



March 18, 2024

City of Bowling Green - Public Works  
1011 College Street  
Bowling Green, KY

To Whom it May Concern:

Western Kentucky University and the City of Bowling Green work closely together on large projects that benefit the Community as part of WKU's commitment in supporting economic growth in South Central Kentucky. Previous examples include a joint City-WKU grant to expand the Greenways system from our South Campus to downtown Bowling Green. The resulting Greenways connection allows a person to bike from South Campus to downtown on designated Greenways. This path is frequently used for both transportation and recreation.

Currently, Western Kentucky University and the City of Bowling Green are working closely together to improve public transit in the community. For years, we have operated separate systems, with Topper Transit focused on serving the student body, and GObg Public Transit focused on serving the needs of the transit dependent residents of Bowling Green. For a community our size, that has meant duplicating administrative efforts, competing for drivers and designing routes to complement service rather than compete for ridership.

In recent years, we have been taking steps to merge our transit systems into a single operation, thus providing cost savings through operational efficiencies for both WKU and Bowling Green, while simplifying and increasing access to public transit and WKU for the community, and access to the community for WKU students. The first step in this process was to hire a common vendor for both management and operations of both systems, which we did this year. WKU views the joint proposed request for funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to electrify the transit fleet as a natural growth in this partnership.

Western Kentucky University has a strong commitment to reach Sustainability goals as outlined in the Strategic Plan, Climbing to Greater Heights. Electrifying the transit fleet will have meaningful impacts in reducing the greenhouse gas emissions of our transit fleet. As such, Western Kentucky University sees the value of this project and supports this proposal fully.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenni L. Redifer", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jenni L. Redifer, Ph.D.  
Interim Associate Provost for Research & Graduate Education  
Western Kentucky University

*The Spirit Makes the Master*

Office of Research & Creative Activity | Western Kentucky University | 1906 College Heights Blvd #11026 | Bowling Green, KY 42101-1026  
Phone: 270 745 4652 | Fax: 270 745 4211 | email: [ranjit.koodali@wku.edu](mailto:ranjit.koodali@wku.edu)

Equal Education and Employment Opportunities • Printing paid from state funds, KRS 57.375, 2006 • Hearing Impaired Only: 270 745 5389