Mr. Kwabena Aboagye  
Assistant Director, Comprehensive Planning  
Tennessee Department of Transportation  
James K. Polk Building, Suite 900  
Nashville, TN 37243

Subject: Memphis Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Fiscal Year 2020 & 2021 Unified Planning Work Program

Dear Mr. Aboagye:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 & 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the Memphis Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

In coordination with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Region Four Office, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Tennessee Division has performed a review of the FY 2020 & 2021 UPWP for the Memphis MPO. Based on this review, we have determined that the document satisfies the requirements of 23 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 134, 49 U.S.C. Section 5303, 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 420 and 450, and 2 CFR Part 200.

Accordingly, and as delegated in the Memorandum of Agreement between the FHWA Tennessee Division and the FTA Region Four, the FHWA approves the Memphis MPO's FY 2020 & 2021 UPWP.

This approval applies to both fiscal years in the adopted UPWP. Federal funds for FY 2020 will be available for reimbursement upon Federal Aid Project authorization. Per 23 CFR Part 420.113, expenditures incurred without prior authorization will not be eligible for FHWA participation.

As the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act has authorized funding through FY 2020, Federal funding for FY 2021 is contingent on Federal transportation funding authorization for FY 2021. Programmed funding for FY 2021 will likely not be available for authorization until after October 1, 2020, and may need to be revised prior to this date to accurately reflect the Federal funds available to the MPO at that time.

As discussed through the Federal review of the UPWPs, FHWA expects TDOT and the MPOs to ensure that the UPWP is fully reflective of all metropolitan planning activities to be reimbursed with Federal funding throughout the period covered by the UPWP. MPOs are advised to consult with TDOT and FHWA on any activities or expenditures which are not included in the approved
UPWP and to take appropriate action, either through UPWP amendment or administrative modification, to program such activities in the UPWP.

Expenditure invoicing and progress reports should continue to be submitted quarterly, with copies provided to FHWA.

Finally, we commend your staff’s efforts in the development and review of the Memphis MPO’s UPWP. If you have any questions, please contact me at (615) 781-5775 or Elizabeth.Watkins@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Watkins
Transportation Planning Specialist

cc: Ms. Theresa Claxton, Program Development Team Leader, FHWA TN Division
    Mr. Sean Santalla, Transportation Planning Specialist, FHWA TN Division
    Mr. Andres Ramirez, General Engineer, FTA Region IV
    Ms. Nancy Hirsh, Senior Regional Planner, TDOT
    Mr. Calvin Abram, OCT Region 4 Planning Supervisor, TDOT
    Ms. Pragati Srivastava, MPO Administrator, Memphis Urban Area MPO