



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
1313 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 300
P.O. BOX 590
RICHMOND, VA 23218-0590

MATTHEW O. TUCKER
DIRECTOR

(804) 786-4440
FAX: (804) 786-7286
VIRGINIA RELAY CENTER
1-800-828-1120 (TDD)

June 17, 2008

The Honorable William Eulle, Chairman
Northern Virginia Transportation Commission
301 King Street, Suite 2300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

The Honorable Frances Jones, Chairman
Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission
14700 Potomac Mills Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22192

Dear Mr. Eulle and Mr. Jones:

This letter is in response to the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission's (NVTC) and the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission's (PRTC) comments regarding the Draft Fiscal Year 2009 Six-Year Improvement Program. Your comments are always welcomed and appreciated.

The 2007 transportation initiative adopted by Governor Kaine and the Virginia General Assembly increased transit operating funding by 42 percent, and the maintenance of effort requirement is intended to ensure that this new transit investment supports the expansion of transit service. We received helpful feedback regarding the implementation of this provision.

Specifically, the following process has been recommended:

- The first test will establish if local operating funding has been maintained from the previous year, and farebox revenue will be included as part of local funding.
- The second test will establish if the level of local capital funding has been maintained from the previous year.
- The third test will establish whether or not transit miles operated have been maintained from the previous year.

If any of these requirements has been met, then the operator will receive the full increase in available funding for the next year. If all of these requirements are unmet,

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then the operator's funding allocation will be reduced until at least one of these requirements has been met. These steps, upon approval by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), will be incorporated into the transit sustainability and investment policy to be recommended for action at the October 2008 CTB meeting. Our analysis indicates that as a result of this modification, no operators in the Northern Virginia region would be impacted by this provision in FY 2009.

Regarding WMATA eligibility for the bond program, subsequent review and further clarification of the FY 2009 Metro Matters application by NVTC staff has resulted in the determination that a portion of the capital request is eligible for bond funding. We will work closely with NVTC staff and WMATA to determine an exact dollar amount for eligible bond funding in the next month, and a supplemental allocation will be brought to the CTB for approval.

Finally, the timing of bond sales will not adversely impact the availability of transit funds through DRPT programs. DRPT will ensure that cash flow is sufficiently managed to enable prompt payment and fulfillment of the agency's financial obligations for approved transit grants.

Thank you for your comments and feel free to give me a call if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt O. T." followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends across the width of the signature area.

Matthew O. Tucker
Director