



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway Administration**  
**Federal Transit Administration**

DEC 19 2011

Mr. Barry Seymour  
Executive Director  
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission  
190 N. Independence Mall West, 8<sup>th</sup> floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Mr. Seymour:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) want to ensure the efficacy of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's (DVRPC) public participation process. Because the Regional Citizens Committee (RCC) is a key component in the DVRPC public participation plan, the disbanding of the committee has left a void in the public outreach process. FTA and FHWA want to ensure that members of the public are being afforded a reasonable opportunity to be involved in DVRPC's planning processes, as required by 23 USC 134, 49 USC 5303, and 23 CFR 450.316.

In particular, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DVRPC and the New Jersey Department of Transportation and New Jersey Transit, as well as the MOU for the Pennsylvania portion of the DVRPC region specifically cite the role of the RCC in reviewing "minor amendments" to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

On October 27, 2011, DVRPC's Board voted to disband the RCC prior to adopting a revised plan that would provide a substitute for continuous public involvement. 23 CFR 450.316(a)(3) states that "A minimum public comment period of 45 calendar days shall be provided before the initial or revised participation plan is adopted by the MPO." Since the new plan is still being developed and it is subject to a minimum 45-day public comment period, we foresee at least a 90 day period before the plan is adopted and implemented. We therefore ask that you advise us in writing by January 6, 2012 as to how your remaining public involvement activities meet the requirements of the regulations and your related MOUs while you proceed to adopt a revised Public Participation Plan.

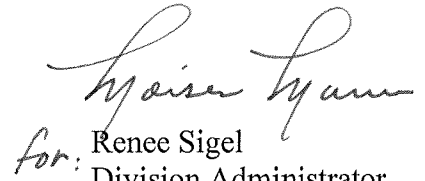
Please contact Tony Cho (FTA) at (215) 656-7250 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Brigid Hynes-Cherin  
Acting Regional Administrator  
FTA Region III

Ernest Blais  
Division Administrator  
FHWA New Jersey Division



for: Renee Sigel  
Division Administrator  
FHWA Pennsylvania Division

Enclosures

CC: Jim Mosca, PennDOT  
David Kuhn, NJDOT