



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

Memorandum

**Federal Highway
Administration**

Subject: Briefing on the National Capital Region
Transportation Management Area (TMA)
2010 Federal Planning Certification

Date: February 25, 2010

From: Melissa Barlow, FTA
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Reply to
Attn. of:

To: TPB Technical Committee
Committee Meeting March 5, 2010

On April 19-21, 2010, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will jointly conduct a planning review certification of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Process. The federal team will also attend the April 15th Citizen's Advisory Committee to dialogue with them about the TPB's Planning Process. Regulations state that "the FHWA and the FTA jointly shall review and evaluate the transportation planning process for each TMA no less than once every four years..." The last review was completed in 2005, and a report issued in 2006.

Consistent with 23 U.S.C 134(k)(5) and 49 U.S.C 5303(k)(5), the primary purpose of a planning certification review is to ensure that the federal planning requirements are being satisfactorily implemented. In a broader sense, the certification review process is a valuable opportunity to provide advice and guidance to a Transportation Management Area (TMA), defined as an urbanized area with a population over 200,000, for enhancing the planning process and improving the quality of transportation investment decisions. While the FHWA and FTA interact with TMA planning officials, State DOTs, Transit operators, etc on a routine basis, the certification review provides an objective view of the TMA transportation planning process and can serve as a catalyst to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the planning process. By identifying noteworthy practices and sharing with our nationwide partners, the certification process provides an opportunity for continued progress in expanding the art of transportation planning while implementing the regulations.

WHEN: April 19-21, 2010
WHERE: WASHCOG Offices
WHO: FHWA, FTA, TPB Board and Staff, Transportation Implementing Agencies, Partners
TOPICS: See Next Page

While the depth and breadth have not yet been determined, the federal team will be interested in discussing the follow planning topic areas during the certification:

- Administration of Planning Process
- Title IV and ADA
- Long Range Plan
- Financial Planning and Fiscal Constraint
- UPWP
- Travel Demand Forecasting and Models Development
- Freight and Goods Movement
- Land Use Planning
- *Livability*
- *Climate Change*
- Agreements and Self Certifications
- Air Quality
- Transportation Improvement Program
- Congestion Management System
- Intelligent Transportation Systems
- Planning Factors (includes Safety & Security Planning)
- Public Involvement
- Multimodal Planning
- *Sustainability*

The topic areas shown above are the same focus areas as for the 2005 certification with the exception of the last three in italics. The federal team felt that these three areas should be added to the focus of the 2010 certification.

NEXT STEPS: A set of questions will be sent to the MPO on or about March 3rd, 2010. These questions will help the federal team gather information and input about the topic areas from the MPO in order to prepare for the site visit. Be aware that MPO staff may need your assistance in responding to these questions. Responses will be due back to the federal team by March 23rd, 2010.

CONTACT: If you have any questions, you may contact

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