



June 15, 2005

Ms. Henrika Buchanan  
Community Planner  
US Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration; Region IV  
Suite 17T50  
61 Forsyth St., SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303-8917

Dear Ms. Buchanan,

As Director of the North Carolina Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), I am pleased to send this letter in support of the Job Access Reverse Commute grant application submitted by Wake County Human Services. The staff at our organization has been kept informed about the development of the new transportation services detailed in the grant application and believes that the requested funds will impact the quality of life for many people in Wake County.

Some of the goals of this grant are to meet the needs of the elderly, disabled, low-income and other at risk populations by: Increased ability to access employment opportunities; Increased personal economic independence and self-sufficiency; Enhance employers ability to recruit and sustain an adequate workforce; Provide a reasonable and affordable alternative to the single occupant vehicle. The grant will also support one of the North Carolina Capital Area MPO's environmental justice goals of ensuring that minority and low income communities are treated equitably in the provision of transportation services and projects.

The coordinated door-to-door service design is most appropriate for reaching the transportation-disadvantaged people living in our rural and suburban areas. The new service will enable workers to access and compete for many more job opportunities in Wake County. It is critical that there is adequate funding to make this service sufficiently available, and to ensure that prospective employees can therefore reliably get to work on time. The level of service planned is appropriate to meet the expected demand.

We have appreciated the opportunity to be a participant in this process, and support the funding of this application.

Sincerely,

Ed Johnson  
Director  
North Carolina Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization