



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington DC 20590

Dear Colleague:

I want to bring to your attention an issue of national importance. Maintaining the condition of our transit infrastructure is a pressing challenge for most of the Nation's transit systems. In a country where public transportation is increasingly looked to as a necessary and critical mode of travel, ensuring that local transit systems are maintained in a "state of good repair" to provide efficient, reliable, and safe service is more important than ever.

Earlier this year, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) brought together representatives from 14 public transportation providers and State Departments of Transportation to discuss the state of repair of our Nation's transit inventory. We discussed, among other things, transit recapitalization and maintenance issues, asset management practices, and innovative financing strategies. We explored issues related to measuring the condition of transit capital assets, prioritizing local transit re-investment decisions, and preventive maintenance practices. And we discussed research needs and potential tools for helping agencies cope with this growing problem.

This report summarizes these issues and the experiences and ideas presented at the meeting. I thank each of the individuals and agencies who participated, and I look forward to continuing this dialogue with others in the industry.

FTA plans to convene a "State of Good Repair Roundtable" next year to further discuss the challenge of transit recapitalization, lessons learned, and best practices. We will report to Congress later this year on the level of investment needed to bring the Nation's largest rail transit agencies to a state of good repair, and will continue to explore other opportunities to discuss this issue and potential solutions.

I realize bringing our Nation's transit systems to a state of good repair – while at the same time planning for and implementing needed service expansions – is a steep challenge. But I am confident that working together we can develop the solutions to continue to provide public transportation to the millions of Americans that depend on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James S. Simpson".
James S. Simpson