



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

REGION X
Alaska, Idaho, Oregon,
Washington

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December 27, 2017

Mr. Goran Sparrman
Acting Director
Seattle Department of Transportation
Seattle Municipal Tower
P.O. Box 34996
700 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3800
Seattle, WA 98124-4996

**Re: Madison Street Bus Rapid Transit Project
Documented Categorical Exclusion Class II(d)**

Dear Mr. Sparrman:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has reviewed the City of Seattle's *NEPA Documented Categorical Environmental Worksheet* and supplemental information dated December 2017 for the Madison Street Bus Rapid Transit Project (Project). Based on this information, we understand that the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) proposes to use FTA funds to develop a new bus rapid transit line along the Madison Street corridor between Downtown Seattle and the Madison Valley neighborhood.

The Project will include approximately 10 BRT station areas with 20 directional platforms, new Transit Only Lanes (TOLs) and Business Access & Transit (BAT) lanes, pedestrian and bicycle improvements, and signal and utility upgrades. Each stop will have a shelter, off-board fare payment machines, and real-time arrival information. The Project will add Transit Signal Priority (TSP) at most signalized corridor intersections between 7th Avenue and MLK Jr Way. The Project will use nine (9) new 60-foot articulated low-floor buses with three doors on the right side and two on the left. The vehicles will be powered by electric trolleybus (ETB) technology requiring overhead catenary systems (OCS) possibly supplemented by battery-powered technology allowing for "off wire" operation. New overhead wires will be installed at five locations, and one new traction-powered system substation (TPSS) will be needed near the eastern end of the project.

Based on the information provided, FTA concurs that the Project qualifies as a categorical exclusion as described in the Department of Transportation's Final Rule concerning Environmental Impact and Related Procedures, 23 CFR Section 771.118(d). Please ensure that you implement the mitigation measures attached to this letter. In addition, please be sure to comply with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act (Uniform Act) when acquiring property.

This action applies only to the Project as described in the above-referenced materials. Any changes that would result in potentially significant environmental impacts not identified in the Worksheet, including material new information or environmental concerns not previously identified, may require re-evaluation of this action. This confirmation of categorical exclusion does not provide FTA commitment that future Federal funds will be approved for this project. Any costs incurred under FTA pre-award authority must meet all Federal requirements prior to being incurred in order to retain eligibility of those costs for future FTA grant assistance.

Please contact John Witmer at 206-220-7964 and john.witmer@dot.gov or myself if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Linda M. Gehrke
Regional Administrator

Attachment

cc: Sandy Gurkewitz, SDOT
Maria Koengeter, SDOT
Andrew-Glass Hasting, SDOT
David Morrison, King County Metro