



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 16, 2011

Ms. LaToya Redd
Paralegal and FOIA Officer
Regional Transportation Authority
175 W. Jackson Blvd., Ste. 1650
Chicago, Illinois 60604

RE: FOIA Pre-Authorization Request - 2011 PAC 14404

Dear Ms. Redd:

We have received and reviewed the written notice from the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) of its intention to deny disclosure of certain information pursuant to section 7(1)(f) of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 ILCS 140/7(1)(f) (West 2009 Supp.), as amended by Public Act 96-1378, effective July 29, 2010).

On May 12, 2011, [REDACTED] submitted a FOIA request for copies of all documents relating to the elimination of the Senior Ride Free Program. In its written notice, RTA asserts that certain internal documents contained within the requested records are exempt from disclosure under section 7(1)(f) of FOIA. On June 13, 2011, RTA provided a representative copy of the withheld records for our review.

Section 7(1)(f) of FOIA exempts from inspection and copying "[p]reliminary drafts, notes, recommendations, memoranda and other records in which opinions are expressed, or policies or actions are formulated, except that a specific record or relevant portion of a record shall not be exempt when the record is publicly cited and identified by the head of the public body."

DETERMINATION

RTA's assertion of section 7(1)(f) to withhold certain internal documents contained within the requested records is **approved**. Based on our review, we conclude that the withheld records consist of emails and draft documents containing opinions and recommendations that were solicited and utilized by RTA in its decision-making process

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regarding specific matters. As a result, RTA has met its initial burden of demonstrating that the withheld records are exempt from disclosure under section 7(1)(f).

If you have any questions, please contact me at (312) 814-6437. This correspondence shall serve to close this matter.

Very truly yours,



TOLA SOBITAN
Assistant Attorney General
Public Access Bureau

14404 preauth al 71f prelim reg. auth

cc:

