

STATE OF MARYLAND  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



March 19, 2024

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

WES MOORE.  
GOVERNOR

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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

Dear Administrator Regan:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transit Administration's (MDOT MTA) funding application through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program for the ***Eastern Bus Division Reconstruction Project***.

EPA has made \$4.6 billion in competitive grant funding available for measures that will achieve the greatest potential greenhouse gas emissions reductions. This combined bus facility rebuild, bus procurement, and workforce development project meets this program's goals in that it will help to advance MDOT MTA's ongoing pilot rollout of battery-electric buses (BEBs) into a full zero-emission bus fleet conversion. In addition to reconstructing the existing Eastern Bus Division for the storage, charging, and maintenance of BEBs, this grant application requests funding for the procurement of new BEBs. The newly constructed Eastern Bus Division will also house robust workforce development training, using registered apprenticeships to teach MTA staff new skills, advance their careers, and prepare them to operate and maintain the BEBs and to remain at the forefront of this evolving transit technology.

This project is consistent with MDOT MTA's Zero-Emission Transition Plan and supports progress toward statewide goals for sustainable transit operations. The timely funding of this project is critical to transitioning 50 percent of MDOT MTA's bus fleet to zero-emission technology by 2030, a target set forth by Maryland's 2019 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act and reiterated in the 2020 Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan, and to achieving net-zero emissions in Maryland by 2045, as mandated in the 2022 Maryland Climate Solutions Now Act. Maryland's adoption of the Zero-Emission Bus Transition Act in 2021 also prohibits MDOT MTA from procuring internal combustion engine vehicles after FY 2022. To accomplish this ambitious fleet transition goal and comply with state mandates, MDOT MTA is shifting to exclusive purchase of zero-emissions buses and developing the charging infrastructure to ensure a successful and seamless fleet conversion—and the Eastern Bus Division Reconstruction Project is vital to this effort.

A successful grant application will allow MDOT MTA to complete the transition, provide a safe and efficient workspace for employees, and improve the quality of life for residents of surrounding communities. Community organizations in the adjacent neighborhood in Southeast Baltimore have already given their support for this project, which stands to improve air quality by eliminating greenhouse gas emissions, minimize noise impacts, and upgrade pedestrian infrastructure.

With the inaugural round of the CPRG Program, EPA is providing major capital resources to support large-scale greenhouse gas emissions reductions across the country. The Eastern Bus Division Reconstruction Project plays an essential role in fulfilling this goal in Maryland. Your full consideration of MDOT MTA's application is greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Moore', with a stylized, flowing script.

Wes Moore  
Governor of Maryland