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The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

August 1, 2011

Stephanie Bushong, Transit Program Planner  
PO Box 112500  
Juneau, AK 99811-2500

Dear Ms. Bushong:

**Subject: Public Comment on "Proposed Distribution of the SFY12 state match for public transportation"**

We appreciate this opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed distribution of the SFY12 state match for public transportation, and are pleased that there will be additional funds, albeit one time capital funds, to assist those providing public transportation around the State. As you likely are aware, Trust beneficiaries are often very dependent on public transportation to get to work, to doctor's appointments, and to otherwise be meaningfully engaged in their community for a reasonable quality of life.

While fully supporting this match, we do have a concern with the 10% or \$100,000 that is being taken for administrative purposes by DOT/PF. It seems to us that the cost of administrating the proposed distribution of these funds across the system is minimal. This work is likely merely cutting a check or adjusting grant amounts, and it certainly would not cost \$100,000.

We therefore feel a significantly smaller administrative percentage be taken by DOT/PF and the majority of the \$100,000 be distributed to the grantees.

If for some reason that is not possible, we do see a strong need for better performance measurement reporting by the Transit Program. This need has recently been added to the draft action plan of the Governor's Coordinated Transportation Task Force. We feel these administrative funds should specifically be used to guide and assist the Transit Program grantees to better report the number of riders and number of rides accurately, differentiating various demographic groups like Trust beneficiaries, as well as measure of how the state, the public and transit riders themselves are better off because of transit and human services transportation. This core data could provide an important base of data to better establish the value of the Transit Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Jessee".

Jeff Jessee  
Chief Executive Officer