permitted by law, encourages the substitution of state plans for federally required state plans;

(6) Seeks the coordination of views of affected state and local elected officials in one state with those of another state when proposed Federal financial assistance or direct Federal development has an impact on interstate metropolitan urban centers or other interstate areas; and

(7) Supports state and local governments by discouraging the reauthorization or creation of any planning organization which is federally-funded, which has a limited purpose, and which is not adequately representative of, or accountable to, state or local elected officials.

§ 17.7 How does the Secretary communicate with state and local officials concerning the Department’s programs and activities?

(a) For those programs and activities covered by a state process under §17.6, the Secretary, to the extent permitted by law:

(1) Uses the official state process to determine views of state and local elected officials; and,

(2) Communicates with state and local elected officials, through the official state process, as early in a program planning cycle as is reasonably feasible to explain specific plans and actions.

(b) The Secretary provides notice to directly affected state, areawide, regional, and local entities in a state of proposed Federal financial assistance if:

(1) The state has not adopted a process under the Order; or

(2) The assistance involves a program or activity not selected for the state process.

This notice may be made by publication in the Federal Register or other appropriate means, which the Department in its discretion deems appropriate.

§ 17.8 How does the Secretary provide states an opportunity to comment on proposal Federal financial assistance?

(a) Except in unusual circumstances, the Secretary gives state processes or directly affected state, areawide, regional and local officials and entities:

(1) At least 30 days from the date established by the Secretary to comment on proposed Federal financial assistance in the form of noncompeting continuation awards; and

(2) At least 60 days from the date established by the Secretary to comment on proposed Federal financial assistance other than noncompeting continuation awards.

(b) This section also applies to comments in cases in which the review, coordination, and communication with the Department have been delegated.