Regional Transit Authority

As created under Public Act 387 of 2012

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December 13, 2013

Mr. Kirk Steudle, Director
Michigan Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 30050
Lansing, MI 48909-7550

Dear ~~Director Steudle~~ Kirk:

I write to first and foremost thank you for agreeing to allow Sharon Edgar, Kim Johnson, and Shanelle Jackson to provide staffing support to the nascent Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan during its first eight months of operation. The quality and quantity of their work have been exemplary. This, among other things, has enabled the RTA to be awarded a $6.5 MM federal planning grant this past September.

As you know, the agreement to provide staff support from MDOT to the RTA was scheduled to terminate at the end of calendar year 2013 under the expectation that the RTA would have its own permanent staff by then. The RTA has made an offer of employment to a prospective CEO, but he has not yet signed the contract. Since the board has delegated the hiring of additional staff to the CEO, no staff has yet been hired.

The agenda of items that the RTA must tackle in 2014 is long and complicated such that continued staff assistance to the board is needed. Therefore, I am respectfully requesting that you extend the provision of staff support to the RTA through the end of March, 2014. Sharon Edgar and Kim Johnson would continue to provide support to the RTA's Finance and Budget committee for this period.

Thank you very much for your favorable consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Paul Hillegonds, Chair
Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan

PCH/smw

c: Mr. Bill Rustem

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