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United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

Program Evaluation and
Methodology Division

December 21, 1992

Senator Albert Gore
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4202

Dear Senator Gore:

*For
Gore*

Enclosed please find a copy of our recently released report TRAFFIC CONGESTION: ACTIVITIES TO REDUCE TRAVEL DEMAND AND AIR POLLUTION ARE NOT WIDELY IMPLEMENTED which was completed for the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. We thought that you might be especially interested in our findings because, in our survey of metropolitan regions around the country, the state of Tennessee was over-represented by chance in proportions of responses received. As a result, much of what is said in the report reflects the views of Tennessee.

Overall, we found that much less attention has been given to efforts to reduce travel demand than to other approaches to traffic congestion reduction. Transportation implementors were even less interested than planners in promoting activities to lower demand and reduce air pollution. In most areas, we found only a weak connection between congestion reduction planning and air quality efforts. Finally, major obstacles to reaching congestion reduction and air quality improvement goals included: 1) problems in coordinating different jurisdictions; 2) perceptions that demand reduction activities are unpopular and not locally relevant; 3) scarcity of evaluation data; 4) disinterest in the private sector transportation community.

In view of your long involvement in environmental issues and the proposed Clinton-Gore Administration infrastructure investment program, we thought that you might find some practical applications for the findings of this study. Wishing you the best of everything in your new role, I remain

Sincerely yours,

James J. Crosson
James J. Crosson, Ph. D.
Project Manager