



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Transit
Administration**

The Administrator

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

December 22, 2008

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that as of December 21, 2008, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has a new Executive Director to help the agency's incoming leadership and management team meet the challenges facing the agency and the U.S. Department of Transportation in the months and years ahead.

Matthew Welbes, who many of you know in his capacity as a Senior Advisor in the Office of the Administrator, has accepted this appointment. As Executive Director, Matt will serve as the top-ranking career executive within FTA.

In his new position, Matt will be accountable for providing executive leadership and continuity for the day-to-day administration and operation of the full range of FTA's responsibilities. He will work with the Administrator and Deputy Administrator to define the agency's role, structure, and strategies for the 21st century. He will speak and act on behalf of the Administrator and Deputy Administrator on matters relating to policy interpretation and application and program operations, and will represent them before Congress, at conferences, and in consultation with senior departmental staff, other Federal agencies, and State, local, and foreign governments. Matt will also be responsible for leading the agency's Executive Management Team in planning and establishing FTA's program policies, objectives, and priorities, and advancing the agency's initiatives to enhance organizational excellence.

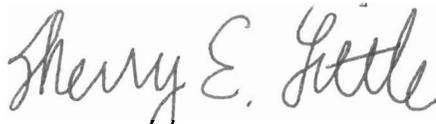
Matt is exceptionally well prepared to fulfill the duties of this new position. Matt has ably served in the Administrator's Office since 2001, where his knowledge and judgment on transportation policy and program matters have proven invaluable to the Administrator and FTA's leadership team and FTA's staff at large. While on assignment to the Administrator, Matt spent a year as the Acting Director of FTA's Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Office and a year as the Acting Associate Administrator for Research, Demonstration and Innovation. Prior to joining the

Administrator's Office, Matt worked in FTA's Office of Budget and Policy. He began his Federal Government career in 1992 as a Presidential Management Fellow, serving in FTA offices, the Office of the Secretary, and the Office of Management and Budget.

Matt holds an M.P.A. from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. In 2000 he received a German Marshall Fund fellowship to study transportation, environmental, and land use policies in Europe.

We are very fortunate to have Matt serve in this new position. This is an important step for FTA that will have a positive impact on FTA's ability to provide leadership on public transportation issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherry E. Little". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Sherry E. Little
Acting Administrator