

## **Mokhtee Ahmad – FTA Regional Administrator Region VII**

Mokhtee Ahmad joined the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on November 8, 1998, when he accepted the position of Regional Administrator for Region VII (Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas - MINK) in Kansas City, Mo. As the Regional Administrator, he provides leadership to the Regional Office in the administration of FTA's programs and the management of the Federal financial assistance within the terms of the FTA Act, other Federal statutes, and regional plans. Congress appropriated about \$195 million for FY 2001 to Region VII for transit projects and studies - bus replacements, light rail, commuter rail, rural and urban public transportation, Job Access, and planning. The monies will be used by 25 urban systems who provide about 95 million passenger trips annually and over 355 million passenger miles annually with a fleet of about 2,000 vehicles; and by over 500 agencies providing over 13 million trips annually and over 30 million passenger miles annually with a fleet of over 2,200 vehicles in the rural areas of MINK. He has also participated in the Secretary of Transportation's leadership retreats for advancing the Flagships and strategic plan of the U.S. Department of Transportation since he joined FTA.

Mokhtee came to the federal government from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), Topeka, Kansas. His tenure at KDOT began in 1983, when he was the Assistant Chief of Transportation Planning. He was responsible for providing leadership and management in the areas of rural public transit programs, urban transportation programs, rail program, and bicycle and pedestrian programs to the different teams. He initiated and collaborated on several publications for KDOT such as the department's annual publications of Selected Statistics; Age and Alcohol Traffic Accidents, and Accident Statistics.

Prior to joining KDOT, he was the Financial Economist and State Demographer for the State of Kansas in the Department of the Budget. He was responsible analyzing all of the tax legislation from 1978 to 1983; estimating the fiscal impact and writing the fiscal notes to the legislature; and writing bill notes for the governor on the economic impacts of the proposed legislation. He also participated in the revenue forecasting committee for the State's budget revenue estimates. As the state demographer he was responsible for disseminating and analyzing the 1980 Census for Kansas.

Mokhtee's career also includes teaching at the universities and in public schools - Washburn University (adjunct instructor in Economics and Business Statistics - 1978 to present); University of Nebraska in Omaha (visiting instructor in Economics and Business Statistics - 1977 / 1978); University of Tulsa in Tulsa, Oklahoma (Assistant Professor in Economics - 1975 / 1977); and Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa (Instructor in Economics -1973 / 1975). During the 1967 - 1968 school year, he taught mathematics at Paul Junior High School in Washington D.C.

His education includes a BSc in mathematics from the University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma (1967), BSc in Economics from Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa (1969), and the completion of the all the requirements for a PhD in Economics except for the dissertation from Iowa State University.

While he was at KDOT he was active in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Association (AASHTO). Prior to joining FTA he served as chairperson of the Multistate Technical Assistance Program (MTAP), a subcommittee of AASHTO's Standing Committee on Transit. For his service in public transportation, Mokhtee received the Annual Appreciation Award from Kansas Public Transportation Association in 1997, Recognition and Gratitude award from AASHTO in 1996, and Achievement Award from MTAP in 1998. He also received the Secretary's Gold Medal Award for Outstanding Achievement in Region 7 ONE DOT Leadership Team in 1998.