

WRITTEN STATEMENT

**JOHN D. PORCARI
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION**

BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

September 23, 2009

Chairwoman Norton, Ranking Member Diaz-Balart and Members of the Subcommittee, on behalf of the Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, thank you for inviting the Department here today to discuss the security practices and policies for the Department of Transportation headquarters located at 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C.

I am pleased to say that the Department of Transportation is enjoying its new headquarters building and we are excited to be a part of the redevelopment that is occurring in the Capital Riverfront area of Southeast Washington. We are also enjoying our proximity to the Nationals Baseball Stadium as well as the Navy Yard metro, which is just 400 feet from the Department's main entrance.

There was a strong commitment by DOT leadership to provide a safe and secure environment for its employees and to comply with post-9/11 recommended security measures in the design and construction of the facility to mitigate risks. The requirements for the DOT headquarters represented the Government's security consultants recommended industry practices, and were reviewed and adopted in collaboration with the Federal Protective Service and the General Services

Administration. The DOT headquarters security requirements were developed consistent with the prevailing Interagency Security Committee (ISC) Security Design Criteria; the General Services Administration policy guidance on fifty (50) foot setbacks issued in April 2002; and a detailed risk assessment and analysis conducted specifically for the Department that validated our requirements were appropriate for a cabinet agency with mission essential functions.

Under its lease agreement, the Government controls security at the DOT headquarters building. Based on a delegation of authority provided by the Department of Homeland Security through the Federal Protective Service, the Secretary of Transportation is solely responsible, without limitation, for protecting the DOT headquarters. This includes identifying building access requirements and procedures and monitoring the use of contract guard services. Security practices in DOT headquarters with respect to physical access control and visitor screening are consistent with other cabinet agency headquarters in Washington, D.C. Our security operations manage a uniformed security guard force that provides protection 24/7, to the DOT and Federal Aviation Administration headquarters buildings.

Madame Chair, DOT learned well the lessons of Oklahoma City, and was directly affected by the loss of valued employees in that senseless act of violence. Prior to the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, there were no government wide standards for security at Federal facilities. Today, in our modern facility designed to the best available standards, the Department strives not only to provide a safe and secure environment for its employees, but also to be a good neighbor.

Our 5,900 employees support local business, and are part of the core of a bright and prosperous vision for the future of the Southeast waterfront. The Department has been recognized by the Capital Riverfront Business Improvement District for our efforts to be a good neighbor.

- We host a farmer's market open to all in the neighborhood every Tuesday in season.
- On Wednesdays at lunchtime, we host local musicians while vendors provide food and refreshments, and in the evening movies are shown behind our building for the benefit of neighborhood residents.
- Thursdays are open market days where local vendors can offer their wares.
- Beyond our daily good neighbor activities, we have also accommodated planned special events like the District of Columbia's Presidential Inaugural event which was held at DOT headquarters in January 2009.

The security practices and policies for the Department of Transportation headquarters building conform to Federal standards. Because of the new construction opportunity, we have been able to integrate post-9/11 security measures that have greatly enhanced the security posture of the DOT headquarters building compared to many existing government facilities and, we are grateful for that. Overall, the security practices and policies for the Department's headquarters building are equivalent to other cabinet agency headquarters here in Washington, D.C.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I would be pleased to address any questions.