



U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway
Administration

Pennsylvania Division

AUG 23 2016

228 Walnut Street, Room 508
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1720

In reply refer to:
HPD-PA

City of Philadelphia
Outdoor Advertising Program
Market East Advertising District

Ms. Melissa Batula, P.E.
Chief of the Highway Delivery Division
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
400 North Street – 7th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Ms. Batula:

In a letter dated December 3, 2015, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved elements of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PennDOT) proposed Device Certification Plan (DCP). The DCP described the transition of Outdoor Advertising Control (OAC) from the City of Philadelphia (City) to PennDOT for the entire City, except for an area known as the Market Street East Advertising District (MSEAD). As discussed in the approval, the City retained their certification of control of outdoor advertising within the MSEAD pending further review and approval by FHWA.

PennDOT's March 7, 2016 letter to the City conditioned the MSEAD certification on several items including provision of specific permitting information. The City has not met the conditions of the certification and per communication with PennDOT Legal Counsel the City has not been responsive to PennDOT's requests for information on the MSEAD. As a result, PennDOT has been unable to meet the federal requirement that the State periodically assure itself that the City is providing effective control of outdoor advertising.

Therefore, FHWA cannot support the certification of the MSEAD, and that OAC for all parts of the City of Philadelphia must immediately be under PennDOT's exclusive control.

If you have any questions, please contact Keith Lynch, Director of Program Development at 717-221-4545.

Sincerely,

Renee Sigel
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

Cc: Scott Christie, PennDOT
Mark Chappell, PennDOT
William Cressler, PennDOT OCC
Jack Clark, PennDOT
Keith Lynch, FHWA
Barbara Shaffer, FHWA