

APR 12 2010

cc: RTA Board of Trustees
RTA Citizens Adv. Board



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Transit
Administration**

The Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

APR 07 2010

Mr. Joseph A. Calabrese
Chief Executive Officer and General Manager
The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
1240 West 6th Street
Cleveland, OH 44113-1302

Dear Mr. Calabrese:

Thank you for your letter of February 8 concerning the need for Federal operating assistance for transit in Cleveland raised by the Citizens Advisory Board. I understand the constraints on local transit agencies to operate their systems in the current fiscal crisis and the issues of limited eligibility of Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula program funding in areas greater than 200,000 in population.

As you are aware, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) allowed for up to 10 percent of appropriated funding to be used for operating assistance. There are now more than 90 transit agencies in the United States that have decided to use funds received under the ARRA for operating assistance.

Beyond recovery support, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's reauthorization proposal contemplates allowing some level of operating assistance for urbanized areas greater than 200,000 in population. The Obama Administration does not have a formal position on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee proposal or on the permanent use of Section 5307 funds for operating assistance in areas greater 200,000 in population. In testimony before Congress, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has stated that he is willing to consider the issue of operating assistance. Please see his blog post of March 26, copy enclosed, (<http://fastlane.dot.gov/2010/03/economy-roughsup-transit-thousands-of-jobs-in-the-balance.html>) in which he discusses the need for DOT to work with Congress on this issue.

Thank you for bringing this issue to my attention and for sharing the information provided with your letter. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (202) 366-4040.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Rogoff".

Peter Rogoff

Encl