
March 29, 2024

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

Dear Administrator Regan:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Maryland Transit Administration's (MTA) grant application through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program for the ***Eastern Bus Division Reconstruction*** project, which will build a new, modernized bus facility to support the agency's transition to a zero-emission bus (ZEB) fleet. The new Eastern Bus Division will be among the first bus depots in the U.S. purpose-built for battery-electric buses (BEBs) and will enhance MTA's capacity to operate, maintain and charge its growing BEB fleet.

This project is consistent with MTA's Zero-Emission Transition Plan and supports progress toward statewide goals for sustainable transit operations. Maryland's 2019 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act requires the MTA to upgrade 50 percent of its fleet to zero-emission technology by 2030, and the Zero-Emission Bus Transition Act in 2021 prohibits MTA from procuring internal combustion engine vehicles after FY 2022. After the final vehicles in the agency's current clean diesel order arrive in 2024, only zero-emission buses will be delivered moving forward. These goals were reiterated in the 2020 Regional Transit Plan for Central Maryland, and are in line with the Maryland Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022.

To accomplish this ambitious fleet transition goal, MTA is equipping its bus division facilities with the requisite charging and bus maintenance infrastructure to ensure a successful and seamless fleet conversion. While the requested \$97.5 million will specifically be used to support electrical charging infrastructure, this project will also support a registered apprenticeship that will put the agency in compliance with the Maryland Zero-Emission Bus Transition Act by addressing the impact of the zero-emission transition on MTA's workforce, and will help to accelerate the procurement of BEBs to meet fleet transition milestones.

The Eastern Bus Division facility is one of four MTA bus maintenance and operations facilities serving the Baltimore metropolitan area. The existing facility, constructed in the 1930s, is beyond its useful life and is constrained in its ability to safely support MTA employees and bus fleet needs. The space requirements to support bus charging, storage, and maintenance of an electric bus fleet further require redevelopment of the facility.

The reconstruction of Eastern Bus Division will include:

- A transportation and maintenance building with 17 maintenance bays.
- A bus storage building and charging positions for up to 180 BEBs.
- Up to 160 pantograph chargers powered by eight Hitachi big box chargers, with provisions for up to 20 additional pantographs and two more big box chargers.
- Training rooms and comfort facilities for operators and staff.
- Vaulting, service, and wash lanes.
- Expanded electrical infrastructure.
- 219 off-street employee parking spaces.
- LEED Silver design, including solar panels and a green roof.

The project will also include pedestrian safety improvements and the reconstruction of two intersections, which will reduce potential pedestrian-vehicle and bus-passenger vehicle conflicts.

Community benefits will include reduced greenhouse gas emissions and pollution from buses housed at the facility; the relocation of bus division access from existing residential uses along Oldham Street to Ponca Street; and reduced noise levels for sensitive receptors by supporting quieter BEBs and installing sound barriers and retaining walls along the facility's borders.

The accompanying registered apprenticeship program will provide on-the-job training and classroom instruction to promote workers' skills to advance their careers and develop a workforce that is adapted to zero-emissions technology. The program will have a dedicated curriculum that addresses ZEB technology maintenance, repair, and safety and will pay apprentices a progressive wage and will permit their membership to an international labor union.

The total cost of this project is estimated to be \$517.4 million, of which \$213 million has been secured for planning, design, and construction for this project through federal formula funding and state funding in future years. MTA is requesting \$97,548,016 million under the applicable Tier C category for the CPRG Program, in accordance with the Priority Climate Action Plan prepared by the Maryland Department of the Environment. The requested funds will help to cover charging infrastructure to be included as part of the facility reconstruction.

We appreciate EPA's commitment to funding high-quality projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help to combat climate change for many years to come. We urge you to approve MTA's CPRG Program application. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Ms. Elizabeth Gordon, Assistant Deputy Administrator for Planning and Programming, at 410-767-3787 or at egordon1@mdot.maryland.gov. Ms. Gordon will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by
A. Joe Davis.
Date: 2024.03.29

Joe Davis *for* Holly Arnold
Administrator

cc: Ms. Elizabeth Gordon, Assistant Deputy Administrator for Planning and Programming, MTA

MEMORANDUM

TO: Samantha Biddle, Deputy Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation, TSO

FROM: Holly Arnold
MTA Administrator



Digitally signed by
Holly Arnold.
Date: 2024.03.19

DATE: March 19, 2024

SUBJECT: Delegation of Authority

I will be out of the office beginning Saturday March 23, 2024, and will return on Tuesday, April 2, 2024. While I am out of the office, I will have limited access to emails and cell phone service.

Kate Sylvester will be acting as my Delegate of Authority from March 23, 2024, until March 27, 2024. Her contact information is:

Kate Sylvester
443-621-9725 (Cell)
410-767-3889 (Office)
Email: ksylvester@mdot.maryland.gov

Wayne Morse will be acting as my Delegate of Authority on March 28, 2024. His contact information is:

Wayne Morse
443-878-5345 (Cell)
410-454-7032 (Office)
Email: wmorse@mdot.maryland.gov

Samanth Biddle
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Joe Davis will be acting as my Delegate of Authority from March 29, 2024, until April 1, 2024.
His contact information is:

Joe Davis
410-301-1195 (Cell)
410-454-7228 (Office)
Email: jdavis3@mdot.maryland.gov

cc: Mr. Paul Wiedefeld, Secretary, MDOT
Ms. Kate Sylvester, Deputy Administrator, MTA
Mr. Joe Davis, Chief Operating Officer, MTA
Ms. Veronica Battisti, Senior Director, Communications & Marketing, MTA
Mr. James Gillece, Chief of Staff, MTA
Colonel Jerome Howard, Chief of Police, MTA
Ms. Minilla Malhotra, Chief Administrative Officer, MTA
Mr. Ray Biggs, Project Director, Purple Line, Transit Development & Delivery, MTA
Ms. Allison Scott, Project Director, Red line, Transit Development & Delivery, MTA
Mr. Edward Wilson, Chief Financial Officer, MTA
Mr. Michael Winger, Chief Safety Officer, MTA
Mr. Wayne Morse, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Operations Support, MTA