Based on feedback received earlier in the NEPA/SEPA process, any alternatives proposed for the Air Force Tank Farm property in Mukilteo would also include removal of the entire pier over Possession Sound.

WSF plans to start construction in 2015 and complete the project in 2019. See Attachment 1 for the proposed project milestone schedule.

Your written response by April 26, 2010 is greatly appreciated as acknowledgement of your interest to participate in this effort. If you have questions or would like to discuss our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the EIS, please call Linda Gehrke of this office at (206) 220-4463 or email at Linda.Gehrke@dot.gov. You may also contact Jennifer Horwitz at (206) 220-7515 or email at Jennifer.Horwitz.CTR@dot.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project. We look forward to talking with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

R.F. Krochalis
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

cc: Project File, WSDOT

Enclosures: Proposed Milestone Schedule
Reinitiation Meeting Presentation
Reinitiation Meeting Summary
Updated Coordination Plan
Reply sheet
Pre-addressed envelope

Based on feedback received earlier in the NEPA/SEPA process, any alternatives proposed for the Air Force Tank Farm property in Mukilteo would also include removal of the entire pier over Possession Sound.

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Your written response by April 26, 2010 is greatly appreciated as acknowledgement of your interest to participate in this effort. If you have questions or would like to discuss our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the EIS, please call Linda Gehrke of this office at (206) 220-4463 or email at Linda.Gehrke@dot.gov. You may also contact Jennifer Horwitz at (206) 220-7515 or email at Jennifer.Horwitz.CTR@dot.gov.

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David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Tom Wooten, Chair
Samish Indian Nation
P.O. Box 217
Anacortes, WA 98221

Re: Mukilteo Multimodal Project
Request for Confirmation of NEPA Cooperating or Participating Agency Status

Dear Chairman Wooten:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Washington State Department of Transportation, Ferries Division (WSF) have reinitiated the process to complete a joint National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mukilteo Multimodal Project (Project) located in the City of Mukilteo, Snohomish County, Washington. We appreciate your attendance at the reinitiation meeting on February 10th. Enclosed is a copy of the presentation and the meeting summary.

Government-to-Government Consultation
The FTA and WSF initiated consultation for this project with the Samish Indian Nation on July 25, 2003. As it has been some time since our last government-to-government consultation meeting, we would like to resume such consultation with you for this project. If your schedule permits, we hope that we can schedule a meeting with you for a date in April or May 2010. Phillip Narte, WSF Tribal Liaison, will be contacting you to schedule this meeting.

We have attached an updated Tribal Consultation Plan for your review and consideration. Please review and comment on this document. The project team has also developed an Updated Coordination Plan that describes the agency and public involvement activities for the project. You may also review and comment on it. We will send a copy to you at your request.

NEPA Role

In 2006, we invited the Samish Indian Nation to act as a Participating Agency in the development of the EIS for the Project (pursuant to Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)). With this letter, we invite your tribe to consider becoming a Cooperating Agency. This designation does not imply that the tribe supports the project.

Your participation as a Cooperating Agency is invited because you have special expertise for this project's affected environment. Together, we could identify those environmental factors you consider to be most critical, and ensure that the combined NEPA/SEPA EIS would adequately address your concerns. FTA and WSF are currently developing a range of alternatives to be evaluated along with the No Action Alternative.

As a Cooperating Agency, your tribe's involvement would entail those areas under its special expertise that need to be addressed to satisfy your concerns. No direct writing or analysis will be required of your tribe for the document's preparation. However, we do hope that you will tell us if, at any point in the process, your needs are not being met.

If you agree to continue as or become a Cooperating Agency, we will take the following actions to maximize intergovernmental cooperation:

- Welcome your input to the proposed project milestone schedule (see attachment 1)
- Invite you to agency coordination meetings and joint field reviews
- Consult with you on any relevant technical studies that will be required for the project
- Provide you with study results, meeting minutes, and project information
- Invite you to agency and public involvement activities
- Provide a review copy of the draft technical studies of your interest for comment with a request for your expedited response
- Provide a review copy of the Draft EIS and Final EIS for comment with a 30 day response request

FTA intends to use the Final EIS as the basis for the Record of Decision (ROD) that will become the administrative decision document. We expect the documents to address your concerns related to alternative selection, environmental consequences and mitigation.

Under SAFETEA-LU, should you decline participation as a Cooperating Agency, FTA requests you act as a Participating Agency to the project. In this capacity, your responsibilities would be to review and comment on the development of and preliminary versions and contents of the EIS.

If you accept this invitation to be a Participating Agency, your tribe will be able to:

1. Provide meaningful and early input on defining the purpose and need, determining the range of alternatives to be considered, and then methodologies and the level of detail required in the alternatives analysis.
2. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
3. Timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your tribe on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project. Declining our invitation to be a participating agency does not diminish the tribe's right to meaningful government-to-government consultation.

If your tribe elects to participate in the project as a Cooperating Agency or Participating Agency, **please forward your response to us in writing by surface mail by April 26, 2010**. If your tribe does not wish to be involved in this project, per SAFETEA-LU requirements **you will need to indicate this in writing**. A reply sheet and a pre-addressed envelope are enclosed to ease your reply. Please also indicate on the reply sheet which documents (in addition to the EIS) your tribe would be interested in reviewing.

Project Description

WSF and FTA are evaluating a new multimodal terminal to replace the existing ferry terminal in Mukilteo. The study area for the project extends from Edmonds to Everett. The new terminal would improve the transportation service provided by the Mukilteo Ferry Terminal and its operations in providing safe, reliable and effective service for general purpose transportation, transit, high occupancy vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. WSF and FTA have determined that previously developed alternatives for the project are not viable. The project team is developing new alternatives that include the following key features:

- A ferry dock, with one ferry slip (and the potential for a second in the future)
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- An access road with a ferry access lane, and transit and carpool bypass
- A pedestrian waterfront promenade for public access to the water
- Parking facilities

Based on feedback received earlier in the NEPA/SEPA process, any alternatives proposed for the Air Force Tank Farm property in Mukilteo would also include removal of the entire pier over Possession Sound.

WSF currently plans to start construction in 2015 and complete the project in 2019. See the proposed project milestone schedule enclosed with this letter for more information about the project schedule.

Your written response by April 26, 2010 is greatly appreciated as acknowledgement of your interest to participate in this effort. If you have questions or would like to discuss our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the EIS, please call Linda Gehrke of this office at (206) 220-4463 or email at Linda.Gehrke@dot.gov. You may also contact Jennifer Horwitz at (206) 220-7515 or email at Jennifer.Horwitz.CTR@dot.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project. We look forward to talking with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

R.F. Krochalis
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

Enclosures: Proposed Milestone Schedule
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cc: Diana Barg, Samish Indian Nation, Cultural Resources, w/attachments
Dr. Allyson Brooks, SHPO, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, w/attachments
Scott Williams, Cultural Resources Office, w/o attachments
Megan Cotton, WSDOT Tribal Liaison, w/o attachments
Project File

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David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Janice Mabee, Chair
Sauk-Suiattle Tribe
5318 Chief Brown Lane
Darrington, WA 98241

Re: Mukilteo Multimodal Project
Request for Confirmation of NEPA Cooperating or Participating Agency Status

Dear Chairwoman Mabee:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Washington State Department of Transportation, Ferries Division (WSF) have reinitiated the process to complete a joint National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mukilteo Multimodal Project (Project) located in the City of Mukilteo, Snohomish County, Washington. We are sorry a representative of the Sauk-Suiattle Tribe was not able to attend the reinitiation meeting on February 10th. Enclosed is a copy of the presentation and the meeting summary.

Government-to-Government Consultation
The FTA and WSF initiated consultation for this project with the Sauk-Suiattle Tribe on July 25, 2003. As it has been some time since our last government-to-government consultation meeting, we would like to resume such consultation with you for this project. If your schedule permits, we hope that we can schedule a meeting with you for a date in April or May 2010. Phillip Narte, WSF Tribal Liaison, will be contacting you to schedule this meeting.

