



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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HPP-WA.2/721.4

Ms. Paula Hammond
Secretary of Transportation
Department of Transportation
Olympia, Washington

January 10, 2011

Attention: Ms. Stephanie Tax

**2011-2014 Statewide Transportation
Improvement Program (STIP) Federal
Approval**

Dear Ms. Hammond:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) received the December 9, 2010 letter along with the 2011-2014 STIP from Ms. Stephanie Tax requesting approval.

Based on the State DOT and MPOs self-certifications of their statewide and metropolitan transportation planning processes, Federal certification of TMAs within the State, and our involvement in the State and MPO transportation planning processes, the FHWA and FTA hereby find that the 2011-2014 STIP is based on a transportation planning process that substantially meets the requirements of 23 U.S.C. Sections 134 and 135, 49 U.S.C. Sections 5303-5304, and 23 CFR 450 Subparts A, B, and C. The 2011-2014 STIP is therefore approved.

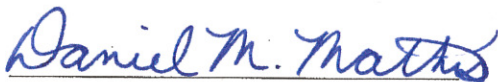
In reviewing the 2011-2014 STIP we identified a number of specific issues and have coordinated with your staff to address them in the short-term. We also notified your staff of some systemic issues with the STIP that we expect to address during calendar year 2011 as we conduct a comprehensive review which will focus more closely on the statewide transportation planning process and the metropolitan transportation planning process in non-TMA MPOs. We intend to look at the planning, programming, and project development functions as well as the adequacy of coordination, communication, documentation, and reporting. While we generally

believe that the planning processes are commendable, we expect the review to reveal areas that need improvement and believe the results will benefit all participants. We look forward to working with you and your staff in these efforts.

It should be noted that approval of the 2011-2014 STIP is not to be construed as a Federal-aid eligibility determination. Each project must satisfy the specific requirements of the program from which Federal funds are requested, as well as other Federal requirements as appropriate before Federal funds are authorized.

If you have any questions concerning our joint action and the 2011-2014 STIP approval, please contact Jack Lord of FHWA at 360-753-9418 and/or Ned Conroy of FTA at 206-220-4318.

Sincerely,



Daniel M. Mathis, PE
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration



R.F. Krochalis
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

cc: Judy Lorenzo, MS: 47370; Cliff Hall, 47370; BFCG; CWCOG; LCV; PSRC; RTC; SMPO; SRTC; TRPC; WCOG; WVTC; YVCOG