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Berwyn
Broadview
Brookfield
Cicero
Countryside
Elmwood Park
Forest Park
Forest View
Franklin Park
Harwood Heights
Hillside
Hodgkins
Indian Head Park
LaGrange
LaGrange Park
Leyden Township
Lyons
Lyons Township
Maywood
McCook
Melrose Park
Norridge
Northlake
North Riverside
Oak Park
River Forest
River Grove
Riverside
Rosemont
Schiller Park
Stickney
Stone Park
Summit
Westchester
Western Springs
Willow Springs

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Water Commission
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Triton College
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City of Oakbrook Terrace
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April 1, 2024

The Honorable Michael S. Regan
EPA Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant – Transforming Transit: Accelerating a Zero-Emission Fleet in the Chicago Region

Dear Administrator Regan,

On behalf of the West Central Municipal Conference (WCMC), please accept this letter of support for the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) in their application for 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.

Public transit plays a critical role in advancing regional climate, economic, and equity goals. Our transit system is an economic differentiator – linking talent to opportunities and spurring growth. Amidst a climate crisis, RTA and the region's transit agencies recognize their role in getting more people to ride public transit and transition their fleets of buses and locomotives to zero-emissions. The transit system is also an essential tool to address a legacy of racism and segregation in the Chicago region that has left people of color and people experiencing low incomes overburdened with poor air quality and inadequate access to jobs and services.

With \$375 million in CPRG funding for *Transforming Transit*, the RTA 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.
- **\$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.

Cook County working to enhance the quality of life for residents in our region. Area residents benefiting from new zero-emission vehicles and trainsets include riders, who will experience more



reliable service with modern equipment, along with the greater population living in nearby communities who will breathe cleaner air. While these projects have direct benefits to six WCMC communities where affected routes and stations are located, together, CTA, Metra, and Pace's initiatives go beyond municipal borders and benefit the entire region in reducing emissions and improving air quality and enhancing service to reduce single occupancy vehicle trips.

This project will make significant progress on the region's goals to decrease the environmental footprint of the transportation sector and move toward a more sustainable network while prioritizing communities burdened by poor air quality. For these reasons, I urge U.S. EPA's full consideration of RTA's proposal for ***Transforming Transit: Accelerating a Zero-Emission Fleet in the Chicago Region*** under the applicable guidelines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David B. Guerin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "D".

David B. Guerin
Mayor, Village of River Grove
President, West Central Municipal Conference