



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

Office of the Administrator

March 2, 2006

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Refer to: HRDI-13

Mr. Victor M. Mendez
Chairman
Transportation Research Board
Long-Term Pavement Performance Committee
500 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. ~~Mendez~~ *Victor*

Thank you for your February 3 letter report transmitting the Transportation Research Board Long-Term Pavement Performance (LTPP) Committee's comments and recommendations to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) from your December 12 meeting. We appreciate your comments and concurrence with the FHWA's revised plan for the operation of the LTPP program under SAFETEA-LU. In reference to your specific recommendations, we offer the following:

- a) The FHWA concurs with the committee recommendation for permanent record of distress. However, as noted in your letter, the final budget for the LTPP is even less than planned on when we met. In light of the additional reductions, we have been unable to identify a way to fund this work without sacrificing more critical data collection needs.
- b) We appreciate the committee's willingness to work with the LTPP Team to develop the post-LTPP report. The LTPP Team will be coordinating with the established task force as this activity gets underway.
- c) The post-LTPP report will offer recommendations concerning the future of the Strategic Plan for the LTPP Data Analysis.
- d) The LTPP Team has re-examined the value of continuing data collection at certain GPS sites and has made modifications to continue data collection at high value sites.
- e) The FHWA concurs with the committee that the LTPP database is the program's major product. The LTPP Team will continue to promote and market the LTPP Database.



Again, I want to thank the members of your committee for their continued support and dedication to the LTPP Program. Should you have any question regarding this response and/or the LTPP Program, please feel free to contact Mr. Aramis López at (202) 493-3145.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Capka", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

J. Richard Capka
Deputy Administrator