We have attached an updated Tribal Consultation Plan for your review and consideration. Please review and comment on this document. The project team has also developed an Updated

Coordination Plan that describes the agency and public involvement activities for the project. You may also review and comment on it. We will send a copy to you at your request.

NEPA Role

In 2006, we invited the Sauk-Suiattle Tribe to act as a Participating Agency in the development of the EIS for the Project (pursuant to Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)). With this letter, we invite your tribe to consider becoming a Cooperating Agency. This designation does not imply that the tribe supports the project.

Your participation as a Cooperating Agency is invited because you have special expertise for this project's affected environment. Together, we could identify those environmental factors you consider to be most critical, and ensure that the combined NEPA/SEPA EIS would adequately address your concerns. FTA and WSF are currently developing a range of alternatives to be evaluated along with the No Action Alternative.

As a Cooperating Agency, your tribe's involvement would entail those areas under its special expertise that need to be addressed to satisfy your concerns. No direct writing or analysis will be required of your tribe for the document's preparation. However, we do hope that you will tell us if, at any point in the process, your needs are not being met.

If you agree to continue as or become a Cooperating Agency, we will take the following actions to maximize intergovernmental cooperation:

- Welcome your input to the proposed project milestone schedule (see attachment 1)
- Invite you to agency coordination meetings and joint field reviews
- Consult with you on any relevant technical studies that will be required for the project
- Provide you with study results, meeting minutes, and project information
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- Provide a review copy of the draft technical studies of your interest for comment with a request for your expedited response
- Provide a review copy of the Draft EIS and Final EIS for comment with a 30 day response request

FTA intends to use the Final EIS as the basis for the Record of Decision (ROD) that will become the administrative decision document. We expect the documents to address your concerns related to alternative selection, environmental consequences and mitigation.

Under SAFETEA-LU, should you decline participation as a Cooperating Agency, FTA requests you act as a Participating Agency to the project. In this capacity, your responsibilities would be to review and comment on the development of and preliminary versions and contents of the EIS.

If you accept this invitation to be a Participating Agency, your tribe will be able to:

1. Provide meaningful and early input on defining the purpose and need, determining the range of alternatives to be considered, and then methodologies and the level of detail required in the alternatives analysis.
2. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.

3. Timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your tribe on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project. Declining our invitation to be a participating agency does not diminish the tribe's right to meaningful government-to-government consultation.

If your tribe elects to participate in the project as a Cooperating Agency or Participating Agency, **please forward your response to us in writing by surface mail by April 26, 2010**. If your tribe does not wish to be involved in this project, per SAFETEA-LU requirements **you will need to indicate this in writing**. A reply sheet and a pre-addressed envelope are enclosed to ease your reply. Please also indicate on the reply sheet which documents (in addition to the EIS) your tribe would be interested in reviewing.

Project Description

WSF and FTA are evaluating a new multimodal terminal to replace the existing ferry terminal in Mukilteo. The study area for the project extends from Edmonds to Everett. The new terminal would improve the transportation service provided by the Mukilteo Ferry Terminal and its operations in providing safe, reliable and effective service for general purpose transportation, transit, high occupancy vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. WSF and FTA have determined that previously developed alternatives for the project are not viable. The project team is developing new alternatives that include the following key features:

- A ferry dock, with one ferry slip (and the potential for a second in the future)
- A terminal building with future potential for an overhead pedestrian bridge
- A new transit center with service connections to Everett and Community Transit networks and a pick-up/drop-off area
- Vehicle holding that maintains the existing available capacity, dedicated staging for bicycles, carpools, and other priority vehicles, and a four-booth toll plaza
- An access road with a ferry access lane, and transit and carpool bypass
- A pedestrian waterfront promenade for public access to the water
- Parking facilities

Based on feedback received earlier in the NEPA/SEPA process, any alternatives proposed for the Air Force Tank Farm property in Mukilteo would also include removal of the entire pier over Possession Sound.

WSF currently plans to start construction in 2015 and complete the project in 2019. See the proposed project milestone schedule enclosed with this letter for more information about the project schedule.

Your written response by April 26, 2010 is greatly appreciated as acknowledgement of your interest to participate in this effort. If you have questions or would like to discuss our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the EIS, please call Linda Gehrke

of this office at (206) 220-4463 or email at Linda.Gehrke@dot.gov. You may also contact Jennifer Horwitz at (206) 220-7515 or email at Jennifer.Horwitz.CTR@dot.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project. We look forward to talking with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

R.F. Krochalis
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

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cc: Richard Wolten, Sauk-Suiattle Tribe, Natural Resources, w/attachments
Dr. Allyson Brooks, SHPO, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, w/attachments
Scott Williams, Cultural Resources Office, w/o attachments
Megan Cotton, WSDOT Tribal Liaison, w/o attachments
Project File

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David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

March 22, 2010

Snohomish County
Public Works Department
ATTN: Mr. Steve Thomsen, Director
3000 Rockefeller Avenue, MS 607
Everett, WA 98201

Re: Mukilteo Multimodal Project
Request for Confirmation of Cooperating Agency Status

Dear Mr. Thomsen:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Washington State Department of Transportation, Ferries Division (WSF) have reinitiated the process to complete a joint National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mukilteo Multimodal Project (Project) located in the City of Mukilteo, Snohomish County, Washington. We appreciate your attendance at the reinitiation meeting on February 10. Enclosed is a copy of the presentation and the meeting summary.

Because of the time that has passed since the EIS was started in 2006, we would like to confirm that your agency will continue to act as a **Cooperating Agency** for this project.

Project Description
WSF and FTA are evaluating a new multimodal terminal to replace the existing ferry terminal in Mukilteo. The study area for the project extends from Edmonds to Everett. The new terminal would improve the transportation service provided by the Mukilteo Ferry Terminal and its operations in providing safe, reliable and effective service for general purpose transportation, transit, high occupancy vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. WSF and FTA have determined that

previously developed alternatives for the project are not viable. The project team is developing new alternatives that include the following key features:

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- An access road with a ferry access lane and transit and carpool bypass
- A pedestrian waterfront promenade for public access to the water
- Parking facilities

Based on feedback received earlier in the NEPA/SEPA process, any alternatives proposed for the Air Force Tank Farm property in Mukilteo would also include removal of the entire pier over Possession Sound.

WSF plans to start construction in 2015 and complete the project in 2019. See Attachment 1 for the proposed project milestone schedule.

Cooperating Agency Role

Your participation as a Cooperating Agency is invited because you have special expertise or permitting authority for this project's affected environment. Together, we could identify those environmental factors you consider to be most critical, and ensure that the combined NEPA/SEPA EIS would adequately address your concerns. FTA and WSF are currently developing a range of alternatives to be evaluated along with the No Action Alternative.

As a Cooperating Agency, your agency's involvement would entail those areas under its jurisdiction or special expertise that need to be addressed to satisfy your concerns. No direct writing or analysis will be required of your agency for the document's preparation. However, we do hope that you will tell us if, at any point in the process, your needs are not being met.

If you agree to continue as or become a Cooperating Agency, we will take the following actions to maximize interagency cooperation:

- Welcome your input to the proposed project milestone schedule (see attachment 1)
- Invite you to agency coordination meetings and joint field reviews
- Consult with you on any relevant technical studies that will be required for the project
- Provide you with study results, meeting minutes, and project information
- Invite you to agency and public involvement activities
- Provide a review copy of the draft technical studies of your interest for comment with a request for your expedited response
- Provide a review copy of the Draft EIS and Final EIS for comment with a 30 day response request
- Provide adequate information for your agency to discharge their NEPA and SEPA responsibilities and any other requirements regarding jurisdictional approvals, permits, licenses, and/or clearances

More information describing how we propose to work with your agency on this project can be found in the enclosed Updated Coordination Plan. We would appreciate your review and comment on this document.

FTA intends to use the Final EIS as the basis for the Record of Decision (ROD) that will become the administrative decision document. We expect the documents to address your concerns related to alternative selection, environmental consequences and mitigation, and the responsibilities of your agency under federal and state laws and regulations.

