

January 3, 2017

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Extension of Commenting Period for DOT Order 5610.1D.

Dear Secretary Foxx:

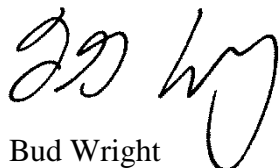
The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) requests an extension of the deadline for submitting comments on the “Update to USDOT NEPA Implementing Procedures, DOT Order 5610.1D: Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts,” published in the Federal Register on December 20, 2016 (Docket Number DOT-OST-2016-0239). The USDOT has established a 21 day public comment period with the deadline of January 10, 2017. As further explained below, AASHTO requests that the comment deadline be extended to allow for a full 60 day comment period, to Monday, February 20, 2017.

Because NEPA review is required for transportation projects across the country, the proposed procedural update has immense and far-reaching consequences for State Departments of Transportation as represented by AASHTO. The scope and complexity of this proposal will require more than a 21 day review period, much of which took place during the holiday season. To allow for meaningful participation by the public, an extension of the public comment period is warranted.

Granting this request will provide the State DOTs and the general public with adequate time to provide USDOT with a substantive response that will serve as valuable input to the proposed procedures.

We look forward to providing DOT with a comprehensive response to the proposal. If you would like to discuss this issue any further, please contact Shannon Eggleston, AASHTO’s Program Director for Environment at (202) 624-3649 or seggleston@aaashto.org.

Sincerely,



Bud Wright
Executive Director