



March 31, 2024

United States Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20004

Subject: Letter of Support for the City of Jacksonville's Northeast Florida's Electric Vehicle Overhaul and Low-Emission Transit (E-VOLT) Project

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Southeast Sustainability Directors Network, I am writing to express our enthusiastic 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 the effort to mitigate climate change, enhance regional transportation systems, and promote sustainable economic growth in Northeast Florida.

SSDN is a network of over 110 local government practitioners from a ten-state region in the South that are committed to addressing climate change in their communities. Our network supports the scaling of best practices throughout the region through peer learning, provides programs that support communities' access to federal funding, and promotes our communities' understanding of their local policy landscape.

It is for this reason that we are excited to support this collaboration of Northeast Florida regional governments, including the City of Jacksonville, City of Atlantic Beach, City of Palm Coast, City of St. Augustine, and St. Johns County. SSDN we are acutely aware of the environmental and socio-economic challenges our communities face. It is our belief that this investment in electric vehicles and low-emission transit can serve as a best practice and example for other governments across the Southeast..

The E-VOLT project is designed to tackle priority measures within the transportation sector, which the most recent greenhouse gas emissions identified as contributing 39% priority measures for the region. This initiative will both reduce GHG emissions as well as enhance the quality of life for our residents through expanding mobility hubs, developing bike and pedestrian paths, and transitioning to electric vehicles (EVs) across school districts, municipal fleets, and public transportation systems. Moreover, the E-VOLT project prioritizes the needs of low-income and disadvantaged communities by ensuring they have access to improved public transportation options and the associated health and economic benefits.

SSDN's support for the E-VOLT project underscores our shared commitment to a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future. We urge the EPA to consider the Northeast Florida E-VOLT project favorably and provide the necessary funding to bring this vision to life. Together, we can set a precedent for regional collaboration, innovation, and resilience in the face of environmental challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meg J", is positioned above the printed name.

Meg Jamison
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