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October 28, 2019

Commissioner Rob Gilliland  
River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Chair  
P.O. Box 2451  
Daytona Beach, FL 32115

Dear Commissioner Gilliland:

Federal law requires the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to jointly review and certify the metropolitan transportation planning process for each Transportation Management Area (TMA) every four years. A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) with an urbanized area of 200,000 or more in population is referred to, in federal legislation, as a TMA. We recently conducted a review of the Palm Coast-Daytona Beach-Port Orange Transportation Management Area, more commonly referred to as the **River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)**.

As a part of the TMA certification review process, FHWA and FTA utilized a risk-based approach containing various factors to determine which topic areas required additional evaluation during the certification review. The certification review process is one of several methods used to assess the quality of a regional metropolitan transportation planning process, compliance with applicable statutes and regulations, as well as the degree of technical assistance needed to enhance the effectiveness of the planning process. This certification review was conducted to highlight best practices, identify opportunities for improvements, and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

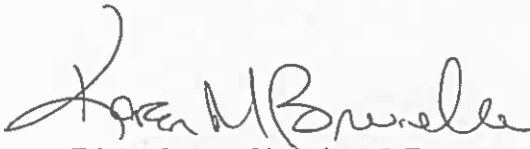
The review of the River to Sea TPO's planning process included a site visit conducted by representatives from the FHWA and the FTA on June 11, 2019. During the site visit, time was spent with the MPO staff, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and the transit agency to discuss the status of the MPO's "3-C" planning process. Throughout the site visit, opportunities were afforded to local elected/appointed officials and the general public to provide their insights on the River to Sea TPO's planning process. In addition to assessing the MPO's progress in addressing the findings from the previous certification review, the MPO's current and/or future implementation of the metropolitan transportation planning requirements was also considered.

Enclosed for your consideration is the final *TMA Certification Review Report* for the Palm Coast-Daytona Beach-Port Orange TMA, which includes documentation of the various components of the FHWA/FTA certification review of the River to Sea TPO. The report provides an overview of the TMA certification review process, summarizes the various discussions from the recent site visit, provides a series of review findings, and issues the FHWA/FTA certification action. In general, the review determined the existence of a "3-C" metropolitan transportation planning process that satisfies the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134, 49 U.S.C. 5303/5305, and associated Federal requirements. The Federal Review Team identified eight (8) noteworthy practices, no corrective actions, and four (4) recommendations to improve the current planning process of the River to Sea TPO.

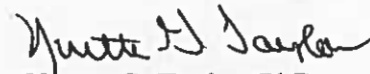
Based on the overall findings, the FHWA and the FTA jointly certify that the transportation planning process of the Palm Coast-Daytona Beach-Port Orange TMA, which is comprised entirely by the River to Sea TPO, substantially meets the federal planning requirements in 23 CFR 450 Subpart C. This certification will remain in effect until **October 2023**.

If you have any questions regarding the certification review process and/or the *TMA Certification Review Report*, please contact Ms. Teresa Parker at (407) 867-6415 or by email at [Teresa.parker@dot.gov](mailto:Teresa.parker@dot.gov).

Sincerely,



FOR: James Christian, P.E.  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration



Yvette G. Taylor, PhD  
Regional Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration

Enclosure:  
Final TMA Certification Review Report

cc: Ms. Lois Bollenback, River to Sea TPO  
Ms. Teresa Parker, FHWA  
Mr. Joseph Sullivan, FHWA  
Mr. Carey Shepherd, FHWA  
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