



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

District of Columbia Division

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**FEB 07 2019**

Martin Nohe, TPB Chairman  
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board  
c/o, Lyn Erickson, Director Plan Development and Program  
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments  
777 North Capital Street, NW, Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20002-4201

Paul Agnello, Administrator  
Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization  
406 Princess Anne Street  
Fredericksburg, Va. 22401

Dear Chairman Nohe and Mr. Agnello,

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will be conducting a Certification Review of the transportation planning process for your metropolitan area on April 10-11, 2019. These dates were selected in consultation with Kanathur Srikanth, of your staff. The review will look at the cooperative planning process as conducted by the District, States, transit operators, and local governments in the area. You and all participants in the planning process are welcome to attend the review.

Certification reviews are conducted with the objective of evaluating the transportation planning process. Consequently, we will not be conducting a pass/fail review, rather as with any other program or process review, a risk-based review with a focused scope will add the most value by concentrating the review on the most critical issues or opportunities.

In earlier meetings with your staff we have discussed which topics warrant in-depth coverage and documentation during the site visit. The Federal Review Team will use the two weblinks you provided: [www.mwcog.org/2019federalcertification](http://www.mwcog.org/2019federalcertification) and [www.mwcog.org/visualize2045/document-library/](http://www.mwcog.org/visualize2045/document-library/) to focus attention on critical areas in selecting topics for the On-Site Review by:

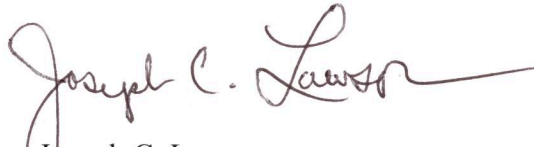
- a. Examining past reviews and assessing progress, particularly in response to Federal actions, such as TMA Certification Reviews, program or process reviews, the Federal Planning Finding, and annual risk assessment;

- b. Understanding the conditions affecting the TMA;
- c. Gauging the maturity of the planning process;
- d. Knowing whether there are new personnel responsible for planning implementation at the State, public transportation operator, or MPO;
- e. Assessing response to new requirements;
- f. Drawing on knowledge from routine contacts;
- g. Eliminating topics from consideration that were recently reviewed as part of routine oversight and determined to be in full compliance; and
- h. Making some findings based on a Desk Review or routine oversight activities, such as the Federal Planning Finding and program and process reviews.

Please ensure that all document links are up to date. Following our desk audit review, we will develop a risk-based topic agenda that will be mailed within three weeks of the site visit, which outlines the specific focal points we are proposing for the Certification Review. On April 11, 2019, the federal team will join the scheduled Citizens Advisory Committee meeting for an open dialogue concerning public involvement in the transportation planning process.

Should you have any questions regarding the Certification Review, please contact Sandra Jackson, of the FHWA District of Columbia Division, at (202) 493-7031.

Sincerely yours,



Joseph C. Lawson  
Division Administrator

cc: Linda Millsaps, Executive Director GWRC  
FTA Region III Office