If your agency elects to participate in the project as a Cooperating Agency, **please forward your response to us in writing by surface mail by April 26, 2010**. A reply sheet and a pre-addressed envelope are enclosed to ease your reply. Please also indicate on the reply sheet which documents from the list below you would be interested in reviewing.

- Transportation Discipline Report
- Ecosystems Discipline Report
- Cultural Resources Discipline Report
- Noise Discipline Report
- Hazardous Materials Discipline Report
- Environmental Justice Memo
- Section 4(f) Evaluation

Elements of the environment listed below will be addressed in the EIS but will not have a separate stand-alone report.

- Geology and Soils
- Water Resources
- Air Quality
- Energy
- Land Use
- Recreation
- Visual Resources
- Public Services and Utilities
- Social and Economic Resources

Under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), should you decline participation as a Cooperating Agency, FTA requests you act as a Participating Agency to the project. In this capacity, your responsibilities would be to review and comment on the development of and preliminary versions and contents of the EIS. Per SAFETEA-LU requirements, you must respond in writing if your agency will not act as a Participating Agency. The attached reply sheet will meet this requirement.

If you have questions or would like to discuss our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the EIS, please call Linda Gehrke of this office at (206) 220-4463 or

email at Linda.Gehrke@dot.gov. You may also contact Jennifer Horwitz at (206) 220-7515 or email at Jennifer.Horwitz.CTR@dot.gov.

Thank you again for your interest in and assistance with this project. We look forward to talking with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

R.F. Krochalis
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

cc: Larry Adamson, Snohomish County
Project File

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David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Joseph O. Mullen, Chair
Snoqualmie Tribe
P.O. Box 969
Snoqualmie, WA 98065

Re: Mukilteo Multimodal Project
Request for Confirmation of NEPA Cooperating or Participating Agency Status

Dear Chairman Mullen:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Washington State Department of Transportation, Ferries Division (WSF) have reinitiated the process to complete a joint National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mukilteo Multimodal Project (Project) located in the City of Mukilteo, Snohomish County, Washington. We are sorry a representative of the Snoqualmie Tribe was not able to attend the reinitiation meeting on February 10th. Enclosed is a copy of the presentation and the meeting summary.

Government-to-Government Consultation
The FTA and WSF initiated consultation for this project with the Snoqualmie Tribe on July 25, 2003. As it has been some time since our last government-to-government consultation meeting, we would like to resume such consultation with you for this project. If your schedule permits, we hope that we can schedule a meeting with you for a date in April or May 2010. Phillip Narte, WSF Tribal Liaison, will be contacting you to schedule this meeting.

We have attached an updated Tribal Consultation Plan for your review and consideration. Please review and comment on this document. The project team has also developed an Updated

Coordination Plan that describes the agency and public involvement activities for the project. You may also review and comment on it. We will send a copy to you at your request.

NEPA Role

In 2006, we invited the Snoqualmie Tribe to act as a Participating Agency in the development of the EIS for the Project (pursuant to Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)). With this letter, we invite your tribe to consider becoming a Cooperating Agency. This designation does not imply that the tribe supports the project.

Your participation as a Cooperating Agency is invited because you have special expertise for this project's affected environment. Together, we could identify those environmental factors you consider to be most critical, and ensure that the combined NEPA/SEPA EIS would adequately address your concerns. FTA and WSF are currently developing a range of alternatives to be evaluated along with the No Action Alternative.

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If you accept this invitation to be a Participating Agency, your tribe will be able to:

1. Provide meaningful and early input on defining the purpose and need, determining the range of alternatives to be considered, and then methodologies and the level of detail required in the alternatives analysis.
2. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.

3. Timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your tribe on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project. Declining our invitation to be a participating agency does not diminish the tribe's right to meaningful government-to-government consultation.

If your tribe elects to participate in the project as a Cooperating Agency or Participating Agency, **please forward your response to us in writing by surface mail by April 26, 2010**. If your tribe does not wish to be involved in this project, per SAFETEA-LU requirements **you will need to indicate this in writing**. A reply sheet and a pre-addressed envelope are enclosed to ease your reply. Please also indicate on the reply sheet which documents (in addition to the EIS) your tribe would be interested in reviewing.

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- Parking facilities

Based on feedback received earlier in the NEPA/SEPA process, any alternatives proposed for the Air Force Tank Farm property in Mukilteo would also include removal of the entire pier over Possession Sound.

WSF currently plans to start construction in 2015 and complete the project in 2019. See the proposed project milestone schedule enclosed with this letter for more information about the project schedule.

Your written response by April 26, 2010 is greatly appreciated as acknowledgement of your interest to participate in this effort. If you have questions or would like to discuss our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the EIS, please call Linda Gehrke

of this office at (206) 220-4463 or email at Linda.Gehrke@dot.gov. You may also contact Jennifer Horwitz at (206) 220-7515 or email at Jennifer.Horwitz.CTR@dot.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project. We look forward to talking with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

R.F. Krochalis
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

Enclosures: Proposed Milestone Schedule
Reinitiation Meeting Presentation
Reinitiation Meeting Summary
Tribal Consultation Plan
Reply sheet
Pre-addressed envelope

cc: Ray Mullen, Snoqualmie Tribe, Cultural Resources, w/attachments
Dr. Allyson Brooks, SHPO, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, w/attachments
Scott Williams, Cultural Resources Office, w/o attachments
Megan Cotton, WSDOT Tribal Liaison, w/o attachments
Project File

U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration
REGION X
Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

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Washington State Department of Transportation

Paula J. Hammond, P.E.
Secretary of Transportation

WSDOT Ferries Division (WSF)
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Seattle, WA 98121-3014

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TTY: 1-800-833-6388
www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries

David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

March 22, 2010

Sound Transit
ATTN: Mr. Perry Weinberg
401 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Mukilteo Multimodal Project
Request for Confirmation of Cooperating Agency Status

Dear Mr. Weinberg:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Washington State Department of Transportation, Ferries Division (WSF) have reinitiated the process to complete a joint National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mukilteo Multimodal Project (Project) located in the City of Mukilteo, Snohomish County, Washington. We appreciate Sound Transit's attendance at the reinitiation meeting on February 10. Enclosed is a copy of the presentation and the meeting summary.

Because of the time that has passed since the EIS was started in 2006, we would like to **confirm that your agency will continue to act as a Cooperating Agency** for this project.

Project Description

WSF and FTA are evaluating a new multimodal terminal to replace the existing ferry terminal in Mukilteo. The study area for the project extends from Edmonds to Everett. The new terminal would improve the transportation service provided by the Mukilteo Ferry Terminal and its operations in providing safe, reliable and effective service for general purpose transportation, transit, high occupancy vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. WSF and FTA have determined that

previously developed alternatives for the project are not viable. The project team is developing new alternatives that include the following key features:

- A ferry dock, with one ferry slip (and the potential for a second in the future)
- A terminal building with future potential for an overhead pedestrian bridge
- A new transit center with service connections to Everett and Community Transit networks and a pick-up/drop-off area
- Vehicle holding that maintains the existing available capacity, dedicated staging for bicycles, carpools, and other priority vehicles, and a four-booth toll plaza
- An access road with a ferry access lane and transit and carpool bypass
- A pedestrian waterfront promenade for public access to the water
- Parking facilities

Based on feedback received earlier in the NEPA/SEPA process, any alternatives proposed for the Air Force Tank Farm property in Mukilteo would also include removal of the entire pier over Possession Sound.

WSF plans to start construction in 2015 and complete the project in 2019. See Attachment 1 for the proposed project milestone schedule.

Cooperating Agency Role

Your participation as a Cooperating Agency is invited because you have special expertise on this project's affected environment. Together, we could identify those environmental factors you consider to be most critical, and ensure that the combined NEPA/SEPA EIS would adequately address your concerns. FTA and WSF are currently developing a range of alternatives to be evaluated along with the No Action Alternative.

As a Cooperating Agency, your agency's involvement would entail those areas under its jurisdiction or special expertise that need to be addressed to satisfy your concerns. No direct writing or analysis will be required of your agency for the document's preparation. However, we do hope that you will tell us if, at any point in the process, your needs are not being met.

