

**US/CHINA SENIOR LEVEL ROUNDTABLE SESSION 2**  
**JANUARY12, 2011 – 1:45 – 2:15 PM**  
**REMARKS, RITA DAGUILLARD, FTA**

Thank you, Vice Minister Weng and Deputy Secretary Porcari. I would like to thank Mr. Wang Shuiping and all the Chinese and US participants in the Urban Congestion Working Group for their hard work and accomplishments during Tuesday's workshop on developing better urban public transportation systems.

Mr. Wang has outlined the areas of agreement that we reached and the specific measures that we agreed upon. In order to achieve our goals of alleviating urban congestion and creating greater accessibility, a cleaner environment, and a better quality of life for citizens in the US and China.

Some of these measures, such as an exchange of information on bus rapid transit systems in both countries, have already begun. Others, such as the workshop on standards that we hope will lead to greater harmonization of ITS interfaces and other transit applications, will begin within the next few months. Still others, such as collaboration on best practices for mobility access for the elderly and disabled, will be more long term.

All of these measures, however, no matter what their timeframe, will lead to one ultimate goal, namely closer collaboration between two of the world's great nations, the US and China, in creating better urban environments through improved public transportation.

In order to ensure that we have a clear path forward for achieving this goal, we have developed a concrete action plan and laid out a series of clear deliverables for the working group. These include an exchange of personnel in the standards development area, the sharing of information on BRT, and drafting of a disaster assistance best practices manual, and will be reported on during next year's Transportation Forum.

Given the important contributions of the private sector to the development and operation of safe and efficient public transportation systems, we have reserved a large role for them in this process. After all, private firms build the equipment and infrastructure, conduct much of the research and development, and provide much of the know-how that transit systems rely on. Their expertise, practical experience, and resources can supplement the efforts of government and play a major part in moving our joint initiatives forward.

The Urban Congestion Working Group will also promote the work of the sister city pairs and transit research organizations under their respective

memoranda of cooperation. Since they share many of the same problems and challenges and are closest to the issues that we are addressing, their participation is vital. For instance, citizens in both Los Angeles and Beijing, , face common problems of legendary gridlock, dozens of hours lost each week to traffic jams, increased air pollution, and lost economic productivity. Under their MOCs, the transit agencies in both these cities can learn from each other in developing effective strategies for combating these problems.

I truly believe that as a result of all of these strategies, we will see a real and positive difference in the lives of urban dwellers in both the US and China.

Thanks you.