

March 26, 2024

RE: Letter of Support for the City of Jacksonville's (COJ) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant  
Application - Northeast Florida's Electric Vehicle Overhaul & Low-Emission Transit (E-VOLT) Project

To Whom It May Concern,

The University of North Florida's Institute of Environmental Research and Education is writing to express strong support writing to express strong support for the Northeast Florida Electric Vehicle Overhaul and Low-Emission Transit (E-VOLT) project, spearheaded by the City of Jacksonville. This initiative represents a significant leap forward in our collective effort to mitigate climate change, enhance our regional transportation systems, and promote sustainable economic growth.

UNF's Institute of Environmental Research and Education is comprised of an interdisciplinary team of faculty with environmental expertise representing each of the six colleges and over 10 departments across the university. The Institute focuses on three priorities: 1) to provide environmental student programs and environmental leadership training for students from every major at UNF, 2) to build interdisciplinary research teams of environmental faculty experts and students aimed at addressing local issues such as coastal resilience, water quality, expanding parks and green space and usage, and improving sustainability, and 3) to develop curriculum (undergraduate and in the future graduate degrees) focused on environmental science and studies to prepare students for the workforce and or graduate studies to find solutions to environmental problems. We achieve these goals through close collaboration with local environmental community and industry leaders, especially those that serve on the Institute's Community Council.

We are excited to support the "Northeast Florida Electric Vehicle Overhaul and Low-Emission Transit (E-VOLT) project" because it: aligns with UNF's workforce development priorities in environmental science and studies and expands ongoing work developing a skilled workforce and expands environmental research opportunities and development in our research.

Please give the E-VOLT's application the highest consideration.

Sincerely,



Erin Largo-Wight, PhD  
Professor and Director, Institute of Environmental Research and Education  
University of North Florida  
Jacksonville, FL 32224  
[unf.edu/environment](http://unf.edu/environment)