



225 North Pearl Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202-4513

March 26, 2024

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

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of JEA, I am writing to express our support of 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 efforts to mitigate climate change, enhance regional transportation systems, and promote sustainable economic growth.

As the not-for-profit, community-owned utility that provides foundational services to more than one million Northeast Florida residents across four counties, JEA is aware of the environmental and socio-economic challenges our community faces. Our 2019 greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory revealed that transportation accounts for 39 percent of the region's GHG emissions. Addressing this issue is critical for our environment and for the health and well-being of our residents.

The E-VOLT project is designed to tackle these challenges head-on by expanding mobility hubs, developing bike and pedestrian paths, and transitioning to electric vehicles (EVs) across our school districts, municipal fleets, and public transportation systems. This initiative will reduce GHG emissions and enhance the quality of life for residents by improving air quality and reducing noise pollution.

Moreover, the E-VOLT project will have profound economic and social benefits. Investing in EV infrastructure, such as charging stations and maintenance facilities, will spur local job creation and provide new opportunities for our community's workforce. This transition to cleaner transportation options is also expected to lower operational costs in the long term, providing fiscal savings that can be redirected to other critical community services.

JEA recognizes that the transition to a more sustainable transportation system must be inclusive. 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. By reducing barriers to mobility, we can enhance social equity and provide a ladder of opportunity for all residents.

Our support for the E-VOLT project underscores JEA's commitment to a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future. We believe that this initiative aligns with the goals of the EPA's CPRG Phase II Implementation Grant and represents a worthy investment in the future of Northeast Florida and the nation.

JEA urges 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 that reads "Laura M. Schepis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura M. Schepis
JEA Chief External Affairs Officer