

July 14, 2005

Mr. Eric Peterson  
Deputy Administrator  
Research and Innovative Technology Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Nassif Building, Room 3103  
400 7th Street, SW  
Washington, DC20590

Dear Mr. Peterson:

Thank you for attending the meeting of the Library and Information Science for Transportation (LIST) Committee during the Transportation Research Board's summer conference. It was a pleasure to meet you.

We LIST members appreciate that you understand how crucial libraries are to knowledge management, supporting decision-making, technology transfer, and the development of the future transportation workforce. We hope that you are successful in making the case to Department leadership that the transportation sector deserves a National Transportation Library that rivals the National Library of Medicine as a resource for its customers.

We look forward to the release of the TRB Policy Study on the Future Strategy for Transportation Information Management when it is completed this winter and to discussing with you the recommendations for action.

As we discussed at the LIST meeting, we think that there are important steps that you can take in your leadership role, even before the policy study is released, to strengthen the National Transportation Library system. For example, you can encourage the development of policies regarding the identification, cataloging, and retention of Department documents and reports; the development of standards for publication and retention of electronic information; the cataloging of transportation collections; the availability of full text documents online (through TRIS Online); and the networking of transportation libraries nationwide, including libraries at the University Transportation Centers.

Finally, leadership requires support, and it is fortunate that the National Transportation Library has the support of AASHTO, ARTBA, APWA, and many other organizations. We would like to follow-up on the offer you made at the LIST meeting to work with Tom Bolle of your staff to develop a plan to reach out to these organizations, to keep them informed of efforts to strengthen the National Transportation Library system, and to

underscore the important link between information management and transportation decision-making. Nina McLawhorn and I will serve as the committee contacts for this effort.

Again, I appreciate the time you took to be with the LIST Committee at the mid-year meeting and look forward to seeing you at the TRB annual meeting in January. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Sandra L. Tucker  
Chair, TRB Committee on Library and Information Science for Transportation

cc: LIST Committee