



Federal Highway Administration
Florida Division Office
3500 Financial Plaza, Suite 400
Tallahassee, Florida 32312
(850) 553-2201
www.fhwa.dot.gov/fldiv

Federal Transit Administration
Region 4 Office
230 Peachtree St, NW, Ste 1400
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(404) 865-5600

August 31, 2023

Mayor Chelsea Reed
Palm Beach TPA
301 Datura Street
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

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

Dear Mayor Reed:

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 TMA.

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 4, 2023. 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 Palm Beach TP'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 Miami 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 four (4) noteworthy practices, no corrective actions, and offers two (2) recommendations to improve the current planning process of the Miami-Dade TPO.

Based on the overall findings, the FHWA and the FTA jointly certify that the transportation planning process of the Miami TMA, which is comprised by the Broward MPO, Miami-Dade TPO, and Palm Beach TPA substantially meets the federal planning requirements in 23 CFR 450 Subpart C. This certification will remain in effect until **August 2027**.

If you have any questions regarding the certification review process and/or the *TMA Certification Review Report*, please contact Erika Thompson, FHWA by phone at (850) 553-2223 or by email at erika.thompson@dot.gov or Aries Little, FTA by phone at (404) 865-5622 or by email at aries.little@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. Valerie Neilson, Palm Beach TPO
Ms. Karen Brunelle, FHWA
Ms. Cathy Kendall, FHWA
Ms. Erika Thompson, FHWA
Mr. Robert Sachnin, FTA, Region 4
Ms. Aries Little, FTA, Region 4
Ms. Christine Fasiska, FDOT, District 4
Mr. Tony Norat, FDOT, District 4
Ms. Jennifer Fortunas, FDOT
Mr. Mike Neidhart, FDOT
Mr. Mark E. Reichert, MPOAC