



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Office of Inspector General
Washington, D.C. 20590

March 17, 2011

Mr. Jared Paben
The Bellingham Herald
1155 N. State St. #109
Bellingham, WA 98225

RE: FOIA Request No. FI-2011-0031

Dear Mr. Jared Paben:

This letter is in response to your electronic Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request sent to the Department of Transportation (DOT), Office of the Inspector General (OIG) on February 1, 2011. You requested the following documents:

- 1 Any requests for FTA advisory opinions (authorized under 49 CFR 604.17) related to transit service provided by Whatcom Transportation Authority, based in Whatcom County, Wash., and/or Skagit Transit, based in Skagit County, Wash.
- 2 Any FTA cease and desist orders (as authorized by 49 CFR 604.22) related to service by Whatcom Transportation Authority and/or Skagit Transit 3.
- 3 Any complaints filed against Whatcom Transportation Authority and/or Skagit Transit regarding unauthorized charter service (49 CFR 604.27).

Based on our search, we have no records responsive to your request. Therefore, we consider this matter closed. However, you may wish to submit a FOIA request to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the mailing address is:

FOIA Service Center Coordinator
Federal Transit Administration
Office of Management Planning
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Room E42-31/TAD-10
Washington, DC 20590

The FOIA gives you the right to appeal adverse determinations to the appeal official for the agency. The appeal official for the OIG is the Assistant Inspector General, Brian A. Dettelbach. Any appeal must be submitted within 30 days after you receive this letter.

Any appeal should contain all facts and arguments that you propose warrant a more favorable determination. Please reference the file number above in any correspondence. Appeals to Mr. Dettelbach should be prominently marked as a "FOIA Appeal" addressed to: U.S. Department

of Transportation, Office of Inspector General, 7th Floor West (J3), 1200 New Jersey Avenue,
SE, Washington, DC 20590.

If you have any questions regarding your request, please contact me at (202) 366-1406.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara A. Hines". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Barbara A. Hines

OIG FOIA/Privacy Act Attorney