

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Federal Highway Administration
Oregon Division
530 Center Street, Suite 100
Salem, Oregon 97301
503.399.5749

Federal Highway Administration
Washington Division
711 S. Capital Way, Suite 501
Olympia, WA 98501
360.753.9480

Federal Transit Administration
Region 10
915 Second Avenue, Room 3142
Seattle, Washington 98174-1002
206.220.7954

February 17, 2009
In Reply Refer To:
724.411

Mr. David Bragdon, President
Portland Metro
600 N.E. Grand Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-2736

Mr. Steve Stuart, Clark County Commissioner, and Chair
Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC)
P.O. Box 1366
Vancouver, Washington 98666-1366

RE: Portland/Vancouver Certification Review

Dear Messrs. Bragdon and Stuart:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are pleased to provide you with the enclosed final report of our Planning Certification Review of the Portland and Vancouver metropolitan areas. Pursuant to 23 U.S.C. and 49 U.S.C. 1607 provisions of the Safe, Accountable, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) the FHWA and FTA are required to conduct a certification review of the transportation planning process in urbanized areas with populations over 200,000, once every four years. FHWA and FTA staff conducted a joint review of your respective metropolitan planning areas' transportation planning process on October 20-23, 2008.

The certification reviews are conducted with the objective of evaluating the transportation planning process in the spirit of highlighting good practices, exchanging information, and identifying opportunities for improvements. We found that the performance of both agencies support certifying the Metro and RTC MPOs, subject to the corrective actions identified in this report. A complete draft of the findings, corrective actions and recommendations contained in this report was shared with your staff for comment. The enclosed report formally documents the full results of our review.

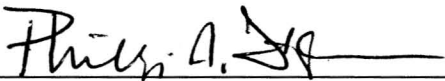
We would like to acknowledge the outstanding technical work performed by both MPOs. We are pleased with progress made on the corrective actions identified during the previous certification review conducted in 2004. We especially appreciate the time and assistance that your staff, along with your partners at the State DOTs and transit agencies, provided during the course of this review. Please convey our thanks for their support.



The primary result of our review is that FHWA and FTA are jointly certifying the transportation planning process of the MPOs for the Portland/Vancouver Metropolitan Areas, subject to the corrective actions identified in this report. This certification will remain in effect for four years from the date of this certification letter.

If you have any questions, please contact Sidney Stecker of the FHWA Washington Division Office at (360) 753-9555, Satvinder Sandhu of the FHWA Oregon Division Office at (503) 587-4723 or Ned Conroy of FTA Region 10 at (206) 220-4318 for any questions or follow-up actions regarding this review.

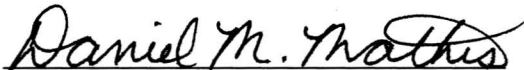
Sincerely,



Phillip A. Ditzler, Division Administrator
Oregon Division
Federal Highway Administration



R. F. Krochalis, Regional Administrator
Region 10
Federal Transit Administration



Daniel M. Mathis, Division Administrator
Washington Division
Federal Highway Administration

cc:

RTC (Dean Lookingbill, Planning Director)
Metro (Robin McArthur, Planning Director)
ODOT (Jason Tell, Manager Region 1)
WSDOT (Don Wagoner, Regional Administrator)
TriMet (Fred Hansen, General Manager)
C-Tran (Jeff Hamm, Executive Director)

SS/rm

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