

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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April 5, 2013

Mr. Tom Downs, Chairman
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Board of Directors
600 5th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Chairman Downs:

Under the SAFETEA-LU transportation legislation, which was effective through September 30, 2012, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB), served as the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Designated Recipient for the Section 5316 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program for low-income individuals and the Section 5317 New Freedom program for persons with disabilities. The TPB has successfully implemented robust JARC and New Freedom programs under SAFETEA-LU. The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), which became effective October 1, 2012, eliminated the JARC program entirely but made additional funds available for job access and reverse commute activities under the Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula program, of which WMATA is the recipient. At its March 20 meeting, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) approved sending a letter to WMATA to inquire about the process WMATA intends to use to select job access and reverse commute projects with the additional funds that were allocated to the Washington DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area.

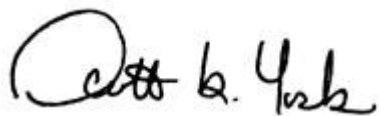
Under MAP-21, the Federal formula for distributing Section 5307 Urbanized Area funds now includes the number of low-income individuals as a factor. FTA has indicated that of the \$162 million appropriated to the Washington DC-VA-MD Urbanized Area in FY 2013 Section 5307 funds, approximately \$1.3 million was included based on the number of low-income individuals in the region.

MAP-21 also created a new Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility program for persons with disabilities and older adults by combining the New Freedom and old Section 5310 programs. The TPB will build upon its successful JARC and New Freedom programs to implement the new Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility program. The TPB is expected to be the Designated Recipient for the new Enhanced Mobility Program. The TPB developed the Federally-required Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan which identifies unmet transportation needs for low-income individuals, persons with disabilities and older adults. The Coordinated Plan will be used to select projects and award Enhanced Mobility funds. Because it is important that the critical transportation needs of low-income communities also continue to be addressed, the TPB would like to receive information about the process WMATA is considering to identify and fund job access and reverse commute projects.

The TPB staff would be happy to provide more information regarding low income individuals' travel needs in the region and the job access and reverse commute services and activities supported by TPB JARC

grants since 2007. You can reach Ronald Kirby at (202)-962-3310 or rkirby@mwkog.org, or Wendy Klancher at (202)-962-3321 or wklancher@mwkog.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott K. York". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and a stylized "K".

Scott York
Chairman, National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board