



SMART GROWTH AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION

March 14, 2024

Elizabeth Mahony
Commissioner
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
100 Cambridge St. 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Commissioner Mahony,

On behalf of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) I am writing to express our enthusiasm for partnering with the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (MA DOER) on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) application. We are committed to working with MA DOER in its effort to support medium- and heavy-duty fleet electrification in Massachusetts and the application's goal to equitably benefit low-income and disadvantaged communities.

While medium- and heavy-duty diesel vehicles in Massachusetts represent around 5% of total vehicles on the road, they contribute approximately 20% of on-road transportation greenhouse gas emissions and almost all of on road diesel particulate matter emissions. In addition, the emissions from these vehicles are inequitably concentrated in urban and low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDACs), disproportionately affecting the health of residents in those communities.

In their CPRG application, MA DOER has proposed a set of comprehensive and effective strategies that will address the many electrification challenges faced by fleets and enable the Commonwealth to achieve the substantial emissions and pollution reduction goals outlined in the application. Through enhanced electric vehicle rebates, technical and financial support for charging infrastructure, expanded fleet advisory services, LIDAC-based outreach and engagement efforts, and workforce development programs targeting training for essential electric vehicle maintenance and repair, this project, if awarded, will definitively support an accelerated transition to zero emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles among fleets throughout the Commonwealth.

MAPC is the Regional Planning Agency serving the people who live and work in the 101 cities and towns of Greater Boston, which comprises roughly half of the state's population and two-thirds of the state's jobs. The agency works towards sound municipal management, sustainable land use, protection of natural resources, efficient and affordable transportation, a diverse housing stock, public safety, economic development, clean energy, healthy communities, an informed public, and equity and opportunity among people of all backgrounds.

MAPC will directly support the outreach, engagement and LIDAC prioritization components of the MA DOER CPRG program through a host of commitments, including:

- Coordinate outreach to the MAPC Justice40 organizations to provide feedback and enlist their support to partner with the MA DOER CPRG program on ongoing outreach and communication efforts.
- Utilize the MAPC Justice40 process to develop best practice outreach mechanisms to engage with communities and solicit feedback from them.
- Commit to coordinate with MA DOER to develop and maintain programs beyond the grant period that have already proven to be successful.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has proven to be committed to the decarbonization and electrification of Massachusetts and its fleets specifically. MAPC is excited about the possibility of joining MA DOER to implement this important and far-reaching program. As evidenced by its oversight of the MOR-EV medium- and heavy-duty rebate program, as well as other related programs, we believe MA DOER has demonstrated a clear ability to manage this CPRG grant and all its components. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Lizzi Weyant
Deputy Executive Director