



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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April 16, 2024

The Honorable Michael Regan
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Regan:

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) is pleased to support the Regional Transportation Authority's (RTA) application for the Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation funding of \$375 million for the Transforming Transit: Accelerating a Zero-Emission Fleet in the Chicago Region initiative. RTA's project, in partnership with the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra, and Pace, will build on ongoing regional collaboration to reduce emissions, enhance bus and train service, and grow ridership.

As the comprehensive regional planning organization for northeastern Illinois, CMAP is committed to supporting strategic initiatives that will enhance public transit, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, foster regional economic development, and advance equity throughout the region. RTA's proposal will make important progress on the region's goals to reduce emissions from the transportation sector while prioritizing communities burdened by poor air quality.

RTA's project will work with each of the operators to make the following investments:

- **\$125 million for CTA to purchase up to sixty 60-foot articulated buses and two charging cabinets supporting up to 40 pantograph chargers** to be housed in their 103rd Street garage and used to support service for at least two of 25 routes originating in the historic Pullman neighborhood on Chicago's Far Southeast Side – a historically disadvantaged community and one of the areas of greatest concern for pollution burdens and vulnerability.
- **\$125 million for Pace to purchase up to eighty-three 40-foot buses** to be housed in their North (Waukegan) and Southwest (Bridgeview) Division garages and deployed along 23 routes. Waukegan and Bridgeview are historically disadvantaged communities vulnerable to pollution and air quality issues.

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The Hon. Michael Regan

April 16, 2024

Page 2

- **\$125 million for Metra to purchase 32 trailer cars and 8 docking stations** that will allow Metra to retire 16 of its oldest diesel locomotives and add service on three high-ridership lines: Union Pacific North, Milwaukee District West, and the Rock Island Beverly Branch.

CMAP worked closely with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, the lead organization for the CPRG planning grant for the Chicago area, to develop the region's Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP). The PCAP includes transitioning trains and buses to zero emissions as a priority greenhouse gas reduction strategy within the objective of decarbonizing transportation. RTA's application supports implementation of key strategies established in the PCAP and represents a major opportunity to advance its goals.

Once again, CMAP is supportive of RTA's application and share in the commitment to promoting greenhouse gas reduction strategies that foster economic development and advance equity through the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erin Aleman', with a long, sweeping underline.

Erin Aleman
Executive Director

EA:rg