

**Member Governments**

Town of Carrboro  
Town of Chapel Hill  
County of Chatham  
City of Durham  
County of Durham  
Town of Hillsborough  
NC Department of  
Transportation  
County of Orange

September 17, 2009

Congressman David Price  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2162 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Price:

On September 30, 2009, the Federal Highway Administration will rescind \$8.708 billion from the unobligated balances of funds apportioned to the states for transportation. The State of North Carolina is expected to lose \$249 million through this rescission. Of this amount, the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) will lose \$1.3 million of Surface Transportation Program Direct Attributable (STPDA) funds, a portion of our share of Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds, and a portion of our share of Metropolitan Planning funds.

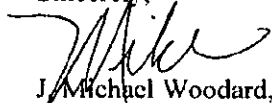
The DCHC MPO strongly urges Congress to take immediate action to prevent the scheduled rescission. These transportation funds are critical for maintaining and improving our nation's infrastructure and preserving and creating jobs. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is currently investing \$48.1 billion for transportation projects to help stimulate the economy and improve infrastructure. The proposed rescission would undermine the recovery efforts and would be contrary to our nation's needs at this critical time.

The STPDA and CMAQ funds are used by our MPO to construct sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and greenways, to purchase transit vehicles and operate transit service, and to implement transportation demand management programs. The DCHC MPO has made it a priority to use these funds on projects that help improve transportation facilities for bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit users to help increase the environmental sustainability of the transportation system and provide better transportation for low income populations. MPOs have very limited financial resources for these facilities and services and this rescission may require us to delay and scale back planned projects.

The Metropolitan Planning funds are essential to fund the operating budget of our MPO. MPOs are mandated by the federal and state governments to carry out long range transportation planning, air quality planning, congestion management, transit planning, public involvement, and other processes necessary for the development of transportation projects. Rescission of these funds may result in decreases in staff and an inability to fulfill federal and state requirements.

The DCHC MPO requests that Congress eliminate the rescission provision of the Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) before September 30, 2009. This action is necessary to maintain the progress that state governments and MPOs have made on improving our nation's transportation infrastructure and economic recovery. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Mark Ahrendsen at [mark.ahrendsen@durhamnc.gov](mailto:mark.ahrendsen@durhamnc.gov) or 919-560-4366.

Sincerely,



J. Michael Woodard, Chair  
Transportation Advisory Committee

Cc: Senator Richard Burr  
Senator Kay Hagan  
DCHC MPO TAC



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**DURHAM • CHAPEL HILL • CARRBORO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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September 17, 2009

Senator Richard Burr  
217 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Burr:

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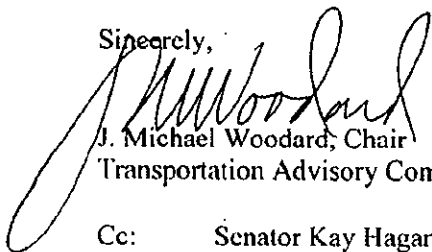
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Senator Kay Hagan  
B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hagan:

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