If you agree to continue as or become a Cooperating Agency, we will take the following actions to maximize interagency cooperation:

- Welcome your input to the proposed project milestone schedule (see attachment 1)
- Invite you to agency coordination meetings and joint field reviews
- Consult with you on any relevant technical studies that will be required for the project
- Provide you with study results, meeting minutes, and project information
- Invite you to agency and public involvement activities
- Provide a review copy of the draft technical studies of your interest for comment with a request for your expedited response
- Provide a review copy of the Draft EIS and Final EIS for comment with a 30 day response request
- Provide adequate information for your agency to discharge their NEPA and SEPA responsibilities and any other requirements regarding jurisdictional approvals, permits, licenses, and/or clearances

More information describing how we propose to work with your agency on this project can be found in the enclosed Updated Coordination Plan. We would appreciate your review and comment on this document.

FTA intends to use the Final EIS as the basis for the Record of Decision (ROD) that will become the administrative decision document. We expect the documents to address your concerns related to alternative selection, environmental consequences and mitigation, and the responsibilities of your agency under federal and state laws and regulations.

If your agency elects to participate in the project as a Cooperating Agency, **please forward your response to us in writing by surface mail by April 26, 2010**. A reply sheet and a pre-addressed envelope are enclosed to ease your reply. Please also indicate on the reply sheet which documents from the list below you would be interested in reviewing.

- Transportation Discipline Report
- Ecosystems Discipline Report
- Cultural Resources Discipline Report
- Noise Discipline Report
- Hazardous Materials Discipline Report
- Environmental Justice Memo
- Section 4(f) Evaluation

Elements of the environment listed below will be addressed in the EIS but will not have a separate stand-alone report.

- Geology and Soils
- Water Resources
- Air Quality
- Energy
- Land Use
- Recreation
- Visual Resources
- Public Services and Utilities
- Social and Economic Resources

Under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), should you decline participation as a Cooperating Agency, FTA requests you act as a Participating Agency to the project. In this capacity, your responsibilities would be to review and comment on the development of and preliminary versions and contents of the EIS. Per SAFETEA-LU requirements, you must respond in writing if your agency will not act as a Participating Agency. The attached reply sheet will meet this requirement.

If you have questions or would like to discuss our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the EIS, please call Linda Gehrke of this office at (206) 220-4463 or

email at Linda.Gehrke@dot.gov. You may also contact Jennifer Horwitz at (206) 220-7515 or email at Jennifer.Horwitz.CTR@dot.gov.

Thank you again for your interest in and assistance with this project. We look forward to talking with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

R.F. Krochalis
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

cc: Barry Alavi, Sound Transit
Project File

Enclosures: Proposed Milestone Schedule
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David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Patrice Kempf, Vice-Chair
Stillaguamish Tribe
P.O. Box 277
Arlington, WA 98223

Re: Mukilteo Multimodal Project
Request for Confirmation of NEPA Cooperating or Participating Agency Status

Dear Chairwoman Kempf:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Washington State Department of Transportation, Ferries Division (WSF) have reinitiated the process to complete a joint National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mukilteo Multimodal Project (Project) located in the City of Mukilteo, Snohomish County, Washington. We are sorry a representative of the Stillaguamish Tribe was not able to attend the reinitiation meeting on February 10th. Enclosed is a copy of the presentation and the meeting summary.

Government-to-Government Consultation
The FTA and WSF initiated consultation for this project with the Stillaguamish Tribe on July 25, 2003. As it has been some time since our last government-to-government consultation meeting, we would like to resume such consultation with you for this project. If your schedule permits, we hope that we can schedule a meeting with you for a date in April or May 2010. Phillip Narte, WSF Tribal Liaison, will be contacting you to schedule this meeting.

We have attached an updated Tribal Consultation Plan for your review and consideration. Please review and comment on this document. The project team has also developed an Updated

Coordination Plan that describes the agency and public involvement activities for the project. You may also review and comment on it. We will send a copy to you at your request.

NEPA Role

In 2006, we invited the Stillaguamish Tribe to act as a Participating Agency in the development of the EIS for the Project (pursuant to Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)). With this letter, we invite your tribe to consider becoming a Cooperating Agency. This designation does not imply that the tribe supports the project.

Your participation as a Cooperating Agency is invited because you have special expertise for this project's affected environment. Together, we could identify those environmental factors you consider to be most critical, and ensure that the combined NEPA/SEPA EIS would adequately address your concerns. FTA and WSF are currently developing a range of alternatives to be evaluated along with the No Action Alternative.

As a Cooperating Agency, your tribe's involvement would entail those areas under its special expertise that need to be addressed to satisfy your concerns. No direct writing or analysis will be required of your tribe for the document's preparation. However, we do hope that you will tell us if, at any point in the process, your needs are not being met.

If you agree to continue as or become a Cooperating Agency, we will take the following actions to maximize intergovernmental cooperation:

- Welcome your input to the proposed project milestone schedule (see attachment 1)
- Invite you to agency coordination meetings and joint field reviews
- Consult with you on any relevant technical studies that will be required for the project
- Provide you with study results, meeting minutes, and project information
- Invite you to agency and public involvement activities
- Provide a review copy of the draft technical studies of your interest for comment with a request for your expedited response
- Provide a review copy of the Draft EIS and Final EIS for comment with a 30 day response request

FTA intends to use the Final EIS as the basis for the Record of Decision (ROD) that will become the administrative decision document. We expect the documents to address your concerns related to alternative selection, environmental consequences and mitigation.

Under SAFETEA-LU, should you decline participation as a Cooperating Agency, FTA requests you act as a Participating Agency to the project. In this capacity, your responsibilities would be to review and comment on the development of and preliminary versions and contents of the EIS.

If you accept this invitation to be a Participating Agency, your tribe will be able to:

1. Provide meaningful and early input on defining the purpose and need, determining the range of alternatives to be considered, and then methodologies and the level of detail required in the alternatives analysis.
2. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.

3. Timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your tribe on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project. Declining our invitation to be a participating agency does not diminish the tribe's right to meaningful government-to-government consultation.

If your tribe elects to participate in the project as a Cooperating Agency or Participating Agency, **please forward your response to us in writing by surface mail by April 26, 2010**. If your tribe does not wish to be involved in this project, per SAFETEA-LU requirements **you will need to indicate this in writing**. A reply sheet and a pre-addressed envelope are enclosed to ease your reply. Please also indicate on the reply sheet which documents (in addition to the EIS) your tribe would be interested in reviewing.

Project Description

WSF and FTA are evaluating a new multimodal terminal to replace the existing ferry terminal in Mukilteo. The study area for the project extends from Edmonds to Everett. The new terminal would improve the transportation service provided by the Mukilteo Ferry Terminal and its operations in providing safe, reliable and effective service for general purpose transportation, transit, high occupancy vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. WSF and FTA have determined that previously developed alternatives for the project are not viable. The project team is developing new alternatives that include the following key features:

- A ferry dock, with one ferry slip (and the potential for a second in the future)
- A terminal building with future potential for an overhead pedestrian bridge
- A new transit center with service connections to Everett and Community Transit networks and a pick-up/drop-off area
- Vehicle holding that maintains the existing available capacity, dedicated staging for bicycles, carpools, and other priority vehicles, and a four-booth toll plaza
- An access road with a ferry access lane, and transit and carpool bypass
- A pedestrian waterfront promenade for public access to the water
- Parking facilities

Based on feedback received earlier in the NEPA/SEPA process, any alternatives proposed for the Air Force Tank Farm property in Mukilteo would also include removal of the entire pier over Possession Sound.

WSF currently plans to start construction in 2015 and complete the project in 2019. See the proposed project milestone schedule enclosed with this letter for more information about the project schedule.

