



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

Florida Division

March 13, 2015

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In Reply Refer To:
HPR-FL

Commissioner Jean Monestime
Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization Chairman
Stephen P. Clark Center
111 NW 1st Street, Suite 920
Miami, FL 33128

Dear Commissioner Monestime:

Federal law requires the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to jointly certify each Transportation Management Area's (TMA's) planning process at least every four years. The TMAs are urbanized areas with 200,000 or more in population. Plans are underway to schedule and conduct a site visit for the TMA Certification Review for the South Florida Transportation Management Area, and the Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

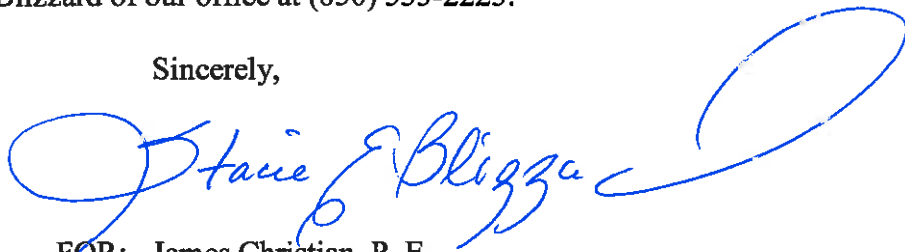
As agreed upon through recent conversations with staff from the MPO, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and members of the Federal Review Team, the site visit portion of the FHWA/FTA Certification Review will be conducted on April 22-23, 2015. This site review will include meetings with MPO staff, MPO members, and transportation partners of the Miami-Dade MPO as well as an opportunity for the public to provide comments on the transportation planning process. In general, the upcoming review will further focus on the TMA's various approaches, activities, and issues associated with conducting the "3-C" (coordinated, continuing, and comprehensive) metropolitan transportation planning process. As part of the Certification Review, the site visit will also consist of a follow-up of any "corrective actions" and/or "recommendations" from prior Certification Reviews.

In addition to assessing the MPO's current level of effort in addressing statutory and regulatory requirements, the review is intended to offer input and examples from other States and MPOs in improving the overall quality of the area's metropolitan transportation planning process. Three primary activities will comprise the site visit: (a) staff-level discussions with representatives from the MPO, FDOT, and other planning agencies within the TMA; (b) discussions with local elected and/or appointed officials; and (c) discussions with the general public. To maximize participation by the general public we will rely upon the MPO planning staff in defining the specific mechanisms for providing these comment opportunities to the MPO's local elected officials and the general public. This should be done in a manner consistent with the MPO's adopted public participation process, as well as our statewide public involvement guidelines for Certification Reviews.

At the conclusion of the upcoming site visit, an informal closeout session will be held with the MPO and Planning Partners to discuss preliminary review findings. A TMA Certification Review Report that summarizes the site visit, provides specific review findings and issues the FHWA/FTA certification action will be prepared after the site visit. Subsequently, a formal presentation of the review's findings will be made by our office at the next MPO Policy Board Meeting following transmittal of the TMA Certification Review Report (to the extent practicable).

Over the next several weeks, our office will be coordinating with you in finalizing the site visit agenda. If you have any questions regarding the upcoming Certification Review, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Stacie E. Blizzard of our office at (850) 553-2223.

Sincerely,



FOR: James Christian, P. E.
Division Administrator

cc: Mr. Jesus Guerra, Miami-Dade MPO
Mr. Keith Melton, FTA (Region 4)
Ms. Shundreka Givan, FHWA
Mr. Carey Shepherd, FHWA
Ms. Tracy Duval, FHWA
Ms. Aileen Boucle, FDOT (District 6)
Ms. Curlene Thomas, FDOT (District 6)
Mr. Howard Glassman, MPOAC (MS-28B)
Ms. Yvonne Arens, FDOT (MS-28)
Mr. Sean Santalla, FDOT (MS-28)