



**U.S. Department
of Transportation**

Federal Transit Administration
Region III
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Federal Highway Administration
Virginia Division
400 North 8th Street, Room 750
Richmond, Virginia 23219
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May 24, 2018

The Honorable William Chavis, Chairman
c/o Dennis Morris, Executive Director
Tri-Cities Metropolitan Planning Organization
1964 Wakefield Street
P.O. Box 1808
Petersburg, VA 23805

Re: TCAMPO 2017 Federal Planning Certification Review

Dear Mr. Chavis:

In accordance with the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and federal regulations, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) conducted a joint Transportation Planning Certification Review of the Tri-Cities Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (TCAMPO) on September 19-20, 2017, and have attached the report for your review and action.

Based on our review, the FHWA and FTA have determined that the transportation planning process carried out by the TCAMPO in cooperation with the State and transit operator for the Tri-Cities Transportation Management Area is *conditionally* certified as substantially meeting the requirements of the Metropolitan Planning Rule at 23 Code of Federal Regulations Part 450, Subpart C and 49 CFR Part 613. The Certification Review Team noted many commendable practices in several areas that are part of TCAMPO's planning, programming, and decision-making process. The Certification Review Team also identified several recommendations in the report for strong consideration and action. These recommendations are offered to the TCAMPO, staff, and partners to help strengthen the planning and program development process in the Tri-Cities region. Additionally, the report contains corrective actions that require your attention.

Since our on-site review as part of the Planning Certification, the FHWA and FTA coordinated with the staff at the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (VDRPT) and the TCAMPO to satisfy the corrective action contained in the report associated with the need to have a Title VI/Nondiscrimination Assurance. The TCAMPO now has an executed (12/14/2017) Title VI/Nondiscrimination Assurance.

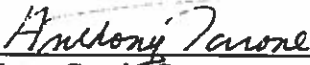
In closing, the FHWA and FTA value our partnership with the TCAMPO, VDOT, VDRPT, and Petersburg Area Transit (PAT), and we recognize the desire of the TCAMPO to provide a continuously efficient and effective transportation planning, programming, and decision-making process for the citizens of the Tri-Cities metropolitan area. As a partner, we will endeavor to provide


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the technical assistance necessary and appropriate to assist the TCAMPO in their efforts and to address the findings contained in the attached report.

If you have any questions regarding the 2017 TCAMPO Planning Certification Review, please contact Mr. Mack Frost, Planning and Environmental Specialist, FHWA, at (Mack.Frost@dot.gov) (804) 775-3352 or Mrs. Melissa McGill, Community Planner, FTA, at (Melissa.McGill@dot.gov) (202) 366-7255.

Sincerely,


for Terry Garcia Crews
Regional Administrator, Region III
Federal Transit Administration


for Jessie Yung, P.E.
Virginia Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

cc: Hon. Shannon Valentine, Secretary of Transportation, Commonwealth of Virginia
Mr. Stephen Brich, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Transportation
Ms. Jennifer Mitchell, Director, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
Mr. Nick Britton, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
Ms. Marsha Fiol, Virginia Department of Transportation (Central Office)
Ms. Sandra Norman, Virginia Department of Transportation (Central Office)
Mr. Barton Thrasher, Virginia Department of Transportation (Richmond District)
Mr. Mark Riblett, Virginia Department of Transportation (Richmond District)
Mr. David Green, Greater Richmond Transit Company
Mrs. Von Tisdale, RideFinders
Mr. Dennis Morris, Crater District Planning District Commission
Mr. Brian Betlyon, FHWA HQ/Resource
Mrs. Melissa McGill, FTA Region III
Ms. Tonya Holland, FTA HQ