



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Highway
Administration

Office of the Administrator

December 1, 2008

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE.
Washington, DC 20590

In Reply Refer To:
HIPA

Mr. David A. Raymond
President and Chief Executive Officer
American Council of Engineering Companies
1015 15th Street, NW.
Washington, DC 20005-2605

Dear Mr. Raymond:

Dave

Thank you for your November 7 letter following up on our September 30 meeting to discuss issues of importance to members of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC). I appreciated the opportunity to talk with you about these issues, including the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) pending audit report on consultant contracting.

We are supportive of the process the OIG has employed during the audit. When the OIG's recommendations are released, I am confident that we will be able to work with the industry to address ways of improving our collective performance and quality, not only in this area, but also as we seek to improve the overall procurement, management, and administration of consultant services.

We will continue to coordinate with the OIG as it prepares the report. As discussed with you on September 30, we will not be able to share the draft of the report or its findings prior to release of the final report. However, I am pleased that ACEC met with the OIG on November 14 to discuss your concerns about the audit.

While acknowledging your concerns, I know that we share several goals, namely:

- Increased Certified Public Accountant audit quality,
- Clarity on roles and responsibilities over cognizance,
- Consistency with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) cost principle interpretations,
- Improvement in the procurement, management, and administration of consultant services, and
- Compliance with the FAR cost principles.

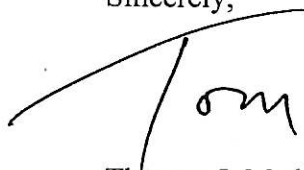
We look forward to working in partnership with ACEC, the Design Professional Coalition, the American Road and Transportation Builders Association, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, and others within the industry to address the audit's findings.

MOVING THE
AMERICAN
ECONOMY



I have asked Mr. Jon Obenberger of our Office of Program Administration to continue as our primary contact with you. Please feel free to contact Mr. Obenberger at 202-366-2221 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom", with a long horizontal stroke above it that extends to the left.

Thomas J. Madison, Jr.
Administrator