



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)

December 7, 2018

Allyson Brooks, Ph.D.
State Historic Preservation Officer
Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 48343
Olympia, WA 98504-8343

**Subject: Skagit Transit
MOA2 Project
NHPA Section 106 Eligibility and Effects Determination
Project Tracking Code: 2018-09-07323
Grant Nos.: 5816-2018-4
5816-2018-5**

Dear Dr. Brooks:

Skagit Transit proposes to use federal funds administered by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to construct the MOA2 Project (Project), located near the City of Burlington, Skagit County, Washington. The Project is located at 11784 Bay Ridge Drive in Burlington, near the Skagit Regional Airport, and includes construction of a new Maintenance, Operations, and Administrative facility for Skagit Transit by retrofitting a currently defunct FedEx warehouse that exists on the property, and also developing an adjacent vacant parcel.

In correspondence dated September 5, 2018, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800, FTA initiated consultation with the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and defined the Project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). Similar letters, also dated September 5, 2018, were sent to interested tribes for comment on the Project and the definition of the APE. On September 19, 2018, SHPO concurred with the APE boundaries. On September 6, 2018, FTA received an e-mail acknowledgement from the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, however, no additional comments were subsequently provided. On September 11, 2018 and October 1, 2018, FTA received e-mail acknowledgements from the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community respectively. Neither tribe provided comments, however, both requested to remain informed on the Project. No other acknowledgements or comments on the Project were received from the other interested tribes.

December 7, 2018

Page 2

After the close of the APE review period, a cultural resources study of the APE was performed primarily to identify the potential for archaeological resources, and also to identify any historic-period built-environment resources. Enclosed for your review is the report of this study entitled *Archaeological Investigation Report: Skagit Transit Maintenance, Operations, and Administration Facility (MOA-2), Skagit County, Washington*, dated November 19, 2018, prepared by Equinox Research and Consulting International, Inc., consultant to Skagit Transit. Based on this cultural resources study, no archaeological resources or historic-period built-environment resources were identified within the defined APE boundaries.

To address the unlikely event of encountering archaeological materials during Project construction, an Inadvertent Discovery Plan (IDP) has been prepared, and is provided in Appendix 3 of the above cultural resources study report. This IDP will be implemented by Skagit Transit during construction of the Project.

Based on the aforementioned documentation, FTA has made the following determinations:

- There are no resources listed on, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) within the Project APE.
- There will be **no historic properties affected** as a result of the Project.

Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, FTA is seeking SHPO concurrence with these determinations within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

If FTA can provide any assistance or additional information which would aid in your prompt reply, please feel free to contact Mark Assam at (206) 220-4465 or mark.assam@dot.gov. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

for Linda M. Gehrke
Regional Administrator

Cc: Brad Windler, Skagit Transit

Enclosure: Archaeological Investigation Report: Skagit Transit Maintenance, Operations, and Administration Facility (MOA-2), Skagit County, Washington