

February Study Newsletter

The update to the Traffic Impact Study (TIS) Guidelines is entering the third full month and is preparing to shift from existing assessment to preparing the future guideline document. The month of January was busy for the project team with an external stakeholder feedback session, preparing a draft Interim Technical Bulletin, and summarizing all the great insight and ideas for the Existing Assessment Document. Looking ahead, we are scheduled to finalize the Interim Technical Bulletin and Existing Assessment this month. Additionally, we will be developing the overall framework for the new guidelines.

January Stakeholder Meeting Recap

On Thursday, January 19th, the NDOT/Arcadis team held a 90-minute, virtual stakeholder engagement meeting to obtain feedback from the external development community and area engineers/planners on the existing TIS Guidelines. In total, 33 attendees participated in the meeting which included an initial presentation and then breakout rooms that were facilitated by Arcadis staff. The breakout rooms provided a smaller, group setting for stakeholders to discuss three main topics: review process, technical requirements, and multimodal/TDM elements. The following were some of the key elements the group felt were critical to address in the future guidelines:

- Better access to data required for TIS development
- System to increase transparency and expediency in the review process
- Clear technical expectations and requirements. Less ambiguity in the requirements allows the developers and their engineers to appropriately scope the TIS and have a better understanding of the approval timeline.
- Technical requirements should vary with respect to the characteristics of the surrounding area. The “one-size fits all” approach to the current technical requirements should instead be replaced by a more versatile system.
- Clear expectations need to be provided for all analysis and recommendations relevant to TDM and multi-modal initiatives. To reduce confusion, multi-modal requirements should be adaptable to the needs of specific areas.
- There is a need for better coordination between NDOT, Planning, and WeGo. Stakeholders would like a clear roadmap as to when and how to work between the various offices within Nashville Metro.

The team will be engaging stakeholders again this spring for feedback on the draft, revised guidelines.

THIS MONTH'S ACTIVITIES

The following key activities are planned to take place in February:

Interim Technical Bulletin Development

A draft Interim Technical Bulletin has been developed and is currently being reviewed by NDOT staff. The intent of this document is to clarify the thresholds for Traffic Impact Studies (TIS) related to proposed developments and clarify the required considerations for bicycles, pedestrians, and transit users. The following are the topics anticipated to be covered in the Interim Technical Bulletin:

- Document thresholds have been revised to be consistent with Section 17.20.140 of Metropolitan Code of Laws, Zoning Code.
- Consideration shall be given to alternative modes including pedestrian, bicycles, and transit. This consideration should include an existing inventory of these facilities and the impact new trips will have on them when located adjacent to and/or extending out from proposed developments.
- Studies should consider all relevant, adopted plans and programmed projects in the study area. Links to these plans and underlying data are provided as part of this Bulletin.
- The safe movement of all modes shall be considered as part of all studies. The level of analysis will be determined based on NDOT's High Injury Network and the type(s) of trips that are anticipated to be using various adjacent roadways.

The document is anticipated to be finalized by the end of February for NDOT Senior Management approval and issuance.

Existing Assessment Document

As the team wraps up the existing assessment phase of the study, portions of the Core Team will be meeting with Metro Planning staff to update them on the study and provide them with an opportunity to give specific feedback on challenges with the existing process or desired outcomes from the guidelines update. Additionally, meetings will take place with other key individuals in the planning community who have taken a specific interest or have institutional knowledge of the existing process.

Schedule Updates

The study schedule remains largely unchanged with the policy and process revisions expected to be wrapped up this Spring. The existing assessment and Interim Instructional Bulletin tasks have been extended to the end of February to allow for additional reviews, but the policy and process revisions task will be running concurrently to mitigate any schedule impacts.

Task	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Existing Conditions and Peer Research		[Blue bar]			★				
Interim Instructional Bulletin			[Blue bar]						
Policy and Process Revisions					[Blue bar]		★		
Digital Solution Development			[Blue bar]						

Staying Connected to the Study

A [project webpage](#) has been set up to share information with the public about this study. While we will mainly be reaching out to stakeholders through professional organizations, there is a contact form on the website to sign up for direct e-mails on feedback opportunities and updates.

For NDOT and Nashville Metro staff, we will be sending out monthly e-mail updates on the status of the study and upcoming activities so you can stay informed on the progress of this exciting project.

If you have additional questions or want to discuss any element further, please reach out to NDOT Project Manager Melisa Hancock at melisa.hancock@nashville.gov or (615) 862-5056.