



September 13, 2012

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Recently, we were informed that Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requested Division Offices to review roads classified as principal arterials within the state and identify any functional classification changes. This complies with Section 1104 of MAP-21. Our member Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), both large and small, appreciate the opportunity to provide input, but believe this process requires additional time.

The September 5, 2012 memorandum to FHWA Division Administrators established a deadline for submission to the Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty of September 20, 2012. As of the date of this letter, a large share of our membership have not been contacted by their state transportation officials. Those contacted by their state are working quickly and cooperatively to meet the expectations of USDOT.

Several of our members contacted by their state DOT were asked to reclassify principal arterials as minor arterials. This is not consistent with MAP-21. AMPO supports the expansion of the NHS and will work to meet the established timeline. However, if the intent of Congress is to expand the system to include all principal arterials, FHWA should consider an update of the system by relying on the longstanding, collaborative process.

Thank you for the opportunity to assist USDOT as we move forward with the implementation of MAP-21. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202.624.3680.

Sincerely,

DeLania Hardy
Executive Director