November 5, 2014

Mr. Charles Zelle
Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: 2015-2018 Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP)

Dear Commissioner Zelle:

The following is in response to MnDOT’s transmittal of the Minnesota Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-2018 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) requesting approval.

Based on the State DOT and MPO self-certifications of their statewide and metropolitan planning processes, in addition to our involvement in the State and MPO transportation planning processes, the FHWA and FTA hereby find that the 2015-2018 STIP is based on a transportation planning process that substantially meetings the requirements of 23 U.S.C. Sections 134 and 135, U.S.C. Sections 5303-5304, 23 CFR 450 (Subparts B and C), and 49 CFR Part 613 (Subparts B and C). Minnesota’s 2015-2018 STIP is therefore approved. This approval also includes the corresponding individual MPO Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) that comprise the STIP, as well as a joint FHWA/FTA air quality conformity determination for the Metropolitan Council’s TIP pursuant to 40 CFR 93 (transportation conformity regulations).

It should be noted that approval of the 2015-2018 STIP is not to be construed as a Federal-aid eligibility determination. Each project must satisfy the specific requirements of the program from which Federal funds are requested, as well as other Federal requirements as appropriate before Federal funds are authorized.
Thank you for your continued effort to improve the STIP process and ensure a cooperative, continuous, and comprehensive transportation process. We recognize the complexity of assembling the STIP and appreciate the hard work and effort expended by staff involved. We look forward to working together to advance the projects and programs in the STIP, and to continuing to provide the traveling public with a transportation system of the highest caliber.

If you have any questions regarding our joint action and the 2015-2018 STIP approval, please contact Mr. Kris Riesenber, FHWA Technical Services Team Leader at (651) 291-6114, or Mr. Bill Wheeler, FTA Community Planner at (312) 353-2639.

Sincerely,

Brenda Red Wing  
Division Administrator (Acting)  
Federal Highway Administration

Cc: Mark Gieseke  
Brian Gage  
Mark Nelson

Marisol R. Simón  
Regional Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration