



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

REGION III
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May 6, 2024

The Honorable William McCarty, Chair
c/o Robert Crum, Jr., Executive Director
Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization
723 Woodlake Drive
Chesapeake, Virginia 23320

RE: Virginia Beach TMA – FY 2024 Planning Process Certification Review

Dear Mr. McCarty:

The Infrastructure, Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA) continues the requirement for Certification of the transportation planning process in Transportation Management Areas (TMAs) (urbanized areas with a population of 200,000 or more) once every four years. To meet this requirement, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will be conducting an on-site review for the certification of the transportation planning process for the Virginia Beach (TMA). Our review will look at the cooperative planning process as conducted by the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO), VDOT, VDRPT, transit operators, and local governments in the area.

As agreed upon through discussions with the MPO staff, a hybrid in-person (with virtual attendance option) on-site review has been scheduled for August 14 -15, 2024. As you may be aware, the FHWA and FTA are statutorily required to provide opportunities for public participation within the metropolitan planning area under review (23 USC 134 (K)(6)(D), 23 CFR 450.336(b)(4)). We are also required to consider public comments in arriving at a certification action.

We will coordinate with your DEI and Title VI/Civil Rights Liaison, Quan McLaurin, to ensure that opportunities exist to meet in-person and virtually and hear from your Community Advisory Committee, the Hampton Roads general public, and underserved communities and/or community-based organizations working in and with underserved communities regarding transportation related areas of importance (minority, low-income, LEP, etc.).

At this time, the in-person and virtual public outreach portion of the Federal Certification is scheduled for August 14, 2024, and should be done in a manner consistent with the MPO's adopted public participation plan process. Over the next several weeks, our offices will continue to coordinate with your staff in finalizing the site visit agenda topics, times for public

participation, forthcoming provision of review documents/data requests, as well as other logistical coordination items. In general, the upcoming review will focus on the MPO's various approaches, activities, and issues associated with conducting the "3-C" (coordinated, continuing, and comprehensive) metropolitan transportation planning process. Three (3) primary activities will comprise the on-site and virtual review: 1) staff-level discussions with representatives from the MPO, state departments of transportation, transit agencies, and other planning agencies within the TMA; 2) discussions with your Community Advisory Committee; and 3) discussions with the general public and community-based organizations working in and with underserved communities regarding transportation related areas of importance regarding transportation related areas of importance.

FTA and FHWA would like to accomplish the certification review through the following phases: 1) desk review of planning products and processes; 2) an on-site review (risk-based approach) including public meeting; and 3) a certification report.

To aid the Federal agencies in conducting the desk review, the FHWA and FTA will work with your staff in the near future on obtaining documentation for our review. Upon completion of the desk review, a list of items and issues identified for discussion during the on-site review will be provided to staff. At the conclusion of the on-site review, an informal closeout session will be held with the MPO staff to discuss preliminary review findings.

After the on-site review, a certification review report will be prepared that summarizes the on-site review and provides the specific review findings of the U.S. DOT Review Team, with potential actions for the TMA. The certification review report will be finalized within 90-120 days after the conclusion of the on-site review. Within this timeframe, the MPO staff will be provided 15 calendar days to provide factual verification on the content of the draft report.

If you have any questions concerning the upcoming certification review, please contact Ms. Chelsea Beytas, FTA Region III at (215) 656-7961, or Mr. Ivan Rucker, FHWA Virginia Division at (804) 775-3350.

Sincerely yours,

For Laura Keeley
Director, Planning & Program Development
FTA Region III

cc:

William McCarty, Chair of HRTPO

Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky, Chair of HRTPO Community Advisory Committee

Robert Crum, HRTPO

Pavithra Parthasarathi, HRTPO

Quan McLaurin, HRTPO

Robert Cofield, HRTPO

Joe Turner III, HRTPO

Wendy Howard-Cooper, VDOT

Angela Richards, VDOT

Ken King, VDOT

Michael Gray, VDOT

Marsha Fiol, VDOT

Queen Crittendon, VDOT

Christopher Hall, VDOT

Margie Ray, VDOT-OIPI

Todd Halacy, VDOT

Sandra Norman, VDOT

Jen DeBruhl, VDRPT

Neil Sherman, VDRPT

Grant Sparks, VDRPT

Mitch Huber, VDRPT

William Harrell, Hampton Roads Transit (HRT)

Matthew Scalia, Williamsburg Area Transit Authority (WATA)

Karen Davis, WATA

Albert S. Moor II, Suffolk Transit

Maria Ptakowski, Suffolk Transit

Mohamed Dumbuya, FHWA

Mary Walker-Johnson, FHWA

Daniel Suarez, FHWA

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