



**METRO AREA TRANSIT**

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*Owned by the Transit Authority, City of Omaha*

February 15, 2010

Honorable Senator E. Benjamin Nelson  
720 Hart Senate Building  
United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson,

On behalf of the MAT's Board of Directors and all MAT employees, I thank you for your review and consideration in supporting our efforts to obtain much needed Federal Transit Administration ("FAT") 5309 Discretionary Formula Funds. The federally funded capital investment will greatly improve Metropolitan Omaha's mass transit infrastructure.

As you are aware, MAT is responsible for the operation of mass transit services in the Metropolitan Omaha Area. The most effective and efficient mode of operation is a "Hub System", very like how airports operate, where a number of routes meet within a geographic centralized location for passengers to complete multi-directional transferring.

I respectfully request your advocacy on our behalf for FY 2011 appropriation for the relocation and construction of two transit centers. The Transit Centers will provide increased transportation choices; promote equitable, affordable housing; enhance economic competitiveness; support existing communities; coordinate policies and leverage investments and, to support the City of Omaha's Livability Initiatives for a pedestrian friendly community.

The Downtown Transit Center and Midtown Transit Center will facilitate MAT's delivery of safe, reliable and economical transportation choices that will reduce household transportation costs within the Omaha-Council Bluffs Urbanized Area. It is estimated that individuals utilizing MAT's system to and from work five days a week could realize an annual savings of approximately \$5,000 dollars. MAT's fixed route service is 100% bike rack equipped, which enhances mobility options and improves connections between residential, commercial and recreational destinations. The DTTC and MTTC will provide convenient access to, among other modes, Greyhound, Amtrak, Creighton University's 'Blue Jay Express' shuttle service, the Bob Kerry Pedestrian Bridge and the University of Nebraska Medical Center's shuttle; respectively. This level of intermodal connectivity will ensure continuity of service for the area's economically disadvantaged, non-drivers, senior citizens, persons with disabilities and the transportation disadvantaged.

Because of their existing configurations, the two Transit Center cannot be considered permanent facilities and have numerous operational and passenger challenges.

In closing, I assure you MAT will be a good steward of the requested appropriation. The funds will be spent in a competitive manner and for the bus replacement project, clearly detailed on the attached application.

And, again, Thank You for your consideration and all you do in representing our great State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Curt A. Simon', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Curt A. Simon, Executive Director