



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

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Richmond, VA 23240  
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July 8, 2009

Mr. William Sessoms  
Chairperson  
Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization  
The Regional Building  
723 Woodlake Drive  
Chesapeake, Virginia 23320

RE: Transportation Planning Process Certification

Dear Mr. Sessoms:

In accordance with the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), and the joint Statewide and Metropolitan Planning Regulations of February 14, 2007, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) conducted a joint Planning Certification Review of the Hampton Roads Transportation Management Area (TMA) on November 14-15, 2007.

As you are aware, the FHWA and the FTA found several areas of the regional transportation planning and programming process that needed to be addressed before a new planning certification could be issued. These areas included Public Involvement, Title VI/Environmental Justice, Financial, and Organizational Structure. In the months following the review, a specially created Metropolitan Planning Organization Committee worked with the FHWA and FTA in order to adequately address each area of concern. In addition, a follow up teleconference was held with Mr. Dwight Farmer, Executive Director, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, on June 23, 2009, to discuss your Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) progress and the resolution of any outstanding issues.

Based on our involvement in MPO Committee meetings, MPO Policy Board meetings, and regular conversations with Dwight Farmer and staff, the FHWA and FTA find that the Hampton Roads TMA meets the requirements of 23 CFR Par 450 and 23 CFR Part 613. It is therefore our pleasure to inform you that the Hampton Roads MPO is certified.


We appreciate the work that the MPO has accomplished to adequately satisfy the corrective actions and address the recommendations in the certification report. Please note that a planning certification remains in effect for four years unless a new certification determination is made sooner.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Ivan Rucker, of the FHWA Virginia Division, at (804) 775-3336 or Tony Cho, of the FTA Region III Office, at (215) 656-7100.

Sincerely,



Roberto Fonseca-Martinez  
FHWA Division Administrator



Letitia A. Thompson  
FTA Regional Administrator

Cc: Mr. David Ekern, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Mr. Chip Badger, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation  
Mr. Dennis Heuer, District Administrator, Virginia Department of Transportation (Hampton District)  
Mr. Eric Stringfield, Planning Engineer, Virginia Department of Transportation (Hampton District)  
Mr. Freddie Jones, Division Administrator, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT Civil Rights)  
Ms. Marsha Fiol, Statewide Planner, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT Central Office)