

Transit Communication Interface Profiles (TCIP)

Institute of Transportation Engineers Response to Comments

The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) received appeals and comments on the notice to rescind the Transit Communication Interface Profiles (TCIP) standards. This document addresses the concerns identified by the appellants and states ITE's intended course of action.

History

Discussions of the need for and approach to developing the TCIP standards started in 1996. ITE was approached to be the standards development organization for the initial set of standards and was approved by the ITS Joint program office to do so. As with all NTCIP standards, the TCIP standards were developed through a partnership agreement between ITE, AASHTO and NEMA. Over time the initial set of transit related standards grew to an extensive suite of standards that not only include transit priority but also the management and operations of transit systems and operations. ITE membership includes only a small segment of the transit authorities and agencies. Over time it became obvious that APTA would be a more appropriate home for the transit related standards and their ongoing development, distribution and maintenance. APTA was approached by the Joint Program office and ITE to determine their interest and capacity to support this effort. They agreed to investigate and further consider an APTA role. APTA, after evaluation, agreed to take on this role. In 2001, APTA was formally tasked by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to assume responsibility for the continued development of the TCIP standard. Subsequently they were also tasked with the ongoing maintenance of the existing TCIP standards. **The ITE rescission action is recognition of the assumption by APTA of the maintenance and updating of the existing TCIP suite and development for future standards.**

ITE intends to maintain a strong working relationship with APTA and is confident that ITE's continuing interest in transit signal priority standards can and will be well coordinated.

Appeals and Comments

Two appeals and three comments were received as a result of ITE's Notice of Intent to Rescind.

- APTA's standards development process: Several comments from appellants expressed concern that APTA's standards development process was not consensus-based. **This comment relates to APTA's internal processes and not to ITE's proposed rescission.** The comment was shared with APTA who provided written documentation of their process. Their process has been revised recently to address some of these concerns. The process is described in the companion to this document.
- Ongoing availability of TCIP 1400 series: Comments also mentioned concern for the ongoing availability, maintenance and transition for the current TCIP 1400 series standards from ITE to APTA. APTA has for some time been providing

ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the existing TCIP standards in anticipation of the transfer. Additionally, **the contractual agreement between FTA and APTA includes maintenance of the current TCIP standards, message sets and data elements.**

- Coordination between APTA and NTCIP standards: **This issue is related to APTA's processes and not related to ITE's rescission.** APTA has a long history of working cooperatively with the other SDOs including ITE. ITE is satisfied that APTA has a process in place that takes advantage of committee members who have historical knowledge of the TCIP standard's history and that APTA is committed to an ongoing working relationship to coordinate TCIP with NTCIP.

ITE Intent:

Based on the above assessment it is ITE's finding that the industry will be better served by the transfer of TCIP standards to APTA and rescission of the ITE TCIP standards. Indeed, through FTA contractual agreements with APTA, this change has already occurred. The TCIP standards through APTA will be continually maintained, coordinated with future TCIP standard work, and made available to the broad transit community.

ITE finds no basis that the appellants have "directly and materially affected interests and that have been or will be adversely affected" by ITE's rescission action. ITE feels that it is important to disclose that one of the appellants served as a subcontractor to the Institute during the development of the TCIP Standards for which they received financial remuneration.

Therefore, ITE intends to proceed with rescission of the TCIP standards.