Texas Department of Transportation

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July 9, 1997

TxDOT Oversight Responsibilities
for Attainment, Non-TMA MPOs

File TPP(I)
(512) 486-5039

C.D. Reagan, P.E.
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
Austin, Texas

Attn: Dennis Jones

Dear Sir:

During the last few months, we have been detailing certain TxDOT oversight responsibilities concerning metropolitan transportation planning in attainment, non-TMA MPOs. The following are the provisions that have been agreed to. We request your final review and approval.

1. The FHWA will continue to review and approve the initial UPWP. TxDOT will then review and approve all subsequent revisions. TxDOT will send copies of the approved revisions to FHWA.

2. FHWA will provide a letter of authorization to TxDOT for the funds obligating the full unobligated balance for the MPOs. FHWA will also provide, as a contingency amount, those funds not programmed. TxDOT will manage and track the contingency amounts for each MPO.

   If an MPO revises its UPWP, TxDOT would review and approve/reject the revision. Copies of approved UPWPs would be transmitted to FHWA for their information. In the case of TMAs, no work order would be issued to the MPOs prior to receiving FHWA approval of their UPWP or revisions.

3. Triennial reviews will not be conducted unless deemed necessary by individual circumstances. TPP(I) field representatives will continue to be in constant contact with the TxDOT district personnel and MPO staff and will be able to identify potential issues and address them in a timely manner. TxDOT will provide necessary documentation to ensure FHWA that, for the Joint Record of Review for the STIP, planning procedures are being followed.

4. TxDOT will submit to FHWA a copy of the annual performance report for each MPO.

5. TxDOT will continue its review and approval of contracts for areas without approved Procurement Procedures; this will only apply to contracts using PL funds. The only prior approval would come from TxDOT's General Services Division on the contract or from TxDOT's Transportation Planning and Programming Division on the scope of work. Field representatives will continue to suggest strongly to the MPOs that the areas without approved Procurement Procedures develop them.

6. TxDOT would review and approve all equipment purchases over $5,000 in these areas in accordance with A-87.

7. FHWA and FTA will conduct process reviews as deemed necessary, to see how the state is managing this program. Process reviews will be a coordinated team approach with representatives of TxDOT, FHWA and FTA participating.

8. TxDOT will implement whatever steps are necessary to effectively carry out its responsibility as the oversight agency.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eddie Shafie at 486-5032.

Sincerely,

Alvin R. Luedecke Jr.

Alvin R. Luedecke, Jr., P.E.
Director, Transportation
Planning and Programming

RB
cc: Robert Cuellar, P.E.
Judith A. Byman

APPROVED AUG 0 1 1997
Date
Dennis W. Jones
Federal Highway Administration