

From: [Rowe, Anne \(FHWA\)](#)
To: [Nordstrom, Lori](#); [Marino, Sharon](#)
Cc: [Polk, Jonna E](#); [Phillips, Catherine](#); [Nelson, Marjorie \(Marj\)](#); [Hoskin, Sumalee](#); [Thatcher, Ben](#); [Marlys.Osterhues@dot.gov](#); [Assam, Mark \(FTA\)](#); [Buford, Daniel \(FHWA\)](#); [Liller, Catherine \(FHWA\)](#); [Yanchik, Brian \(FHWA\)](#); [Santiago, Damaris \(FHWA\)](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request to Reinitiate Formal Consultation and Conference on the FHWA/FRA/FTA Rangewide Bats Programmatic BO
Date: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 3:26:02 PM
Attachments: [FHWA FRA FTA Final Draft PBO August 2024.docx](#)

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Dear Lori and Sharon,

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in coordination with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), hereby requests to reinitiate programmatic formal consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for transportation projects in the range of the endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and endangered northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*); and requests formal conference for the proposed endangered tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*). This request is in response to changes in the proposed action developed by the interagency bat team, and the September 13, 2022, proposed rule to list the tricolored bat as endangered pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA). In the event a final rule to list the tricolored bat is published in the Federal Register prior to completing your response, please incorporate the tricolored bat into a programmatic biological opinion and disregard the request for conference. The attached document represents our biological assessment for this reinitiation request. We drafted the BA in the form of a programmatic BO for your convenience. Thus, we highlighted locations in the document where dates will need to be inserted reflecting publication of the Final Rule for the tricolored bat, or removed in the event the tricolored bat is not listed. The proposed transportation actions include measures to avoid, minimize, and where appropriate, compensate for the effects of our transportation projects on the bats. We submitted our draft BA for several iterations of review by Service Regions 2 through 6. The final version reflects input received.

We very much appreciate your long-standing cooperation to promote consistency and efficiency in Section 7 consultations, and to assist us in furthering the purposes of the ESA by applying a consistent conservation strategy benefitting the bats through programmatic consultation.

If you have any questions, please contact Dan Buford at Daniel.Buford@dot.gov.

Thank you,

Anne Rowe on behalf of Damaris Santiago, Office Director for the Office of Project Development and Environmental Review (HEPE)

Anne M. Rowe

Acting Office Director for the Office of Project Development and Environmental Review (Sept 3-5)

Office of Planning, Environment & Realty

Federal Highway Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE

Washington, DC 20590

240-278-5394