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November 8, 2024

IN REPLY REFER TO:
HDA-OR/HDA-WA/FTA-TRO-10

Mr. Ted Leybold
Transportation Policy Director
Metro
600 NE Grand Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

Mr. Matt Ransom
Executive Director
Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council
P.O. Box 1366
Vancouver, WA 98666

Subject: 2025 Portland-Vancouver Certification Review Notification

Dear Mr. Leybold and Mr. Ransom:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will be conducting a Certification Review of the transportation planning process for the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan area in February 2025. Metro's meetings are scheduled for February 4, February 6, and February 12, 2025. Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council's (RTC) meetings are scheduled for February 11, February 13, and February 20, 2025. These dates were selected in consultation with your staff. We will review the cooperative planning process as conducted by Metro, RTC, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT), local transit providers, and local governments in the area.

Since the enactment of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, the FHWA and FTA are required to jointly review, evaluate, and certify the transportation planning process in all Transportation Management Areas (TMAs), urbanized areas over 200,000 in population, to determine if the process meets the Federal planning requirements in 23 U.S.C. 134, 49 U.S.C. 5303, and 23 CFR 450 at least once every four years. The deadline for completing this review is April 12, 2025.

Certification Reviews are conducted to evaluate the transportation planning process. Consequently, we will not be conducting a pass/fail review, but rather we intend to exchange information, highlight good practices, and identify opportunities for improvements. The Certification process will rely extensively on knowledge gained from routine contact with the

planning process in the area, as well as the scheduled Certification Review meetings. The specific focal points we are proposing for the Certification Review meetings include the following:

- Status of Recommendations and Close Out of the Corrective Actions from the previous Certification
- Congestion Management Process (CMP)
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Consideration of Title VI/Limited English Proficiency (4-Factor Analysis)/ Environmental Justice/Public Involvement
- Organizational Structure and Policy Committee Representation and Involvement
- Federal Land Management Agency Coordination
- Other topics to be determined

As part of this Certification Review, an online open house was asked to be available from November 1-December 13, 2024, on the Metro and RTC websites. MPO committee members, special interest groups, and members of the public are invited to review the online presentation and email or mail comments to FHWA. We also offer the opportunity for any committee members or other local elected officials to meet with us separately if they so desire.

The review will be conducted by FHWA and FTA staff. We anticipate and welcome participation by the staff of the MPO, ODOT, WSDOT, transit providers, as well as any representatives of cities, counties and other local official who wish to participate.

If you have any questions concerning this review, please contact Ashley Bryers, FHWA Oregon Division, ashley.bryers@dot.gov, Matthew Pahs, FHWA Washington Division, matthew.pahs@dot.gov, or Ned Conroy, FTA Region 10, ned.conroy@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Ashley Bryers
Planning Program Manager
Federal Highway Administration – Oregon Division

Ned Conroy
Senior Community Planner
Federal Transit Administration

Matthew Pahs
Planning and Freight Program Manager
Federal Highway Administration – Washington Division

cc:

Catherine Ciarlo, Planning, Development and Research Department, Metro
Tom Kloster, Regional Planning Manager, Metro
Dale Robins, Planning Manager, RTC
Judith Perez Keniston, Principal Planner, RTC
Neelam Dorman, Region 1 Planning Manager, ODOT
Glen Bolen, Region 1 Planner, ODOT
Chris Ford, Region 1 Policy and Development Manager, ODOT
Erik Havig, Statewide Policy and Planning Manager, ODOT
Laurie Lebowski, Southwest Region Planning Manager, WSDOT
Anna Ragaza-Bourassa, Tribal and Regional Planning Office, WSDOT
Kate Tollefson, Tribal and Regional Planning Office, WSDOT
Miles Pengilly, State Government Affairs Manager, TriMet
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Danielle Casey, Community Planner, FTA Region 10
Jasmine Harris, Transportation Planner, FHWA Oregon Division
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