



GREGORY W. SULLIVAN  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Office of the Inspector General*

JOHN W. MCCORMACK  
STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE  
ROOM 1311  
BOSTON, MA 02108  
TEL: (617) 727-9140  
FAX: (617) 723-2334

April 16, 2010

Ellen Bickelman  
State Purchasing Agent  
Operational Services Division  
One Ashburton Place, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Ms. Bickelman:

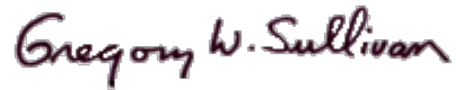
We appreciate the willingness of you staff to meet with our office recently to discuss the \$5.5 million procurement of 108 vehicles by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. As you know, the MBTA purchased the vehicles under a department procurement conducted by Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) formerly the Executive Office of Transportation. Our review of this MassDOT procurement is part of our on-going effort to monitor ARRA expenditures.

The MBTA made these purchases from contract no. 2008DRAV, awarded by MassDOT in early 2009. Our review of the procurement revealed several issues in which the Operational Services Division (OSD) has jurisdiction under 801 CMR 21. We therefore requested and OSD agreed to review the procurement process for contract no. 2008DRAV. The following are the key issues we brought to your attention:

- Contract specifications may not have been developed per OSD guidelines.
- Overly restrictive and inconsistent specifications may have restricted competition.
- Inconsistent answers to bidders' questions during the process may have restricted competition.
- The proposal evaluation process did not conform to OSD policy by failing to use a quantitative scoring system to evaluate bids.
- Delivered vehicles did not meet contract specifications.
- Recordkeeping for the procurement process may not have conformed to OSD guidelines.

Thank you again for agreeing to review this procurement. If we can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact our office. We look forward to the results of your review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Gregory W. Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Gregory W. Sullivan  
Inspector General