



**United States
Department of Transportation**

Federal Transit Administration – Region 2

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Federal Highway Administration – NY Division

Leo O'Brien Federal Building,
11 A Clinton Avenue, Suite 719
Albany, NY 12207

In Reply Refer To:
TRO-02
HPM-NY

April 6, 2018

Mr. Brian Schultz
SMTC Policy Chairman
Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council
100 Clinton Square, 126 N. Salina Street, Suite 100
Syracuse, NY 13202

Dear Mr. Brian Schultz,

RE: SMTC Certification - Approval and Report

Dear Mr. Schultz,

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are pleased to submit our 2017 Certification Review Report on the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council (SMTC) transportation planning process effective April 6, 2018. We hereby certify the SMTC planning process with conditions. The report contains our findings and includes commendations of some of the exemplary practices, recommendations for consideration in furthering program excellence, as well as corrective actions that the SMTC must address.

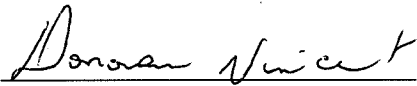
We find that the transportation planning process conducted by SMTC meets and/or exceeds the requirements in 23 C.F.R. § 450.336 and 49 U.S.C. § 5303, however we have identified two corrective actions. The first is regarding the Long-Range Transportation Plan's (LRTP) Financial Plan. While we recognize the efforts SMTC made to improve the LRTP financial planning section from the corrective action issued from the previous certification review, we found that three of the eight requirements were not sufficiently addressed. Specifically, these include 23 C.F.R. § 450.324(11) (f) in identifying all necessary financial resources from public and private sources, cost estimate with "year of expenditure" dollars, and demonstration of fiscal constraint in implementing the LRTP. The second is regarding the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). SMTC should prepare program monitoring reports with details on the status of each task in the UPWP along with an expenditure report per 23 C.F.R. § 420.117.


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The conditional certification will remain in effect until the corrective actions are satisfied. FHWA and FTA are confident that measures to address the corrective actions will be put in place and that these items will be addressed prior to the deadlines in the report. When the corrective actions are addressed, SMTC will be fully certified. The next certification review shall be completed within four years from the date of this letter per 23 C.F.R. § 450.336(b). We would like to thank all participants in the certification review process. The professionalism of the SMTC staff and many of the products are clear examples of what good metropolitan planning processes can achieve.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please call Anna Price of FHWA at 518.431.8858 or Donald Burns of FTA at 212.668.2203, our respective contacts on these subjects.

Sincerely,


for Stephen Goodman, P.E.
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration


Michael Canavan, P.E.
Acting Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Alan J. Steinberg, Regional Administrator Environmental Protection Agency, Region II
Ms. Marty Neveu, Director of Statewide Planning Bureau, NYSDOT
Ms. Colleen Smith-Lemmon, Statewide Planning Bureau, NYSDOT
Mr. David Smith, Director, NYSDOT Region 3
Mr. Mark Frechette, Regional Planning and Program Manager, NYSDOT Region 3
Mr. Martin Voss, Commissioner, Onondaga County Department of Transportation
Mr. E.J. Moses, Manager of Grant Procure. & Admin., CNY Regional Transportation Authority
Mr. James D'Agostino, Executive Director, SMTC
Mr. Donald Burns, Director of Planning and Program Development, FTA Region 2
Ms. Anna Price, FHWA NY Division, Director, Office of Program Management