



## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration  
The Idaho Division  
3050 Lakeharbor Lane, Suite 126  
Boise, Idaho 83703  
208-334-1843

Federal Transit Administration  
Region 10  
915 Second Avenue, Room 3142  
Seattle, Washington 98174-1002  
206-220-7954

April 23, 2010

IN REPLY REFER TO

HPR-ID  
724.0

Mr. David Bieter, Chair  
COMPASS Board of Directors  
800 S. Industry Way, Suite 100  
Meridian, Idaho, 83642

Subject: Federal Certification of the COMPASS Transportation Management Area (TMA)  
Planning Process

Dear Mr. Bieter:

As you are aware, the enactment of the Safe, Accountable, Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA-LU) retained and reinforced the requirements for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to review and certify the planning processes for large Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) every four years. The previous FHWA/FTA Certification action on the COMPASS MPO was completed in June 2005.

The recent review of the COMPASS MPO's planning process relied largely upon a site visit conducted by representatives from the FHWA and FTA on September 16-18, 2009. Significant time was spent with staff from the MPO, the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), and Valley Regional Transit discussing the current status of the MPO's "continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive" (3-C) planning process. Throughout the site visit, opportunities also were afforded to local elected/appointed officials and the general public to provide their insights on the MPO's planning process. In addition to assessing the MPO's progress in addressing findings from the prior Certification Review, the recent site visit focused on the MPO's current and future implementation of new and revised metropolitan transportation planning requirements that resulted from the enactment of SAFETEA-LU.

Enclosed is the final *Transportation Planning Certification Review Report* that documents the various components of the recent FHWA/FTA Certification Review of the COMPASS MPO. The report provides an overview of the MPO Certification 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 continued existence of a 3-C metropolitan transportation planning process that satisfies the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134, 49 U.S.C. 1607, and associated Federal requirements. The Certification Review Team noted continued good work, including numerous noteworthy practices and innovations in COMPASS' planning process. The Certification

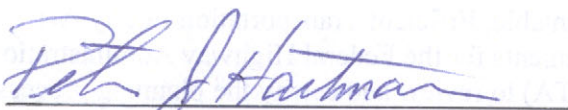
Review Team also identified a number of Recommendations and Corrective Actions for the MPO to improve the current process.

Based on overall findings, the COMPASS planning process is Certified With Conditions for a period of four years per 23 CFR 450.334(b)(1)(ii). This report has been transmitted concurrently to the MPO and ITD. A representative from FHWA-Idaho Division Office is scheduled to formally present the review findings and the FHWA/FTA Certification action at your June 2010 MPO Board meeting.

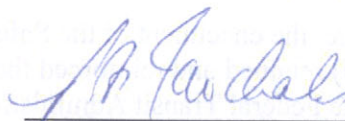
The MPO Certification Review is one of several methods employed by the FHWA/FTA to monitor and assess the outcomes of the metropolitan transportation planning process. Other methods include the review and approval of the MPO's Unified Planning Work Program; review of the MPO's Long-Range Transportation Plan; issuance of the Federal air quality conformity finding of the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program; and periodic meeting attendance.

If you have any questions regarding the Certification Review process and/or the *Transportation Planning Certification Review Report*, please contact Mr. Scott Frey, FHWA at (208) 334-9180, extension 115 or Ned Conroy, FTA at (206) 220-4318 .

Sincerely,



Peter J. Hartman  
FHWA Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration



R. F. Krochalis  
FTA Regional Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration

Enclosures

cc:

COMPASS (Matt Stoll)

FTA (Ned Conroy, Region 10)

FHWA (Scott Frey, ID Div)

ITD (Matt Moore, Planning Administrator)

(Sonna Lynn Fernandez, Intermodal Planning Manager)

(Randy Kyrias, Public Transit Administrator)

VRT (Kelli Fairless, Executive Director)