



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

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July 18, 2016

Monique Boulet
Chief Executive Officer
Acadiana Planning Commission (APC)
101 Jefferson St, Suite 201
Lafayette, LA 70501-7007

Dear Mrs. Boulet:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) conducted a Certification Review of the transportation planning process for the Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) on April 6-7, 2016. This review assessed the cooperative planning process as implemented by the State, transit operator, and local governments in the Lafayette Urbanized Area.

Certification reviews are conducted with the objective of evaluating the transportation planning process. Therefore the final report highlights good practices and identifies opportunities for improvement. The Certification Process relied extensively on knowledge gained throughout the year from routine contact with planning officials and exposure to the planning process in the area, as well as the scheduled Certification Review meeting. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) respectfully submit our final certification review report for your information and improvement of the planning process.

The certification review found that the Acadiana Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO) transportation planning process meets the requirements of 23 CFR 450 and 49 CFR 613. There was one compliance issue highlighted during the review related to MPO Structure and Agreements. Per CFR 450.314, AMPO must develop an MOU with DOTD and transit operators defining their respective roles in the planning process and submit to FHWA by October 1, 2016. In addition, recommendations have been identified in the areas of:

- Interagency Coordination
- MPO Committees & Responsibilities
- Performance Based Planning Programming
- Freight Planning
- Transportation Improvement Program
- Title VI/Environmental Justice
- Transportation Safety Planning
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning
- Transportation Safety Planning
- Transit Planning

Recommendations have been identified to help improve upon transportation planning products and remain consistent with laws and regulations governing the transportation planning process. Recommendations will be revisited as part of our regular liaison and oversight role, as well as during subsequent Certification Reviews of the TMA. A draft version of the report was provided to the MPO and other participants for a review of factual accuracy in June 2016 and the final report was finalized in July 2016. The Federal Review team will present a summary of the final report to the AMPO Transportation Policy Committee upon request. The attached report describes the MPO's notable strengths, and the Federal Review Team's commendations and recommendations for improvement.

We thank everyone that participated in the certification review process, especially the MPO staff. Should you have any questions, please contact Brandon Buckner of the FHWA Louisiana Division, at (225) 757-7622, Mary Stringfellow of the FHWA Louisiana Division at 225-757-7610 or Lynn Hayes, of the FTA Region VI Office, at (817) 978-0565. An electronic copy of the final report is available upon request.

Sincerely,



Donald R. Koski

Director of Planning and Program Development
Federal Transit Administration



Charles Bolinger

Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration