



RESOLUTION 24-01

TO COMMIT SUPPORT FOR METROPLAN'S LEADERSHIP OF A TRI-REGION COALITION APPLICATION TO THE EPA CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT (CPRG) IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Metroplan is the officially designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway metropolitan statistical area; and

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2023, the Metroplan Board of Directors resolved to support Metroplan's participation in the CPRG-funded Arkansas Energy and Environment Innovation (EEI) planning process, including the creation of a Central Arkansas Regional EEI Priority Action Plan Supplement; and

WHEREAS, Metroplan submitted its Regional EEI Priority Action Plan Supplement to the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment's Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) by the December 1, 2023 deadline; and

WHEREAS, Metroplan actively partnered with DEQ and its other CPRG planning subrecipients, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission and City of Fort Smith, to coordinate public engagement and planning efforts statewide; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission submitted to DEQ a Regional EEI Priority Action Plan Supplement on behalf of the Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA and the City of Fort Smith submitted a Regional EEI Priority Action Plan Supplement on behalf of the Fort Smith MSA; and

WHEREAS, the three metropolitan statistical areas combined represent roughly half of the state's population; and

WHEREAS, the three regional planning subrecipients wish to submit a coalition application to the CPRG implementation grant program to maximize the grant's impact and efficiency; and

WHEREAS, the coalition requests to apply for \$99,999,999 in federal CPRG funding with \$48,500,000 being allocated to Central Arkansas, \$36,250,000 being allocated to Northwest Arkansas, \$14,500,000 being allocated to Fort Smith, and \$749,999 being allocated for grant administration; and

WHEREAS, as Arkansas' largest MPO, Metroplan is well-suited to lead a coalition application; and

WHEREAS, the Metroplan Board of Directors supports the Metroplan's partnership with other regions to assist states, local governments, tribes, and territories to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that as the metropolitan planning organization for central Arkansas, the Metroplan Board of Directors hereby agrees to act as the lead applicant for the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition CPRG Implementation application. The Board agrees to receive and account for all funding and project expenses. The Board of Directors pledges its full support and hereby authorizes Metroplan to direct the funding and staff time necessary to meet the grant deliverables as outlined in the application. The Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed to execute all appropriate agreements and contracts necessary to expedite the implementation of the above stated project.

Duly recorded this 13th day of March 2024.

Signed: _____

Barry Hyde, President
Judge, Pulaski County

Attested: _____

Ken Kincade, Secretary-Treasurer
Mayor, City of Cabot