



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

November 1, 2017

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman, Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This letter constitutes the annual report that summarizes the results of Before-and-After Studies. This report is required by Section 5309(o)(2) of Title 49, United States Code, as amended by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. Since the last Before-and-After Study report in 2016, there have been no Before-and-After Studies completed by New Starts or Small Starts project sponsors in 2017.

Section 5309(k)(2)(E) of Title 49 United States Code requires a project sponsor to develop a Before-and-After Study as a condition for each new Full Funding Grant Agreement. This provision made statutory a requirement that was in the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts Regulation, effective April 2001. Before-and-After Studies are intended to document the actual outcomes of New Starts projects in terms of their physical scope, capital costs, transit service levels, operating and maintenance costs, and ridership two years after opening. They also examine the accuracy of the sponsor's predictions of those outcomes, and identify the sources of any differences between the predicted and actual outcomes.

The last milestone for collection of information for the Before-And-After Studies occurs two years after a project has opened for service. Consequently, project sponsors need several years after a project opens to assemble all the data, identify the findings, and prepare the final report for a Before-and-After Study.

Similar letters have been sent to the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations; and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Appropriations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Elaine L. Chao", is positioned below the "Sincerely," text.

Elaine L. Chao