during that input period. Is that still an option? What can we expect with regard to the plan development and/or release in 2012?

Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) – We understand that even without an updated long range transportation plan in place, the STIP was finalized in June and given conditional approval pending corrective action through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). That corrective action appears to be a continuation of unresolved corrective action first requested by FHWA and FTA in January of 2010 and related to the coordination and completion of effective planning procedures and agreements between the Metropolitan Planning Organizations, transit operators, and the INDOT offices. Does the need for corrective action still remain, and if so, what actions and responses are still required by INDOT?

Public Involvement Manual – During the district open houses held last spring, INDOT staff announced verbally and provided written documentation that the Public Involvement Policies and Procedures Manual would be revised and updated this past spring/summer. That opportunity was also offered, both by INDOT and FHWA staff, as one of the ways that we could address the concerns we've raised and help to make improvements for the future. Unfortunately, we are not aware that any action has been taken to initiate that process or to engage stakeholders and the public on the issue. Does INDOT still intend to update the public involvement manual and what is the timeline for doing so? Can we expect to be included as stakeholders in the process?

Design Manual – Similarly, INDOT leadership and staff have been indicating the development of a new design manual for more than two years. We are particularly interested in this document as it relates to design standards for multimodal facilities, the integration of complete streets projects, and the opportunity for stakeholder engagement. We have been repeatedly assured that INDOT staff would be reaching out to us to invite us to participate in the process. What is the status of this manual? Can we expect action on it in 2012 and the opportunity to be included in its development?

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Transportation Enhancement Funds – We understand that the call for Transportation Enhancement projects was “paused” in August. What is the status of this funding and the application process, and is it your intent to resume making awards in 2012? Additionally, we request a copy of the quarterly reporting of project tracking and programming, with detailed financial and schedule related information, which you indicated you were to have begun using this fall.

Our partners remain committed to the pursuit of multimodal options and a balanced transportation network that meets the needs of all users, particularly those that are traditionally underserved. We continue to expect the wisest, most effective use of limited fiscal resources and the meaningful engagement of key stakeholders and the public in planning, processes and projects. We are hopeful that there will be opportunities to work together in 2012, creating transportation solutions that best meet Hoosiers’ needs. Thank you in advance for the courtesy of a prompt and thorough response on these matters.

Sincerely,



Kim Irwin
Executive Director

cc: Mr. Robert F. Tally, Jr., Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
Ms. Marisol Simon, Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, Region 5
Mr. Max Azizi, Assistant Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
Mr. Victor Mendez, Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
Mr. Peter M. Rogoff, Administrator, Federal Transit Administration
Mr. Joseph Szabo, Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration
Mr. Eric B. Beightel, Office of Transportation Policy, United States Department of Transportation
The Honorable Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor, State of Indiana
The Honorable Ed Soliday, Representative, Indiana General Assembly
The Honorable Thomas Wyss, Senator, Indiana General Assembly