Your written response by April 26, 2010 is greatly appreciated as acknowledgement of your interest to participate in this effort. If you have questions or would like to discuss our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the EIS, please call Linda Gehrke

of this office at (206) 220-4463 or email at Linda.Gehrke@dot.gov. You may also contact Jennifer Horwitz at (206) 220-7515 or email at Jennifer.Horwitz.CTR@dot.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project. We look forward to talking with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

R.F. Krochalis
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

Enclosures: Proposed Milestone Schedule
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Reply sheet
Pre-addressed envelope

cc: Donna Gladsjo, Stillaguamish Tribe, Cultural Resources, w/attachments
Dr. Allyson Brooks, SHPO, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, w/attachments
Scott Williams, Cultural Resources Office, w/o attachments
Megan Cotton, WSDOT Tribal Liaison, w/o attachments
Project File

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David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Leonard Forsman, Chair
Suquamish Tribe
P.O. Box 498
Suquamish, WA 98392-0498

Re: Mukilteo Multimodal Project
Request for Confirmation of NEPA Cooperating or Participating Agency Status

Dear Chairman Forsman:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Washington State Department of Transportation, Ferries Division (WSF) have reinitiated the process to complete a joint National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mukilteo Multimodal Project (Project) located in the City of Mukilteo, Snohomish County, Washington. We appreciate your attendance at the reinitiation meeting on February 10th. Enclosed is a copy of the presentation and the meeting summary.

Government-to-Government Consultation
The FTA and WSF initiated consultation for this project with the Suquamish Tribe on July 25, 2003. We appreciated the opportunity to resume government-to-government consultation with you for this project with our meeting on March 17, 2010.

We have attached an updated Tribal Consultation Plan for your review and consideration. Please review and comment on this document. The project team has also developed an Updated Coordination Plan that describes the agency and public involvement activities for the project. You may also review and comment on it. We will send a copy to you at your request.

NEPA Role

In 2006, we invited the Suquamish Tribe to act as a Participating Agency in the development of the EIS for the Project (pursuant to Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)). With this letter, we invite your tribe to consider becoming a Cooperating Agency. This designation does not imply that the tribe supports the proposal.

Your participation as a Cooperating Agency is invited because you have special expertise for this project's affected environment. Together, we could identify those environmental factors you consider to be most critical, and ensure that the combined NEPA/SEPA EIS would adequately address your concerns. FTA and WSF are currently developing a range of alternatives to be evaluated along with the No Action Alternative.

As a Cooperating Agency, your tribe's involvement would entail those areas under its special expertise that need to be addressed to satisfy your concerns. No direct writing or analysis will be required of your tribe for the document's preparation. However, we do hope that you will tell us if, at any point in the process, your needs are not being met.

If you agree to continue as or become a Cooperating Agency, we will take the following actions to maximize intergovernmental cooperation:

- Welcome your input to the proposed project milestone schedule (see attachment 1)
- Invite you to agency coordination meetings and joint field reviews
- Consult with you on any relevant technical studies that will be required for the project
- Provide you with study results, meeting minutes, and project information
- Invite you to agency and public involvement activities
- Provide a review copy of the draft technical studies of your interest for comment with a request for your expedited response
- Provide a review copy of the Draft EIS and Final EIS for comment with a 30 day response request

FTA intends to use the Final EIS as the basis for the Record of Decision (ROD) that will become the administrative decision document. We expect the documents to address your concerns related to alternative selection, environmental consequences and mitigation.

Under SAFETEA-LU, should you decline participation as a Cooperating Agency, FTA requests you act as a Participating Agency to the project. In this capacity, your responsibilities would be to review and comment on the development of and preliminary versions and contents of the EIS.

If you accept this invitation to be a Participating Agency, your tribe will be able to:

1. Provide meaningful and early input on defining the purpose and need, determining the range of alternatives to be considered, and then methodologies and the level of detail required in the alternatives analysis.
2. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
3. Timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your tribe on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project. Declining our invitation to be a participating agency does not diminish the tribe's right to meaningful government-to-government consultation.

If your tribe elects to participate in the project as a Cooperating Agency or Participating Agency, **please forward your response to us in writing by surface mail by April 26, 2010**. In accordance with SAFETEA-LU, **you must respond to become a Participating Agency**. A reply sheet and a pre-addressed envelope are enclosed to ease your reply. Please also indicate on the reply sheet which documents (in addition to the EIS) your tribe would be interested in reviewing.

Project Description

WSF and FTA are evaluating a new multimodal terminal to replace the existing ferry terminal in Mukilteo. The study area for the project extends from Edmonds to Everett. The new terminal would improve the transportation service provided by the Mukilteo Ferry Terminal and its operations in providing safe, reliable and effective service for general purpose transportation, transit, high occupancy vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. WSF and FTA have determined that previously developed alternatives for the project are not viable. The project team is developing new alternatives that include the following key features:

- A ferry dock, with one ferry slip (and the potential for a second in the future)
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- Vehicle holding that maintains the existing available capacity, dedicated staging for bicycles, carpools, and other priority vehicles, and a four-booth toll plaza
- An access road with a ferry access lane, and transit and carpool bypass
- A pedestrian waterfront promenade for public access to the water
- Parking facilities

Based on feedback received earlier in the NEPA/SEPA process, any alternatives proposed for the Air Force Tank Farm property in Mukilteo would also include removal of the entire pier over Possession Sound.

WSF currently plans to start construction in 2015 and complete the project in 2019. See the proposed project milestone schedule enclosed with this letter for more information about the project schedule.

Your written response by April 26, 2010 is greatly appreciated as acknowledgement of your interest to participate in this effort. If you have questions or would like to discuss our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the EIS, please call Linda Gehrke of this office at (206) 220-4463 or email at Linda.Gehrke@dot.gov. You may also contact Jennifer Horwitz at (206) 220-7515 or email at Jennifer.Horwitz.CTR@dot.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project. We look forward to talking with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

R.F. Krochalis
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

Enclosures:
- Proposed Milestone Schedule
- Reinitiation Meeting Presentation
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- Pre-addressed envelope

cc: Dennis Lewarch, Suquamish Tribe, Cultural Resources, w/attachments
Tom Ostrom, Suquamish Tribe, w/attachments
Michelle Hanson, Suquamish Tribe, w/attachments
Dr. Allyson Brooks, SHPO, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, w/attachments
Scott Williams, Cultural Resources Office, w/o attachments
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David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Brian Cladoosby, Chair
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
11404 Moorage Way
LaConner, WA 98257

Re: Mukilteo Multimodal Project
Request for Confirmation of NEPA Cooperating or Participating Agency Status

Dear Chairman Cladoosby:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Washington State Department of Transportation, Ferries Division (WSF) have reinitiated the process to complete a joint National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mukilteo Multimodal Project (Project) located in the City of Mukilteo, Snohomish County, Washington. We appreciate your attendance at the reinitiation meeting on February 10th. Enclosed is a copy of the presentation and the meeting summary.

Government-to-Government Consultation
The FTA and WSF initiated consultation for this project with the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community on July 25, 2003. We appreciated the opportunity to resume government-to-government consultation with you for this project with our meeting on March 17, 2010.

We have attached an updated Tribal Consultation Plan for your review and consideration. Please review and comment on this document. The project team has also developed an Updated Coordination Plan that describes the agency and public involvement activities for the project. You may also review and comment on it. We will send a copy to you at your request.

NEPA Role

In 2006, we invited the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community to act as a Participating Agency in the development of the EIS for the Project (pursuant to Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)). With this letter, we invite your tribe to consider becoming a Cooperating Agency. This designation does not imply that the tribe supports the proposal.

Your participation as a Cooperating Agency is invited because you have special expertise for this project's affected environment. Together, we could identify those environmental factors you consider to be most critical, and ensure that the combined NEPA/SEPA EIS would adequately address your concerns. FTA and WSF are currently developing a range of alternatives to be evaluated along with the No Action Alternative.

As a Cooperating Agency, your tribe's involvement would entail those areas under its special expertise that need to be addressed to satisfy your concerns. No direct writing or analysis will be required of your tribe for the document's preparation. However, we do hope that you will tell us if, at any point in the process, your needs are not being met.

