



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Transit
Administration**

Deputy Administrator

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

APR 25 2001

Dear Participant:

I am pleased to share with you the Proceedings of the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Bus Summit 2000: Ensuring a Healthy U.S. Bus Industry held on October 18-19, 2000, in Washington, DC. The Summit offered the opportunity for transit providers, vehicle manufacturers, suppliers, consultants, and government officials, to discuss openly and candidly the many opportunities and challenges facing the U.S. bus industry. The ideas, concerns and proposed solutions exchanged at the Summit are helping us to develop and execute more effective FTA programs, policies and technical assistance. Likewise, we hope the enclosed proceedings will spur additional industry commitment to address our common challenges.

The next step is to work together in developing an action plan for accelerating progress that reflects your concerns and FTA leadership's priorities. Over the next few months, the Bus Summit proceedings will help new FTA leadership respond to the critical issues affecting our industry. While we will follow up with a more detailed program, I want to share with you some activities that are already underway, specifically in the areas of procurement, technology deployment, and standards.

First, FTA will be participating in a new procurement task force, organized by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) in response to Summit discussions and a survey of APTA members on procurement issues. We applaud the industry for taking the initial step and we look forward to a proactive and results-oriented effort.

Second, FTA is expanding efforts to promote more effective technology deployment. As Secretary Mineta remarked at the APTA Legislative Conference, deployment of new technology is critical to realizing safer, more reliable transit operations. We continue to work with various industry organizations and the FTA Bus Rapid Transit Consortium for partnerships in these areas. We will review FTA programs for opportunities to leverage existing funds in support of deployment.

Third, FTA is working to address the important issue of standards. As mentioned at the Summit, the process, participants and the question of an independent standards organization require additional input and action. FTA is committed to leading the effort to bring all stakeholders together to work out these issues. We continue to work with the Transit Cooperative Research Program on completing current efforts to expand portions of the Standard Bus Procurement Guidelines. FTA also is supporting the development of equipment and systems-related standards. We are exploring a partnership with the Society of Automotive Engineers and other industry groups to facilitate these efforts.

Finally, FTA is organizing a series of roundtable discussions over the next year on specific issues that require further dialogue. We will solicit your input for priority topics. On a related note, we are developing a plan for a Technology Summit for 2002 to highlight the investment in advanced transit technology and, building on the planned roundtable discussions, to address, as an industry, remaining issues of concern.

On behalf of FTA, I look forward to working with you on these important initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hiram J. Walker".

Hiram J. Walker
Acting Deputy Administrator

Enclosure