



May 18, 2004

Suzanne Mencer
Office of Domestic Preparedness
US Department of Homeland Security
810 7th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20531

Dear Ms. Mencer:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update on the status of the security needs assessment project that the Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP) is conducting for WMATA. To date, I have been impressed with both the methodology and caliber of analysis performed by ODP's assessment team assigned to WMATA.

As you're aware, WMATA in 2002 was subject to a comprehensive vulnerability assessment conducted by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Due to resource constraints, WMATA has been able to address some but not all of the issues identified in FTA's assessment. ODP's emphasis on quantifying risk in a comprehensive manner provides both a needed update as well as a more targeted roadmap for allocating future resources to address our most pressing security needs. I'm confident that the final product resulting from the various stages of analysis will provide WMATA with a clear prioritization of risk-reduction strategies. I have also been pleased with the flexibility shown by the assessment team in their willingness to modify the existing methodology to incorporate some of the additional elements of particular concern to WMATA.

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WMATA appreciates the willingness of ODP to offer this valuable assessment tool to transit agencies and looks forward to the completion of our needs assessment project in June. We are already spreading the word to other transit agencies and recommending that they take advantage of the beneficial nature of this program.

With regards,


Polly Hanson
Chief