



**Federal Highway Administration**

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December 30, 2022

Commissioner Robert Bender, Chair  
Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization  
4081 E. Olive Road, Suite A  
Pensacola, FL 32514

Subject: Federal Certification of the Pensacola Transportation Management Area Planning Process – Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)

Dear Commissioner Bender:

Federal law requires the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to jointly review and certify the metropolitan transportation planning process for each Transportation Management Area (TMA) every four years. A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) with an urbanized area of 200,000 or more in population is referred to, in federal legislation, as a TMA. We recently conducted a review of the Pensacola TMA, more commonly referred to as the FL-AL TPO.

As a part of the TMA certification review process, FHWA and FTA utilized a risk-based approach containing various factors to determine which topic areas required additional evaluation during the certification review. The certification review process is one of several methods used to assess the quality of a regional metropolitan transportation planning process, compliance with applicable statutes and regulations, as well as the degree of technical assistance needed to enhance the effectiveness of the planning process. This certification review was conducted to highlight best practices, identify opportunities for improvements, and ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.

The review of the FL-AL TPO's planning process included a site visit conducted by FHWA and FTA representatives on July 9, 2022. During the site visit, time was spent with the MPO staff, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and the transit agency to discuss the status of the MPO's "3-C" planning process. Opportunities were afforded to local elected/appointed officials and the public to provide their insights on the FL-AL TPO's planning process. In addition to assessing the TPO's progress in addressing the findings from the previous certification review, the TPO's current and/or future implementation of the metropolitan transportation planning requirements was also considered.

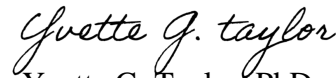
Enclosed for your consideration is the final *TMA Certification Review Report* for the Pensacola TMA, which includes documentation of the various components of the FHWA/FTA certification review of the FL-AL TPO. The report provides an overview of the TMA certification review process, summarizes the various discussions from the site visit, provides a series of review findings, and issues the FHWA/FTA certification action. In general, the review determined the existence of a “3-C” metropolitan transportation planning process that satisfies the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 134, 49 U.S.C. 5303/5305, and associated Federal requirements. The Federal Review Team identified three (3) noteworthy practices, one (1) corrective action, and two (2) recommendations to improve the current planning process of the FL-AL TPO.

Based on the overall findings, the FHWA and the FTA jointly certify that the transportation planning process of the Pensacola TMA, which is comprised entirely by the FL-AL TPO, substantially meets the federal planning requirements in 23 CFR 450 Subpart C subject to the MPO satisfactorily addressing the corrective action stated in this report. The MPO is encouraged to provide the FHWA and FTA with evidence of satisfactory completion of the corrective action in accordance with the noted deadlines. This certification will remain in effect until **December 2026**.

If you have any questions regarding the certification review process and/or the *TMA Certification Review Report*, please contact Mr. Carlos A. Gonzalez by phone at (850) 553-2221 or by email at [Carlos.A.Gonzalez@dot.gov](mailto:Carlos.A.Gonzalez@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

FOR: Jamie Christian, P.E.  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration

  
Yvette G. Taylor, PhD  
Regional Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration

cc: Ms. Mary Beth Washnock, ECRC  
Mr. Austin Mount, ECRC  
Ms. Cathy Kendall, FHWA  
Ms. Karen Brunelle, FHWA  
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