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September 3, 2008

Honorable Ken Ulman, Chairman  
Baltimore Regional Transportation Board  
2700 Lighthouse Point East, Suite 310  
Baltimore, Maryland 21224

In Reply Refer To: HDA-MD  
(724)

Dear Mr. Ulman:

Re: Federal Certification of the Baltimore Region Metropolitan Planning Organization  
(MPO) Planning Process

As you are aware, the *Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century* (TEA-21) retained and reinforced the requirements for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to review and certify the Transportation Management Area (TMA) planning processes at least every three years. The recent enactment of the *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users* (SAFETEA-LU) revised the certification cycle to at least every four years.

The recent review of the Baltimore MPO's planning process included a site visit conducted by representatives from the FHWA and FTA on June 23-25, 2008. Significant time was spent with the Baltimore MPO staff, the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), State Highway Administration, and the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to discuss the current status of the MPO's "3-C" planning process. Throughout the site visit, opportunities also were afforded to local elected/appointed officials and the general public to provide their insights on the MPOs' planning process. In addition to assessing the MPOs' progress in addressing findings from prior certification reviews, the recent site visit focused on the MPOs' current and/or future implementation of metropolitan transportation planning requirements.

Enclosed for your consideration is the final *TMA Certification Review Report* that documents the various components of the recent FHWA/FTA certification review of the Baltimore MPO. The report provides an overview of the TMA certification process, summarizes the various discussions from the recent site visit, provides a series of review findings and issues the FHWA/FTA certification actions.

In general, the review determined the continued existence of a "3-C" metropolitan transportation planning process that satisfies the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134, 49 U.S.C. 1607, and associated Federal requirements. The review team highlighted noteworthy practices in the Baltimore MPO's planning process in a number of areas. The review team also identified a number of recommendations to improve the current process. These recommendations should be addressed by December 31, 2008.

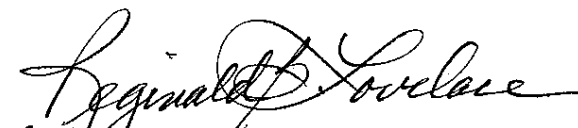
Based on the overall findings, the FHWA and FTA hereby certify the Baltimore MPO's planning process. This certification is in effect until September 3, 2012. A representative from the FHWA and FTA will formally present the review findings and the FHWA/FTA certification action at an upcoming MPO board meeting.

If you have any questions concerning this Certification review process and/or the *MPO Certification Review Report* please contact Kwame Arhin, FHWA, Delmar Division, (410) 779-7158, or Gail McFadden-Roberts, FTA Region III, (215) 656-7100.

Sincerely yours,



Nelson J. Castellanos  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration



for Regina A. Thompson  
Regional Administrator, Region III  
Federal Transit Administration

Enclosure:

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