December 28, 2005

Mr. Dwight Sinks
Regional Civil Rights Officer
Federal Transit Administration – Region V
200 West Adams, Suite 320
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Dear Mr. Sinks:

The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) is pleased to provide the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) with the Regional ADA Paratransit Plan for Persons with Disabilities (the “Plan”). This joint Plan is being submitted by and on behalf of the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Pace Suburban Bus (Pace), and the RTA. A hard copy and CD-ROM of the Plan are enclosed.

The development of the Plan was the result of extensive cooperation between the RTA, Pace, the CTA, the Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS), which is the regional Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and an Ad Hoc Committee of representatives from the ADA Advisory Boards, Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities and the riding public.

As you are aware, pursuant to Illinois statute, beginning July 1, 2006, Pace will be responsible for the operation of all ADA paratransit service in the RTA region. The Plan demonstrates compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements for complementary paratransit service as it is transitioned to Pace next year. During the next year, additional efforts will be undertaken to investigate opportunities to improve service for customers while striving for improved coordination and cost efficiency. The region is committed to including consumers and the organizations serving them in all discussions and decision-making processes.

The Plan was approved by the Boards of the RTA, Pace, CTA, and CATS in mid-December. Please note that the final draft of the Plan that was submitted to those Boards for approval discussed a proposed fare increase for CTA ADA service. However, on December 14, 2005, the CTA Board voted to maintain ADA paratransit fares at their current level of $1.75.

The RTA looks forward to any comments you may have on the Plan and we would be happy to provide any additional information you may require. Should you have any
questions, please contact Phil Shayne, Director of Regional Services, at (312) 913-3147 or shaynep@rtachicago.org.

Sincerely,

Stephen E. Schlickman
Executive Director
Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)

cc: Frank Kruesi, President, Chicago Transit Authority
T. J. Ross, Executive Director, Pace Suburban Bus
Members of the Illinois House of Representatives Mass Transit Committee
Members of the Paratransit Transition Committee
Members of the Paratransit Ad Hoc Committee

enc: Regional ADA Paratransit Plan for Persons with Disabilities
CD-Rom