



April 11, 2011

FCC Headquarters  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: PS Docket No. 06-229; WT Docket No. 06-150;  
WP Docket No. 07-100; FCC 11-6**

Dear Docket Clerk:

On behalf of the 1,500 member organizations of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), I write to provide comments on the U.S. Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerning Implementing a Nationwide Broadband, Interoperable Public Safety Network in the 700 MHz Band, published February 24, 2011 at 76 FR 10295.

### ***About APTA***

APTA is a non-profit international trade association of 1,500 public and private member organizations, including public transit systems; high-speed intercity passenger rail agencies; planning, design, construction and finance firms; product and service providers; academic institutions; and state associations and departments of transportation. More than ninety percent of Americans who use public transportation are served by APTA member transit systems. In accordance with the National Infrastructure Protection Plan, APTA's Security Affairs Steering Committee is recognized by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as serving in the capacity of the Mass Transit Sector Coordinating Council (SCC).

### **Our Comments**

APTA agrees with and endorses the joint comments filed in this matter by the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). In short, we believe the FCC should adopt its own practices used with the Land Mobile Communications Council (LMCC) to create the rules, policies, and practices best suited to building a flexible, efficient system through consensus.

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Additionally, we wish to stress the importance of ensuring public transportation agencies have access to the 700 MHz public safety broadband spectrum. Public transportation systems are vital to public safety and must be able to communicate with other public safety related entities. As a key resource for evacuation operations, public transportation agencies must have assured access to reliable communications with other transportation resources, police, fire, and other first responders for both voice and data transmission. Whether responding to natural or man-made disasters, public transportation agencies provide exactly the type of services envisioned by the drafters of 47 USC §§ 309 and 337. This is true both for those agencies' internal police services and the operational personnel controlling the trains and buses.

Regional coordination and cooperative relationships are deemed essential in security planning and emergency preparedness for transit agencies. A truly effective interoperable communications network must be blind to organizational barriers, particularly in major metropolitan areas where multiple agencies may be engaged in response to a disaster or crisis.

We appreciate the opportunity to assist FCC in this important endeavor. For additional information, please contact James LaRusch, APTA's chief counsel and vice president - corporate affairs, at (202) 496-4808 or [jlarsch@apta.com](mailto:jlarsch@apta.com).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William Millar".

William Millar  
President

WM/jpl