



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

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

**Federal Transit
Administration**

December 2, 2016

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

In Reply Refer To:
FHWA-HEPE-30
FRA-RPD-13
FTA-TPE-30

Ms. Lori Nordstrom
Assistant Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services
5600 American Blvd. West, Suite 990
Bloomington, MN 55437-1458

Dear Ms. Nordstrom:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA), hereby request to reinitiate consultation on the potential effects of certain transportation projects on the endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and threatened Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). The activities covered by this request are described in the attached November 28, 2016, *Programmatic Biological Assessment for Transportation Projects in the Range of the Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat* (BA). This revised BA primarily reflects needed clarifications in language and requirements learned through the first 6 months of implementing the programmatic consultation.

We appreciate the efforts on the part of your team in gathering feedback from our respective field staff and implementing changes that will help improve the consultation process for both our agencies.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Brian Yanchik (FHWA; 410-218-4454) or Dan Buford (FHWA; 202-366-8168).

Sincerely yours,



April L. Marchese
Acting Director,
Office of Project Development
& Environmental Review
Federal Highway Administration



Marlys Osterhues
Chief, Environmental & Corridor Planning
Federal Railroad Administration



Christopher Van Wyk
Director, Office of Environmental Programs
Federal Transit Administration