If you agree to continue as or become a Cooperating Agency, we will take the following actions to maximize intergovernmental cooperation:

- Welcome your input to the proposed project milestone schedule (see attachment 1)
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If you accept this invitation to be a Participating Agency, your tribe will be able to:

1. Provide meaningful and early input on defining the purpose and need, determining the range of alternatives to be considered, and then methodologies and the level of detail required in the alternatives analysis.
2. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
3. Timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your tribe on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project. Declining our invitation to be a participating agency does not diminish the tribe's right to meaningful government-to-government consultation.

If your tribe elects to participate in the project as a Cooperating Agency or Participating Agency, **please forward your response to us in writing by surface mail by April 26, 2010**. In accordance with SAFETEA-LU, **you must respond to become a Participating Agency**. A reply sheet and a pre-addressed envelope are enclosed to ease your reply. Please also indicate on the reply sheet which documents (in addition to the EIS) your tribe would be interested in reviewing.

Project Description

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Your written response by April 26, 2010 is greatly appreciated as acknowledgement of your interest to participate in this effort. If you have questions or would like to discuss our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the EIS, please call Linda Gehrke of this office at (206) 220-4463 or email at Linda.Gehrke@dot.gov. You may also contact Jennifer Horwitz at (206) 220-7515 or email at Jennifer.Horwitz.CTR@dot.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project. We look forward to talking with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

R.F. Krochalis
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

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cc: Larry Campbell, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Cultural Resources, w/attachments
Stan Walsh, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, w/attachments
Lorraine Loomis, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, w/attachments
Dr. Allyson Brooks, SHPO, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, w/attachments
Scott Williams, Cultural Resources Office, w/o attachments
Megan Cotton, WSDOT Tribal Liaison, w/o attachments
Project File

U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration
REGION X
Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

915 Second Avenue
Federal Bldg. Suite 3142
Seattle, WA 98174-1002
206-220-7954
206-220-7959 (fax)

Washington State Department of Transportation

Paula J. Hammond, P.E.
Secretary of Transportation

WSDOT Ferries Division (WSF)
2901 3rd Avenue, Suite 500
Seattle, WA 98121-3014

206-515-3400
TTY: 1-800-833-6388
www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries

David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Melvin Sheldon, Jr., Chair
Tulalip Tribes
6406 Marine Drive
Tulalip, WA 98271

Re: Mukilteo Multimodal Project
Request for Confirmation of NEPA Cooperating or Participating Agency Status

Dear Chairman Sheldon:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Washington State Department of Transportation, Ferries Division (WSF) have reinitiated the process to complete a joint National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mukilteo Multimodal Project (Project) located in the City of Mukilteo, Snohomish County, Washington. We appreciate your attendance at the reinitiation meeting on February 10th. Enclosed is a copy of the presentation and the meeting summary.

Government-to-Government Consultation
The FTA and WSF initiated consultation for this project with the Tulalip Tribes on July 25, 2003. As it has been some time since our last government-to-government consultation meeting, we would like to resume such consultation with you for this project. If your schedule permits, we hope that we can schedule a meeting with you for a date in April or May 2010. Phillip Narte, WSF Tribal Liaison, will be contacting you to schedule this meeting.

We have attached an updated Tribal Consultation Plan for your review and consideration. Please review and comment on this document. The project team has also developed an Updated Coordination Plan that describes the agency and public involvement activities for the project. You may also review and comment on it. We will send a copy to you at your request.

NEPA Role

In 2006, we invited the Tulalip Tribes to act as a Participating Agency in the development of the EIS for the Project (pursuant to Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)). With this letter, we invite your tribe to consider becoming a Cooperating Agency. This designation does not imply that the tribe supports the project.

Your participation as a Cooperating Agency is invited because you have special expertise for this project's affected environment. Together, we could identify those environmental factors you consider to be most critical, and ensure that the combined NEPA/SEPA EIS would adequately address your concerns. FTA and WSF are currently developing a range of alternatives to be evaluated along with the No Action Alternative.

As a Cooperating Agency, your tribe's involvement would entail those areas under its special expertise that need to be addressed to satisfy your concerns. No direct writing or analysis will be required of your tribe for the document's preparation. However, we do hope that you will tell us if, at any point in the process, your needs are not being met.

If you agree to continue as or become a Cooperating Agency, we will take the following actions to maximize intergovernmental cooperation:

- Welcome your input to the proposed project milestone schedule (see attachment 1)
- Invite you to agency coordination meetings and joint field reviews
- Consult with you on any relevant technical studies that will be required for the project
- Provide you with study results, meeting minutes, and project information
- Invite you to agency and public involvement activities
- Provide a review copy of the draft technical studies of your interest for comment with a request for your expedited response
- Provide a review copy of the Draft EIS and Final EIS for comment with a 30 day response request

FTA intends to use the Final EIS as the basis for the Record of Decision (ROD) that will become the administrative decision document. We expect the documents to address your concerns related to alternative selection, environmental consequences and mitigation.

Under SAFETEA-LU, should you decline participation as a Cooperating Agency, FTA requests you act as a Participating Agency to the project. In this capacity, your responsibilities would be to review and comment on the development of and preliminary versions and contents of the EIS.

If you accept this invitation to be a Participating Agency, your tribe will be able to:

1. Provide meaningful and early input on defining the purpose and need, determining the range of alternatives to be considered, and then methodologies and the level of detail required in the alternatives analysis.
2. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
3. Timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your tribe on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project. Declining our invitation to be a participating agency does not diminish the tribe's right to meaningful government-to-government consultation.

If your tribe elects to participate in the project as a Cooperating Agency or Participating Agency, **please forward your response to us in writing by surface mail by April 26, 2010**. If your tribe does not wish to be involved in this project, per SAFETEA-LU requirements **you will need to indicate this in writing**. A reply sheet and a pre-addressed envelope are enclosed to ease your reply. Please also indicate on the reply sheet which documents (in addition to the EIS) your tribe would be interested in reviewing.

Project Description

WSF and FTA are evaluating a new multimodal terminal to replace the existing ferry terminal in Mukilteo. The study area for the project extends from Edmonds to Everett. The new terminal would improve the transportation service provided by the Mukilteo Ferry Terminal and its operations in providing safe, reliable and effective service for general purpose transportation, transit, high occupancy vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. WSF and FTA have determined that previously developed alternatives for the project are not viable. The project team is developing new alternatives that include the following key features:

- A ferry dock, with one ferry slip (and the potential for a second in the future)
- A terminal building with future potential for an overhead pedestrian bridge
- A new transit center with service connections to Everett and Community Transit networks and a pick-up/drop-off area
- Vehicle holding that maintains the existing available capacity, dedicated staging for bicycles, carpools, and other priority vehicles, and a four-booth toll plaza
- An access road with a ferry access lane, and transit and carpool bypass
- A pedestrian waterfront promenade for public access to the water
- Parking facilities

Based on feedback received earlier in the NEPA/SEPA process, any alternatives proposed for the Air Force Tank Farm property in Mukilteo would also include removal of the entire pier over Possession Sound.

WSF currently plans to start construction in 2015 and complete the project in 2019. See the proposed project milestone schedule enclosed with this letter for more information about the project schedule.

Your written response by April 26, 2010 is greatly appreciated as acknowledgement of your interest to participate in this effort. If you have questions or would like to discuss our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the EIS, please call Linda Gehrke of this office at (206) 220-4463 or email at Linda.Gehrke@dot.gov. You may also contact Jennifer Horwitz at (206) 220-7515 or email at Jennifer.Horwitz.CTR@dot.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project. We look forward to talking with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

R.F. Krochalis
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

Enclosures: Proposed Milestone Schedule
Reinitiation Meeting Presentation
Reinitiation Meeting Summary
Tribal Consultation Plan
Reply sheet
Pre-addressed envelope

cc: Hank Gobin, Tulalip Tribes, Cultural Resources, w/attachments
Richard Young, Tulalip Tribes, Environmental Programs, w/attachments
Daryl Williams, Tulalip Tribes, Environmental Liaison, w/attachments
George White, Tulalip Tribes, Public Affairs, w/attachments
Dr. Allyson Brooks, SHPO, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, w/attachments
Scott Williams, Cultural Resources Office, w/o attachments
Megan Cotton, WSDOT Tribal Liaison, w/o attachments
Project File

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David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

March 22, 2010

The Honorable Jennifer Washington, Chair
Upper Skagit Tribe
25944 Community Plaza
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Re: Mukilteo Multimodal Project
Request for Confirmation of NEPA Cooperating or Participating Agency Status

Dear Chairwoman Washington:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Washington State Department of Transportation, Ferries Division (WSF) have reinitiated the process to complete a joint National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mukilteo Multimodal Project (Project) located in the City of Mukilteo, Snohomish County, Washington. We are sorry a representative of the Upper Skagit Tribe was not able to attend the reinitiation meeting on February 10th. Enclosed is a copy of the presentation and the meeting summary.

