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October 31, 2022

Deputy Mayor Andrea Young
City of West Melbourne
2240 Minton Road
West Melbourne, FL 32904

Subject: Federal Certification of the Palm Bay-Melbourne Transportation Management Area Planning Process – Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization

Dear Deputy Mayor Young:

Federal law requires the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to jointly review and certify the metropolitan transportation planning process for each Transportation Management Area (TMA) every four years. A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) with an urbanized area of 200,000 or more in population is referred to, in federal legislation, as a TMA. We recently conducted a review of the Palm Bay – Melbourne TMA, more commonly referred to as the Space Coast TPO.

As a part of the TMA certification review process, FHWA and FTA utilized a risk-based approach containing various factors to determine which topic areas required additional evaluation during the certification review. The certification review process is one of several methods used to assess the quality of a regional metropolitan transportation planning process, compliance with applicable statutes and regulations, as well as the degree of technical assistance needed to enhance the effectiveness of the planning process. This certification review was conducted to highlight best practices, identify opportunities for improvements, and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

The review of the Space Coast TPO's planning process included a site visit conducted by representatives from the FHWA and the FTA on May 3, 2022. During the site visit, time was spent with the MPO staff, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and the transit agencies to discuss the status of the MPO's "3-C" planning process. Throughout the site visit, opportunities were afforded to local elected/appointed officials and the general public to provide their insights on the Space Coast TPO's planning process. In addition to assessing the MPO's progress in addressing the findings from the previous certification review, the MPO's current and/or future implementation of the metropolitan transportation planning requirements was also considered.


Enclosed for your consideration is the final *TMA Certification Review Report* for the Palm Bay - Melbourne TMA, which includes documentation of the various components of the FHWA/FTA certification review of the Space Coast TPO. The report provides an overview of the TMA certification review process, summarizes the various discussions from the recent site visit, provides a series of review findings, and issues the FHWA/FTA certification action. In general, the review determined the existence of a “3-C” metropolitan transportation planning process that satisfies the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134, 49 U.S.C. 5303/5305, and associated Federal requirements. The Federal Review Team identified three (3) noteworthy practices, one (1) corrective action, and offers two (2) recommendations to improve the current planning process of the Space Coast TPO.

Based on the overall findings, the FHWA and the FTA jointly certify that the transportation planning process of the Palm Bay - Melbourne TMA, which is comprised entirely of the Space Coast TPO, substantially meets the federal planning requirements in 23 CFR 450 Subpart C. This certification will remain in effect until **October 2026**.

If you have any questions regarding the certification review process and/or the *TMA Certification Review Report*, please contact Mr. Joseph Sullivan by phone at (850) 553-2248 or by email at joseph.sullivan@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

FOR: Jamie Christian, P.E.
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration


Yvette G. Taylor, PhD
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

Enclosure:
TMA Certification Review Report

cc: Ms. Georganna Gillette, Space Coast TPO
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