



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

Michigan Division

October 19, 2012

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In Reply Refer To:
HDA-MI

Mr. Dave Wresinski
Director
Bureau of Transportation Planning (B340)
Michigan Department of Transportation
Lansing, Michigan

Dear Mr. Wresinski:

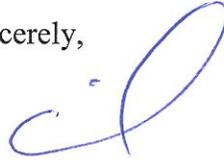
Both the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have reviewed the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (2040 LRTP) for the Bay City Area Transportation Study (BCATS), as provided by your letter of August 22, 2012. In summary, we find that the Plan does meet the requirements of Metropolitan Transportation Plan development and content (as found in 23 CFR 450.322).

However, we do have suggestions and observations to help improve the Plan. These are summarized as follows and were reviewed with the MPO staff:

- The list of “identified” projects do not go beyond the year 2020. It may be helpful to the reader to understand the rationale behind this, given that this is a Plan that extends to the year 2040.
- The Transit revenue table on page 84 includes Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) funding as a stand-alone category of funds. However, JARC funds no longer exist under MAP-21. To avoid confusion as this Plan is referenced in the coming years, please edit the table to have a single column for Federal funds (plus the State and Local columns that are already included).
- Consider including text at the beginning of the report acknowledging MAP-21 and how it might shape planning in the region and content of the next Plan in a general sense (e.g., performance measures, changes in funding programs; additional text could take less than a page). We realize that this 2040 Plan was developed shortly before implementation of MAP-21. However, given that your next Plan update is not due for another five years, it may be helpful to the reader to see some acknowledgement of the new Federal transportation program.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (517) 702-1827 or andy.pickard@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A. Pickard', written in a cursive style.

Andy Pickard
Transportation Planning Team Leader

For: Russell L. Jorgenson
Division Administrator