



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Office of the Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

August 11, 2010

In Reply Refer To:  
HIPA

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Anthony R. Giancola, P.E.  
Executive Director  
National Association of County Engineers  
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW.  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Giancola:

Thank you for your message following-up on our meeting about program delivery under the Federal-aid highway program.

I appreciate the opportunity to discuss our mutual interest to address strategies that will help shorten project delivery time. I understand how important it is to do all we can at the Federal Highway Administration to assist our State and local partners in delivering highway and bridge projects with maximum efficiency. With transportation resources constrained at all levels, we must all work to maximize the value of every taxpayer dollar we spend, and deliver the benefits of the projects to the public sooner. In order to accomplish that goal, I believe we must employ 21st century practices and technology. As we discussed, our innovation initiative, Every Day Counts (EDC), has as one of its core elements shortening project delivery (see enclosure).

This fall, we are partnering with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) to hold 10 regional EDC Innovation Summits around the country, where we will work directly with State and local transportation agency leaders on implementation of the EDC initiatives. At its core, EDC is about rapid deployment of innovation. It is important that we work directly with those we count on to deliver the projects if we are to be successful in deploying innovative practices and technologies. We will invite officials from State and local transportation agencies as well as representatives from the construction and consulting sectors to participate. I invite you to join us to ensure county transportation engineers are included in the EDC Innovation Summits. We will be in touch with you soon to discuss the summits in more detail.

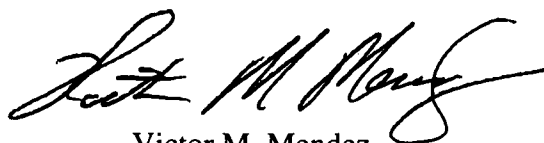
I also appreciate the information you provided regarding all the work NACE has done on reauthorization and improvement of the local public agencies process. One strategy we are considering is the expanded use of programmatic agreements (PA). This is one tool that



I believe we can use more effectively with any agency using Federal-aid dollars. Expanded use of PAs can accelerate the time it takes to both permit and construct infrastructure improvements under the Federal-aid program. On a nationwide basis, we are assessing the use of PAs through the AASHTO Center for Environmental Excellence. Once we conclude this assessment we will be able to identify further opportunities to deploy PAs as a best practice throughout the Nation.

I am anxious to continue working with you and NACE to further pursue innovative approaches to accomplish our combined mission - to provide the traveling public with safe and reliable transportation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victor M. Mendez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and "M".

Victor M. Mendez  
Administrator

Enclosure