



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

Office of the Administrator
September 8, 2008

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.
Washington, DC 20590

In Reply Refer To: HOC-30

The Honorable Lisa Baker
Pennsylvania Senate
168 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3027

Dear Ms. Baker:

Thank you for your facsimile of August 12 to Secretary of Transportation Mary E. Peters concerning the potential tolling of I-80 in Pennsylvania. I am happy to respond.

On October 15, 2007, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) submitted a joint application to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to toll I-80. Specifically, PennDOT and PTC applied to toll I-80 under the Interstate System Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Pilot Program (ISRRPP) at section 1216(b) of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).


Section 1216(b) of TEA-21 has several specific eligibility and selection requirements that must be satisfied in order for FHWA to approve PennDOT and PTC's application. In reviewing the application, we will conduct a thorough analysis of the application's merits based on the statutory criteria to determine if the selection of I-80 in Pennsylvania for one of three nationwide tolling pilot authorities is appropriate. As part of this review process, FHWA, on December 12, 2007, submitted a list of questions to PennDOT and PTC concerning the information contained in their application. On July 22, PennDOT and PTC submitted a revised application to FHWA in response to the Agency's December 12, 2007, questions. The FHWA is currently reviewing this revised application.

The approval of any application under this program is a discretionary decision. Accordingly, in addition to considering the statutorily required eligibility and selection factors, we will take into account a variety of factors including, but not limited to, actual or expected competition from other Interstate facilities. I can assure you we are working diligently to assess these issues.

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We appreciate your views in this matter. An identical letter has been sent to each of your cosigners. For more information on the ISRRPP and other toll programs, please visit the following Web address: http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/tolling_pricing/programs.htm.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Madison, Jr.
Administrator