Government-to-Government Consultation
The FTA and WSF initiated consultation for this project with the Upper Skagit Tribe on July 25, 2003. As it has been some time since our last government-to-government consultation meeting, we would like to resume such consultation with you for this project. If your schedule permits, we hope that we can schedule a meeting with you for a date in April or May 2010. Phillip Narte, WSF Tribal Liaison, will be contacting you to schedule this meeting.

We have attached an updated Tribal Consultation Plan for your review and consideration. Please review and comment on this document. The project team has also developed an Updated

Coordination Plan that describes the agency and public involvement activities for the project. You may also review and comment on it. We will send a copy to you at your request.

NEPA Role

In 2006, we invited the Upper Skagit Tribe to act as a Participating Agency in the development of the EIS for the Project (pursuant to Section 6002 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)). With this letter, we invite your tribe to consider becoming a Cooperating Agency. This designation does not imply that the tribe supports the project.

Your participation as a Cooperating Agency is invited because you have special expertise for this project's affected environment. Together, we could identify those environmental factors you consider to be most critical, and ensure that the combined NEPA/SEPA EIS would adequately address your concerns. FTA and WSF are currently developing a range of alternatives to be evaluated along with the No Action Alternative.

As a Cooperating Agency, your tribe's involvement would entail those areas under its special expertise that need to be addressed to satisfy your concerns. No direct writing or analysis will be required of your tribe for the document's preparation. However, we do hope that you will tell us if, at any point in the process, your needs are not being met.

If you agree to continue as or become a Cooperating Agency, we will take the following actions to maximize intergovernmental cooperation:

- Welcome your input to the proposed project milestone schedule (see attachment 1)
- Invite you to agency coordination meetings and joint field reviews
- Consult with you on any relevant technical studies that will be required for the project
- Provide you with study results, meeting minutes, and project information
- Invite you to agency and public involvement activities
- Provide a review copy of the draft technical studies of your interest for comment with a request for your expedited response
- Provide a review copy of the Draft EIS and Final EIS for comment with a 30 day response request

FTA intends to use the Final EIS as the basis for the Record of Decision (ROD) that will become the administrative decision document. We expect the documents to address your concerns related to alternative selection, environmental consequences and mitigation.

Under SAFETEA-LU, should you decline participation as a Cooperating Agency, FTA requests you act as a Participating Agency to the project. In this capacity, your responsibilities would be to review and comment on the development of and preliminary versions and contents of the EIS.

If you accept this invitation to be a Participating Agency, your tribe will be able to:

1. Provide meaningful and early input on defining the purpose and need, determining the range of alternatives to be considered, and then methodologies and the level of detail required in the alternatives analysis.
2. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.

3. Timely review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents to reflect the views and concerns of your tribe on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Participating agencies are responsible to identify, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project. Declining our invitation to be a participating agency does not diminish the tribe's right to meaningful government-to-government consultation.

If your tribe elects to participate in the project as a Cooperating Agency or Participating Agency, **please forward your response to us in writing by surface mail by April 26, 2010**. If your tribe does not wish to be involved in this project, per SAFETEA-LU requirements **you will need to indicate this in writing**. A reply sheet and a pre-addressed envelope are enclosed to ease your reply. Please also indicate on the reply sheet which documents (in addition to the EIS) your tribe would be interested in reviewing.

Project Description

WSF and FTA are evaluating a new multimodal terminal to replace the existing ferry terminal in Mukilteo. The study area for the project extends from Edmonds to Everett. The new terminal would improve the transportation service provided by the Mukilteo Ferry Terminal and its operations in providing safe, reliable and effective service for general purpose transportation, transit, high occupancy vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. WSF and FTA have determined that previously developed alternatives for the project are not viable. The project team is developing new alternatives that include the following key features:

- A ferry dock, with one ferry slip (and the potential for a second in the future)
- A terminal building with future potential for an overhead pedestrian bridge
- A new transit center with service connections to Everett and Community Transit networks and a pick-up/drop-off area
- Vehicle holding that maintains the existing available capacity, dedicated staging for bicycles, carpools, and other priority vehicles, and a four-booth toll plaza
- An access road with a ferry access lane, and transit and carpool bypass
- A pedestrian waterfront promenade for public access to the water
- Parking facilities

Based on feedback received earlier in the NEPA/SEPA process, any alternatives proposed for the Air Force Tank Farm property in Mukilteo would also include removal of the entire pier over Possession Sound.

WSF currently plans to start construction in 2015 and complete the project in 2019. See the proposed project milestone schedule enclosed with this letter for more information about the project schedule.

Your written response by April 26, 2010 is greatly appreciated as acknowledgement of your interest to participate in this effort. If you have questions or would like to discuss our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the EIS, please call Linda Gehrke

of this office at (206) 220-4463 or email at Linda.Gehrke@dot.gov. You may also contact Jennifer Horwitz at (206) 220-7515 or email at Jennifer.Horwitz.CTR@dot.gov.

Thank you for your interest in this project. We look forward to talking with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

R.F. Krochalis
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

Enclosures: Proposed Milestone Schedule
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Tribal Consultation Plan
Reply sheet
Pre-addressed envelope

cc: Scott Schuyler, Upper Skagit Tribe, Cultural Resources, w/attachments
Dr. Allyson Brooks, SHPO, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, w/attachments
Scott Williams, Cultural Resources Office, w/o attachments
Megan Cotton, WSDOT Tribal Liaison, w/o attachments
Project File

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David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

March 22, 2010

U.S. Air Force
ATTN: Lt. Col. Steve Mortensen
62 AW/DS, 100 Colonel Joe Jackson Boulevard, Suite 3082
McChord AFB, WA 98438

Re: Mukilteo Multimodal Project
Request for Confirmation of Cooperating Agency Status

Dear Lt. Col. Mortensen:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Washington State Department of Transportation, Ferries Division (WSF) have reinitiated the process to complete a joint National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mukilteo Multimodal Project (Project) located in the City of Mukilteo, Snohomish County, Washington. We appreciate your attendance at the reinitiation meeting on February 10. Enclosed is a copy of the presentation and the meeting summary.

Because of the time that has passed since the EIS was started in 2006, we are confirming status for participating and cooperating agencies. Our records indicate that the U.S. Air Force is currently a Participating Agency for the project. We invite you to consider becoming a Cooperating Agency based on your agency's knowledge of the project area.

Project Description
WSF and FTA are evaluating a new multimodal terminal to replace the existing ferry terminal in Mukilteo. The study area for the project extends from Edmonds to Everett. The new terminal would improve the transportation service provided by the Mukilteo Ferry Terminal and its

operations in providing safe, reliable and effective service for general purpose transportation, transit, high occupancy vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. WSF and FTA have determined that previously developed alternatives for the project are not viable. The project team is developing new alternatives that include the following key features:

- A ferry dock, with one ferry slip (and the potential for a second in the future)
- A terminal building with future potential for an overhead pedestrian bridge
- A new transit center with service connections to Everett and Community Transit networks and a pick-up/drop-off area
- Vehicle holding that maintains the existing available capacity, dedicated staging for bicycles, carpools, and other priority vehicles, and a four-booth toll plaza
- An access road with a ferry access lane and transit and carpool bypass
- A pedestrian waterfront promenade for public access to the water
- Parking facilities

Based on feedback received earlier in the NEPA/SEPA process, any alternatives proposed for the Air Force Tank Farm property in Mukilteo would also include removal of the entire pier over Possession Sound.

