

FHWA/FTA Joint Planning Certification Reviews

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Fredericksburg Metropolitan Planning Organization
George Washington Regional Commission



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

TMA Planning Certification Review

Certification

*The Secretary shall ensure that the metropolitan planning process of a metropolitan planning organization serving a transportation management area is being carried out in accordance with applicable provisions of Federal law.
[23 USC 134(k)(5)(A)(i) and 49 USC 5303(k)(5)(A)(i)]*



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Definition, Purpose and Frequency of Review

- What is it?** In depth, documented review of planning process
- What for?** To ensure planning and program process consistent with federal law and regulations
- How often?** At least every 4 years



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Certification Review

The Certification is not just a review of the MPO or its staff; rather, it is a review of the planning process conducted by all agencies (State, MPO, and transit operators) charged with carrying out the process on a daily basis. This shared responsibility is specifically addressed in the regulations:

The MPO, State(s), and the providers of public transportation shall cooperatively determine their mutual responsibilities in carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning process.

[23 CFR 450.314(a)]



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Areas of Review (Traditional)

- Organization Structure (Bylaws, Committees, etc.)
- Planning Boundaries
- Agreements and Contracts
- Regional Long Range Plan
- Regional TIP
- Unified Planning Work Program
- Financial/Fiscal Constraint
- Project Selection Process
- Public Participation Plan
- Travel Demand Model
- Performance Based Planning
- Title VI Civil Rights/Nondiscrimination Statutes
- Self Certification/Procurement Procedures
- Congestion Management Process
- Transit
- Consultation/Coordination Procedures
- Listing of Obligated Projects
- Bike/Ped Planning
- Freight Planning
- Air quality/Conformity



Areas of Review (Risk-Based)

- Risk-based review focuses on high-risk areas, both threats and opportunities, and does not attempt to cover every planning topic.
- Areas of Review (Example)
 - Agreements/Contracts (3-C, Performance, Planning (including PL Agreement/Contract and UPWP))
 - Project Selection Process (including CMP)
 - Performance Based Planning
 - Title VI Civil Rights/Nondiscrimination



Certification - Public Hearing

In making certification determinations under this paragraph, the Secretary shall provide for public involvement appropriate to the metropolitan area under review.

[23 USC 134(k)(5)(D)]

In conducting a certification review, the FHWA and the FTA shall provide opportunities for public involvement within the metropolitan planning area under review. The FHWA and the FTA shall consider the public input received in arriving at a decision on a certification action.

[23 CFR 450.336(b)(4)]



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Certification Finding Categories

Overall Finding	Certification Category	Implications
Fully Meets Requirements	1. Certified 450.336(b)(1)(i)	<u>Certified</u> for four years, unless a new Certification determination is made sooner.
Substantially Meets Requirements	2. Certified with Conditions 450.336(b)(1)(ii)	<u>Certified</u> for four years, with Corrective Actions that define items requiring attention. Corrective Actions are important, but the immediate situation does not warrant withholding project approvals. May set milestone dates and could require reevaluation of progress before the end of the four-year period. The Corrective Action could be resolved once the cited item(s) have been addressed sufficiently. Failure to respond could lead to a more restrictive Certification.
Does Not Meet Requirements	3. Certified with Conditions and Restrictions 450.336(b)(1)(iii)	<u>Certified</u> . Corrective Actions define items required to achieve Certification Category 1 or 2. The Corrective Actions are very serious; therefore, only specific categories of programs or projects will be allowed to proceed. Corrective Actions will set milestone dates and require reevaluation of progress. Status could be upgraded to a Certified Category 1 or 2 once the cited items have been corrected. Failure to respond could lead to mandatory withholding of funds.
	4. Not Certified 450.336(b)(1)(iii) & 450.336(b)(2)	<u>Not Certified</u> . Corrective Actions define items required to achieve Certification. The Corrective Actions are very serious and warrant the withholding of attributed funds. Corrective Actions will set milestone dates and will require reevaluation of progress. Status could be upgraded to a Certified condition once the cited items have been corrected. Failure to respond could lead to mandatory withholding of funds.*

Thank You!

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