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ASSISTANT COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

~~4.12.01~~

B-178971

AUG 3 1973

CHH The Honorable Walter E. Fauntroy
House of Representatives



74-0523

Dear Mr. Fauntroy:

This is in reply to your request of June 21, 1973, regarding a transfer of functions of the Department of Transportation (DOT) from Washington, D.C., to Cambridge, Massachusetts. We met with a member of your staff on June 28, 1973, to discuss the request and agreed on the work that would be done relating to it.

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DOT officials told us that the transfer of information functions of the Office of the Secretary, which involved nine employees, was part of a larger reorganization made to improve communications between the executive and legislative branches of the Federal Government and with State and local governments.

In February 1973 DOT announced a reorganization of functions of the Office of the Secretary. An Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs was established, and the Office of Environmental Quality was transferred to the newly-titled Office of the Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety, and Consumer Affairs. All urban transportation policy issues were consolidated in the newly-designated Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Plans, and International Affairs.

To enable the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Plans, and International Affairs to concentrate on review and development of policy and on broad aspects of planning, certain functions which were operational in nature were reassigned. The Office of Facilitation, which deals with safety and consumer affairs, was reassigned to the Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety, and Consumer Affairs. The International Secretariat in the Office of International Programs was reassigned to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration. Those functions of the Office of Systems Analysis and Information which were most closely associated with operational aspects of collection, analysis, and exchange of data were reassigned to the Transportation Systems Center (TSC), Cambridge, Massachusetts.

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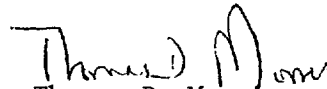
On May 14, 1973, DOT informed nine employees by letter that their function was being reassigned to the Transportation Systems Center on July 1, 1973, and that, in accordance with Federal personnel regulations, career and career-conditional employees were entitled to accompany their function if the alternative was separation or downgrading. The nine employees were offered an orientation visit to the Boston metropolitan area and arrangements were made for a representative of the Cambridge office to visit Washington to answer questions about housing and schools in the Boston area. The letter said that:

"Should it prove to be impossible for you to accompany your functions to TSC, every effort will be made to place you in a continuing position at your present grade level somewhere in DOT-Washington."

DOT officials told us that as of July 6, 1973, five of the nine employees had been reassigned in DOT headquarters and two were undecided about transferring to Cambridge. These officials said that they did not anticipate any problems in placing the other two employees. DOT officials told us also that the letter and attachment sent to you were similar to ⁶² letters and attachments sent to Congressmen Joel T. Broyhill, Lawrence J. Hogan, and Gilbert Gude, and Senator J. Glenn Beall, Jr. The four ⁵ members of Congress had forwarded the letters and attachments to DOT for ⁶ comment.

We discussed the above information with a member of your staff on July 18, 1973. It was agreed that a letter to you summarizing the information we had obtained from DOT would satisfy your request. We trust that this is of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas D. Morris
Assistant Comptroller General