



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

Headquarters

5th Floor – East Bldg., TCR
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

March 2, 2016

Ms. Vera H. Querceto, Esq.
Senior Legal Counsel; Acting Administrator Civil Rights
Rhode Island Department of Transportation
2 Capital Hill, Room 251
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Compliance Review Final Report

Dear Ms. Querceto:

This letter concerns the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Review of Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) conducted from August 12-14, 2015. Enclosed is a copy of the Final Report, which will be posted on FTA's website on our DBE page. As of the date of this letter, the Final Report is a public document and is subject to dissemination under the Freedom of Information Act of 1974.

FTA's Office of Civil Rights is responsible for ensuring compliance with 49 CFR Part 26, "Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Department of Transportation (DOT) Programs" by its grant recipients and subrecipients. As part of our ongoing oversight efforts, FTA conducts a number of onsite compliance reviews to ensure compliance with the applicable provisions of 49 CFR Part 26. FTA utilizes the findings from these reviews to provide technical assistance to transit agencies in order to achieve compliance with 49 CFR Part 26.

All corrective actions identified in the Final Report must be undertaken within 60 days of the date of this letter. Once we have reviewed your submissions, we will request either clarification or additional corrective action, or will close out the finding if your response sufficiently addresses the DBE requirements. Please submit your responses to Anita Heard at anita.heard@dot.gov.

We appreciate the cooperation and assistance that you and your staff have provided us during this review, and we are confident RIDOT will take steps to correct the deficiencies. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Jennifer Riess at 202-266-3084, or via email at jennifer.riess@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

John Day
Program Manager for Policy and Technical Assistance

cc: Mary Beth Mello, Regional Administrator, FTA Region I
Margaret Griffin, Regional Civil Rights Officer, FTA Region I
Jennifer Riess, Equal Opportunity Specialist, FTA Office of Civil Rights