



## HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION

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March 4, 2014

Ms. Ashley E. Hofmeister  
Assistant City Attorney  
Office of Law  
160 Duke of Gloucester Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: The Central Maryland Regional Transportation Agency (cover letter)**

Dear Mrs. Hofmeister:

Attached please find a letter/report as a follow-up to an email and conversation that you and I had on Friday. It is our best attempt at quantifying the amount of cost savings that the City of Annapolis will achieve through a partnership in the RTA. Richard Newell, representatives from First Transit, and yours truly spent a great deal of time over the extended weekend to complete this report.

This letter/report does not delve into the numerous other benefits that the City will accrue from your involvement in the RTA. I would hope by now we all understand what those are.

Because the letter/report includes only a comment regarding the MOU, it is necessary for me to elaborate on the MOU that was sent to Howard County on Friday that precipitated this letter/report. As a reminder, the purpose of this MOU, for all intensive purposes, is for us to agree to agree...nothing else. It is not intended to specify anything more than an agreement to work with regional partners to create a new and exciting organization for the purpose of providing efficient and effective public transportation.

It has taken only 8-months to get the MOU to a point where it included virtually all the changes anyone and everyone wanted (not including the Friday submission), which included the City of Annapolis. The last MOU that was sent to you is currently worming its way through the signature process at both Anne Arundel County and Howard County as we speak. I believe a similar effort is underway in Prince George's County based on conversations that we had with County representatives last week.

The MOU achieves what it is intended to achieve...an agreement to agree to work together to create the RTA. To make it more than that defeats the purpose of the transition team and the creation of the Commission and the bylaws.

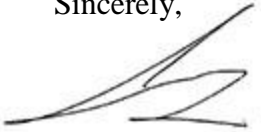
To say this in a different way, this MOU is not intended to dot every "i" and cross every "t" as it pertains to the specifics of the RTA. Understanding that, if there is some very minor tweaking of the MOU or some sentence/paragraph that the City absolutely must include in the MOU for everyone to sleep well at night, as long as it only adds to the intent of this MOU, we have no issue in including it. Beyond that, the MOU is what it is and we are asking that it be accepted and signed by the City of Annapolis.

As stated in the letter/report, we are down to 119-days. There are a lot of moving parts that we have to get a handle on. We cannot wait much longer for a decision by the City.

We hope, following your review of the attached, that we can agree on the MOU and start building the regional transit operation that this region needs.

Thank you for your time and support.

Sincerely,



John W. Powell, Jr.  
Administrator

Copy: Mayor Pentelides  
Aldersperson Ross Arnett  
Aldersperson Joe Budge  
Aldersperson Sheila Finlayson  
Aldersperson Kenneth A. Kirby  
Aldersperson Jared Littmann  
Aldersperson Frederick Paone  
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