

# I-49 North Inner City Connector

March 27, 2026

MPO Update Meeting



# Project Team



# Project Update

- **A draft EIS was turned in to DOTD on March 16, 2026**
- The draft will be reviewed by DOTD for one week and then provided for concurrent review to FHWA
- FHWA approved provision of the draft with a draft Programmatic Agreement for Section 106 Mitigation
- The PA and the Draft EIS will need to be approved by FHWA prior to advertising for public review and holding the public hearing

# Project Schedule 2026

## ➤ Legal Sufficiency Review of Draft EIS by FHWA\*

*1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2026*

- Review by FHWA
- Concurrent review of Civil Rights Inquiries

## ➤ Publish draft EIS

*2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2026*

- Assumes 30 days to address comments from Legal Sufficiency Review
- Must notify public and provide a minimum 15 up to 30-day review period prior to Public Hearing

\*Review times may be longer than 60 days, which could result in schedule modifications.

# Project Schedule (continued)

## ➤ Public Hearing

*2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2026*

- Draft EIS review times and approval to publish presumed to require the first four to five months of 2026
- Public can make comments up to 10 days following the Hearing
- Responses to public comments must be included in final EIS

## ➤ Submit final EIS and draft Record of Decision (ROD)

*3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2026*

## ➤ ROD approval by FHWA

*4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2026*

**The EIS is still completed in 2026, in accord with the 2024 schedule**

# Project Schedule - Notes

- The Legal Sufficiency Review starts procedural reviews that are bound by regulatorily required time frames and could push the schedule
- The publication of the draft EIS is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2026
- The Public Hearing 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2026 due to review time frames
- Updates will continue to be provided to the MPO once per quarter
- **In accord with the 2024 schedule, the EIS and FHWA Approved ROD are completed in 2026**

# Questions?