



March 13, 2024

Metroplan

Attn: Casey Covington, Executive Director

501 W. Markham St., Ste. B

Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: Letter of Commitment for Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's CPRG application

Dear Mr. Covington:

This letter is intended to express the City of Lowell's strong, long-term commitment to supporting the Northwest Arkansas Green Network goals outlined in the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) implementation application.

The City of Lowell is located in the center of the booming development taking place across Northwest Arkansas. The City is focused on improving the green spaces within the community with substantial improvements planned for community parks that incorporate the natural environment around them. Lowell is centrally located within NWA, and many people are choosing the city as a place to live. By providing improved connectivity within town and to the region as a whole through the proposed projects, the City of Lowell is perfectly positioned to allow residents to replace car commutes with bicycles.

Lowell is home to JB Hunt Transport and many of the region's transportation terminals. Interstate 49, Highway 71B, Dixieland Road, and Old Wire Road all run through the city as primary north-south connectors for automotive traffic with Monroe Avenue and Apple Blossom serving as the major east-west connectors. The Razorback Regional Greenway provides north-south bicycle and pedestrian connectivity but is disconnected from much of the city and residents. The City of Lowell has identified this issue and is in the process of developing an Active Transportation and Stream Corridor Plan focused on stream restoration and increasing bicycle and pedestrian connectivity. The projects proposed below will help increase the City's carbon sequestration and assist in reducing automotive traffic along its east-west corridor. Additional projects the City has in development involve significant reforestation efforts across the city parks.

The City of Lowell will partner with Metroplan and coalition member, Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC), to contribute to the effective implementation of the Northwest Arkansas Green Network project, which will reduce and sequester greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and provide energy and transportation cost savings in Arkansas' second-largest metro area.

216 N. Lincoln Street
Lowell, Arkansas
(479)770-2185

The City of Lowell will use its subaward to provide the following assistance with the design and performance of the following projects included in the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's CPRG implementation application:

- Wetland Restoration
 - Restoration of the Puppy Creek floodplain from Old Wire Road to Lincoln Street. This area lines up with future trail corridors through the City of Lowell.
 - Restoration of a detention basin in a Puppy Creek Tributary into a wetland.

I appreciate our inclusion in the Arkansas Tri-Region Coalition's CPRG application. We are eager to participate in the coalition's efforts to protect the Natural State and ensure environmental and economic benefits to some of its most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,



Chris Moore

Mayor, City of Lowell

chris@lowellarkansas.gov