



U.S. Department
Of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

Headquarters

1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington DC 20590

FEB 25 2014

Mr. David D. King
General Manager
Triangle Transit
P. O. Box 13787
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Re: Project Development Initiation – Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit

Dear Mr. King:

Thank you for your letter, dated December 19, 2013, requesting entry into the Project Development (PD) phase under the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) New Starts program for Triangle Transit's Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit (LRT) project. After reviewing your initial letter, FTA requested additional information from Triangle Transit staff that was submitted on January 13 and February 5, 2014. FTA determined that the information provided in the submittals is sufficient to enter the PD phase. Per the requirements of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), the following activities must be completed during PD:

- Select a locally preferred alternative;
- Have the locally preferred alternative adopted into the fiscally constrained long range transportation plan;
- Complete the environmental review process; and
- Complete the activities required to develop sufficient information for evaluation and rating under the Section 5309 criteria.

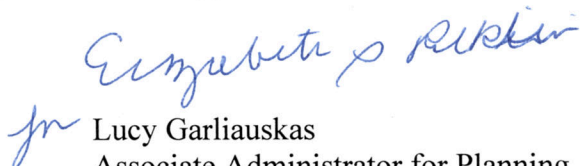
Triangle Transit must complete the environmental review process and provide FTA with information for evaluation and rating to complete PD and become ready for entry into the Engineering phase. Triangle Transit must request an extension from FTA if PD activities will take longer than two years. FTA, in determining whether to grant an extension, will consider the reasonableness of the proposed plan and timeframe for completing PD activities.

With this entry into PD, Triangle Transit has pre-award authority to incur costs for PD activities prior to grant approval and to retain eligibility of those activities for future FTA grant assistance. PD activities include the work necessary to complete the environmental review process and as much engineering and design activities as Triangle Transit believes are necessary to support the environmental review process. Upon completion of the environmental review process, FTA extends pre-award authority to project sponsors in PD to incur costs for as much engineering and design as necessary to develop a reasonable cost estimate and financial plan for the project,

utility relocation, and real property acquisition and associated relocations. This pre-award authority does not constitute a commitment that future Federal funds will be approved for PD or any other project cost. As with all pre-award authority, relevant Federal requirements must be met prior to incurring costs in order to preserve eligibility of the costs for future FTA grant assistance.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Gail McFadden-Roberts at 202-366-5098 or gail.mcfadden-roberts@dot.gov.

Sincerely,


for Lucy Garliauskas
Associate Administrator for Planning
and Environment

cc: Yvette G. Taylor, Ph.D., Regional Administrator