

February 29, 2024

Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Air and Radiation, 6101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Letter of Intent to sign the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

Dear Office of Air and Radiation:

This letter is intended to express the City of Fort Smith intent to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Metroplan to participate as a coalition member in the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation application. The City of Fort Smith fully supports the greenhouse gas reduction actions outlined in the application and will provide critical leadership needed to implement the measures in northwest Arkansas.

The City of Fort Smith is committed to leading initiatives aimed at promoting green energy, fostering community partnerships, and implementing measures to address climate improvement in the River Valley Region. Recognizing the importance of environmental sustainability and the role cities play in mitigating climate change, Fort Smith is dedicated to spearheading efforts that prioritize renewable energy sources and projects that will reduce carbon emissions and enhance energy efficiency. Additionally, the City aims to collaborate with local businesses, organizations, and residents to develop innovative solutions and initiatives that promote sustainability and resilience within the community. By championing these efforts, Fort Smith seeks to create a cleaner, healthier, and more vibrant environment for its residents while contributing to broader regional and global climate action goals.

The City of Fort Smith focus measures are as follows:

- Electric Power Sector
- Transportation Sector
- Carbon Removal Measures
- Workforce Development

The City of Fort Smith is forging strategic partnerships with key stakeholders, including the Western Arkansas Planning & Development District (WAPDD), Peak Innovation, University of Arkansas Fort Smith, Citizens Climate Lobby, Arkansas Advanced Energy Foundation, and the Choctaw Nation, to spearhead comprehensive measures aimed at reducing climate pollution. These collaborative efforts encompass a wide range of initiatives, including the expansion of transit systems, implementation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, integration of solar panels and weatherization measures into public housing facilities, rehabilitation of complete streets to enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety, and workforce development programs geared towards promoting sustainable practices. By leveraging

the expertise and resources of these esteemed partners, Fort Smith is poised to make significant strides towards creating a more resilient and environmentally-friendly community for all residents. In its role as coalition member, the City of Fort Smith will fulfill the following roles and responsibilities, in addition to any other actions needed to ensure the success of the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's CPRG program:

- Complying with subrecipient requirements under EPA's Subaward Policy
- Issuing subawards to local government agencies in the Fort Smith, AR MSA
- Overseeing local government subrecipients, and/or contractors and vendors
- Tracking and reporting to Metroplan on project progress on expenditures and purchases in the City of Fort Smith
- Tracking, measuring, and reporting to Metroplan on accomplishments and proposed timelines and milestones in the City of Fort Smith
- Community and stakeholder outreach and education in the City of Fort Smith

Thank you for considering our letter of intent. Together with the Central Arkansas and Northwest Arkansas MSAs, we are eager to begin the projects outlined in our joint application to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and provide energy and transportation cost savings to our state and local communities.

Sincerely,



Carl E. Geffken
City Administrator

