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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6075

November 4, 2011

DWIGHT FETTIG, STAFF DIRECTOR
WILLIAM D. DUHNKE, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Peter Rogoff
Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Rogoff:

As you know, the Committee on Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs is working on developing a bill to reauthorize the Federal transit program. As we do so, it is critical that we have a clear understanding of future balances for the Mass Transit Account of the Federal Highway Trust Fund in fiscal years 2012 through 2017. The Congressional Budget Office predicts that the Mass Transit Account will have a \$1.5 billion balance at the close of fiscal year 2013, and have a shortfall soon thereafter. However, we understand that the Office of Management and Budget, in its Mid-Session Review, has produced a different estimate which could involve a shortfall some time before the end of FY 2013.

As Congress contemplates a reauthorization bill and the need for additional resources to ensure the ability of the Mass Transit Account to meet current and future obligations, it is essential that we have an understanding of the most likely status of the Account. In order to have a clearer understanding of the situation, we request that FTA provide the Committee with detailed information about the OMB estimates and an explanation of the factors which affect balances in the Mass Transit Account. This could provide a basis for an estimate of the funds necessary in fiscal years 2012 through 2017 to prevent a shortfall.

It is our understanding that the Department of Transportation has stated how a shortfall in the Highway Trust Fund other than the Mass Transit Account would be handled by the Federal Highway Administration. The Committee assumes that FTA would have to take similar steps if there were a shortfall in the Mass Transit Account. The Committee also requests a summary of these actions.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. To discuss this request, please contact Homer Carlisle at (202) 224-5586 and Shannon Hines at (202) 224-9384.

Sincerely,



Tim Johnson
Chairman



Richard Shelby
Ranking Member