



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

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April 4, 2024

Jennifer Pyrz, PE
Chief Development Officer
Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation
1501 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46222

RE: Environmental Review Approval for Blue Line Bus Rapid Transit, Indianapolis, IN

Dear Ms. Pyrz:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has evaluated environmental review documents submitted by the Indianapolis Public Transportation Corporation (IndyGo) for the proposed Blue Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) (the “Project”) in Indianapolis, IN. FTA finds that the Project meets the criteria for a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) categorical exclusion in accordance with 23 CFR § 771.118 (c)(9). Per FTA Guidance actions that meet the criteria for a CE in the CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1508.4) and paragraph (a) of 23 CFR § 771.118 may be designated as a CE under 23 CFR § 771.118 after FTA review and approval of documentation demonstrating the specific conditions or criteria are satisfied and significant environmental effects will not result.

IndyGo is proposing an approximately 24-mile east-west route starting in the Town of Cumberland and culminating at the Indianapolis International Airport with vehicles operating in both mixed traffic and dedicated lanes. The Project would primarily be a replacement of the existing IndyGo Local Route 8 east of Holt Road. The local service west of Holt Road would continue. The Project would reduce transit travel times in the corridor by up to 40 percent, support redevelopment efforts, and provide improved service levels to the high concentrations of underserved populations; thereby providing increased access to the community, improving urban mobility, and connecting neighborhoods to economic opportunities and cultural amenities within Marion County.

The environmental records reviewed by FTA consisted of a Documented Categorical Exclusion (DCE) checklist dated February 2024, and additional supporting information. On August 22, 2023, in accordance with 36 C.F.R. Part 800 – Protection of Historic Properties and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), FTA provided the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology (Indiana’s State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) with the following determinations: Area of Potential Effect (APE); National Register of Historic Properties (NRHP) eligibility determinations; and an effects

assessment finding of “No Historic Properties Affected.” The SHPO provided its concurrence on January 10, 2024.

This NEPA determination applies only to the Project as described in the DCE checklist and supporting materials. Any changes to the Project which could result in significant environmental impacts not outlined in the DCE checklist, including the disclosure of new information or previously unidentified environmental concerns, will require a re-evaluation of this Project under NEPA.

This confirmation of a categorical exclusion does not provide an FTA commitment that future Federal funds will be approved for this Project. Any costs incurred under FTA pre-award authority must meet all Federal requirements prior to those costs being incurred in order to retain eligibility of those costs for future FTA grant assistance.

If you have further questions regarding this determination, please contact Cecilia C. Godfrey at 312-705-1268 or cecilia.crenshaw@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Anthony W. Greep,
Director, Office of Planning & Program Development

cc: Cecilia C. Godfrey, FTA

Anshu Singh, FTA