

Statement of Thelma Drake
Nominee for Administrator, Federal Transit Administration
U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Tuesday, April 17, 2018
10:00 a.m.

Chairman Crapo, Ranking Member Brown and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to address you today and to answer your questions.

I am honored to be nominated to the position of Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration. I would like to thank President Trump and Secretary Chao for their support and belief in me.

I view transit as a key component of a transportation network. I realize that needs vary across our country and I look forward to engaging in the various discussions with stakeholders as to how construct, maintain and operate successful systems.

In Congress, I served on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and while serving in the Virginia General Assembly, I was a member of the House Transportation Committee. I have also served as a member of the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board.

After leaving Congress, I served as Director of the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT). While the Director of DRPT, I helped implement new processes and performance metrics that enhanced accountability and incentivized performance and efficiency for state transit systems. We also created a new model for funding capital investments that placed an emphasis on investment in rolling stock. My work included involvement with Virginia's transit systems; the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and Virginia's commuter rail system, the Virginia Railway Express.

Secretary Chao and I share the same priorities for transportation. If confirmed, my top priorities will be:

1. The safety of our transit systems and the traveling public
2. Infrastructure support and investment
3. Preparing for the future through innovation

Again, thank you for your time and consideration of my nomination. I would be honored to work with each of you on your priorities and to be an advocate for transit nationwide.