WSF plans to start construction in 2015 and complete the project in 2019. See Attachment 1 for the proposed project milestone schedule.

Cooperating Agency Role

Your participation as a Cooperating Agency is invited because you have special expertise on this project's affected environment. Together, we could identify those environmental factors you consider to be most critical, and ensure that the combined NEPA/SEPA EIS would adequately address your concerns. FTA and WSF are currently developing a range of alternatives to be evaluated along with the No Action Alternative.

As a Cooperating Agency, your agency's involvement would entail those areas under its jurisdiction or special expertise that need to be addressed to satisfy your concerns. No direct writing or analysis will be required of your agency for the document's preparation. However, we do hope that you will tell us if, at any point in the process, your needs are not being met.

If you agree to continue as or become a Cooperating Agency, we will take the following actions to maximize interagency cooperation:

- Welcome your input to the proposed project milestone schedule (see attachment 1)
- Invite you to agency coordination meetings and joint field reviews
- Consult with you on any relevant technical studies that will be required for the project
- Provide you with study results, meeting minutes, and project information
- Invite you to agency and public involvement activities
- Provide a review copy of the draft technical studies of your interest for comment with a request for your expedited response
- Provide a review copy of the Draft EIS and Final EIS for comment with a 30 day response request

- Provide adequate information for your agency to discharge their NEPA and SEPA responsibilities and any other requirements regarding jurisdictional approvals, permits, licenses, and/or clearances

More information describing how we propose to work with your agency on this project can be found in the enclosed Updated Coordination Plan. We would appreciate your review and comment on this document.

FTA intends to use the Final EIS as the basis for the Record of Decision (ROD) that will become the administrative decision document. We expect the documents to address your concerns related to alternative selection, environmental consequences and mitigation.

If your agency elects to participate in the project as a Cooperating Agency, **please forward your response to us in writing by surface mail by April 26, 2010**. A reply sheet and a pre-addressed envelope are enclosed to ease your reply. Please also indicate on the reply sheet which documents from the list below you would be interested in reviewing.

- Transportation Discipline Report
- Ecosystems Discipline Report
- Cultural Resources Discipline Report
- Noise Discipline Report
- Hazardous Materials Discipline Report
- Environmental Justice Memo
- Section 4(f) Evaluation

Elements of the environment listed below will be addressed in the EIS but will not have a separate stand-alone report.

- Geology and Soils
- Water Resources
- Air Quality
- Energy
- Land Use
- Recreation
- Visual Resources
- Public Services and Utilities
- Social and Economic Resources

Under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), should you decline participation as a Cooperating Agency, FTA requests you act as a Participating Agency to the project. In this capacity, your responsibilities would be to review and comment on the development of and preliminary versions and contents of the EIS. Per SAFETEA-LU requirements, you must respond in writing if your agency will not act as a Participating Agency. The attached reply sheet will meet this requirement.

If you have questions or would like to discuss our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the EIS, please call Linda Gehrke of this office at (206) 220-4463 or email at Linda.Gehrke@dot.gov. You may also contact Jennifer Horwitz at (206) 220-7515 or email at Jennifer.Horwitz.CTR@dot.gov.

Thank you again for your interest in and assistance with this project. We look forward to talking with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

R.F. Krochalis
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

cc: Project File

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David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

March 22, 2010

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Seattle District, Regulatory Branch
ATTN: Mr. Jack Kennedy
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-2255

Re: Mukilteo Multimodal Project
Request for Confirmation of Cooperating Agency Status

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Washington State Department of Transportation, Ferries Division (WSF) have reinitiated the process to complete a joint National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mukilteo Multimodal Project (Project) located in the City of Mukilteo, Snohomish County, Washington. We appreciate your attendance at the reinitiation meeting on February 10. Enclosed is a copy of the presentation and the meeting summary.

Because of the time that has passed since the EIS was started in 2006, we are confirming status for participating and cooperating agencies. Our records indicate that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently a Participating Agency for the project. We invite you to consider becoming a Cooperating Agency based on your agency's expertise and in anticipation of future permitting actions for this project.

Project Description
WSF and FTA are evaluating a new multimodal terminal to replace the existing ferry terminal in Mukilteo. The study area for the project extends from Edmonds to Everett. The new terminal

would improve the transportation service provided by the Mukilteo Ferry Terminal and its operations in providing safe, reliable and effective service for general purpose transportation, transit, high occupancy vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. WSF and FTA have determined that previously developed alternatives for the project are not viable. The project team is developing new alternatives that include the following key features:

- A ferry dock, with one ferry slip (and the potential for a second in the future)
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Based on feedback received earlier in the NEPA/SEPA process, any alternatives proposed for the Air Force Tank Farm property in Mukilteo would also include removal of the entire pier over Possession Sound.

WSF plans to start construction in 2015 and complete the project in 2019. See Attachment 1 for the proposed project milestone schedule.

Cooperating Agency Role

Your participation as a Cooperating Agency is invited because you have special expertise or permitting authority for this project's affected environment. Together, we could identify those environmental factors you consider to be most critical, and ensure that the combined NEPA/SEPA EIS would adequately address your concerns. FTA and WSF are currently developing a range of alternatives to be evaluated along with the No Action Alternative.

As a Cooperating Agency, your agency's involvement would entail those areas under its jurisdiction or special expertise that need to be addressed to satisfy your concerns. No direct writing or analysis will be required of your agency for the document's preparation. However, we do hope that you will tell us if, at any point in the process, your needs are not being met.

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- Provide adequate information for your agency to discharge their NEPA and SEPA responsibilities and any other requirements regarding jurisdictional approvals, permits, licenses, and/or clearances

More information describing how we propose to work with your agency on this project can be found in the enclosed Updated Coordination Plan. We would appreciate your review and comment on this document.

FTA intends to use the Final EIS as the basis for the Record of Decision (ROD) that will become the administrative decision document. We expect the documents to address your concerns related to alternative selection, environmental consequences and mitigation, and the responsibilities of your agency under federal and state laws and regulations.

If your agency elects to participate in the project as a Cooperating Agency, **please forward your response to us in writing by surface mail by April 26, 2010**. A reply sheet and a pre-addressed envelope are enclosed to ease your reply. Please also indicate on the reply sheet which documents from the list below you would be interested in reviewing.

- Transportation Discipline Report
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- Cultural Resources Discipline Report
- Noise Discipline Report
- Hazardous Materials Discipline Report
- Environmental Justice Memo
- Section 4(f) Evaluation

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- Social and Economic Resources

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If you have questions or would like to discuss our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of the EIS, please call Linda Gehrke of this office at (206) 220-4463 or email at Linda.Gehrke@dot.gov. You may also contact Jennifer Horwitz at (206) 220-7515 or email at Jennifer.Horwitz.CTR@dot.gov.

Thank you again for your interest in and assistance with this project. We look forward to talking with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

R.F. Krochalis
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

cc: Chris Jenkins, USACE
Project File

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David H. Moseley
Assistant Secretary for
Washington State Ferries

March 22, 2010

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
ATTN: Ms. Martha Dilts, Deputy Regional Director
909 First Avenue, Suite 200
Seattle, WA 98104-1000

Re: Mukilteo Multimodal Project
Request for Confirmation of Participating Agency Status

Dear Ms. Dilts:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Washington State Department of Transportation, Ferries Division (WSF) have reinitiated the process to complete a joint National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mukilteo Multimodal Project (Project) located in the City of Mukilteo, Snohomish County, Washington. We're sorry your agency was not able to attend the reinitiation meeting on February 10. Enclosed is a copy of the presentation and the meeting summary.

Participating Agency Role
We request that **your agency act as a Participating Agency** on this project under the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). As a Participating Agency on this project your agency would be review and comment on the development and preliminary versions and contents of the combined NEPA/SEPA EIS. More information describing how we propose to work with your agency on this project can be found in the enclosed Updated Coordination Plan. Please review and comment on this document.

Per SAFETEA-LU requirements, you must respond in writing if your agency will not act as a Participating Agency. A reply sheet and a pre-addressed envelope are enclosed to ease your reply.