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October 28, 2019

Ms. Maria Marino, Chair
Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency
2300 North Jog Road, 4th Floor
West Palm Beach, FL 33411-2749

Subject: Federal Certification of the Miami Urbanized Area Transportation Management Area (TMA) Planning Process – Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency (TPA)

Dear Councilmember Marino:

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 Miami Urbanized Area TMA, which is comprised of three MPOs: the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), Palm Beach Transportation Planning Area (TPA), and the Broward MPO.

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 Palm Beach TPA's planning process included a site visit conducted by representatives from the FHWA and the FTA on April 10-11, 2019. During the site visit, time was spent with the TPA staff, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and the transit agency 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 TPA's planning process. In addition to assessing the TPA's progress in addressing the findings from the previous certification review, the TPA's current and/or future implementation of the metropolitan transportation planning requirements was also considered.

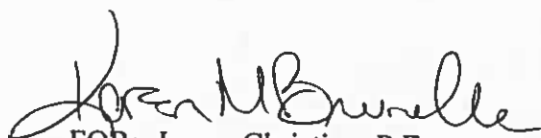
Enclosed for your consideration is the final *TMA Certification Review Report* for the Miami Urbanized Area TMA, which includes documentation of the various components of the FHWA/FTA certification review of the Palm Beach TPA. The report provides an overview of the TMA certification review process, 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 eight (8) noteworthy practices, no corrective actions, and five (5) recommendations to improve the current planning process of the Palm Beach TPA.

Based on the overall findings, the FHWA and the FTA jointly certify that the transportation planning process of the entire Miami Urbanized Area TMA, which is comprised in part by the Palm Beach TPA, substantially meets the federal planning requirements in 23 CFR 450 Subpart C, subject to the Palm Beach TPA satisfactorily addressing the recommendations with deadlines specified in this report. This certification will remain in effect until **August 2023**.

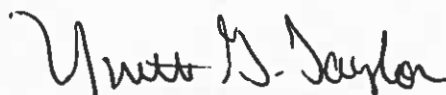
Please note that prior to and during the certification review site visit, FHWA and FTA were advised that the next required update to the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) was on schedule and would be endorsed prior to the expiration of the previous version. Since that time, we understand that a new LRTP was not endorsed and the existing plan has expired. FHWA and FTA will follow up with additional details, but please be advised that during an "expiration" period, project programming activities are essentially "frozen", resulting in the inability to advance new or updated projects.

If you have any questions regarding the certification review process and/or the *TMA Certification Review Report*, please contact Stacie Blizzard at (850) 553-2223 or by email at Stacie.Blizzard@dot.gov, or Robert Sachnin, FTA at (404) 865-5606 or by email at Robert.Sachnin@dot.gov.

Sincerely,



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



Yvette G. Taylor, PhD
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

Enclosure:
Final TMA Certification Review Report

cc: Mr. Nick Uhren, Palm Beach TPO; Ms. Cathy Kendall, FHWA; Ms. Karen Brunelle, FHWA; Ms. Stacie Blizzard, FHWA; Mr. Keith Melton, FTA (Region 4); Mr. Robert Sachnin, FTA (Region 4); Mr. John Podczerwinsky, District 4; Ms. Christina Fasiska, District 4; Mr. Mark Reichert, FDOT, (MS-28); Mr. Erika Thompson, FDOT (MS-28); Mr. Carl Mikyska, MPOAC (MS-28B)