



RICK BELL
Mayor

CITY OF LEBANON

Office of the Mayor
200 North Castle Heights Avenue
Lebanon, Tennessee 37087
Rick.Bell@lebanontn.org
615-443-2839

Tonya Jones
Executive Administrative Assistant

Kristen Ragsdale
Administrative Assistant III

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Via electronic mail to mskipper@gnrc.org

Michael Skipper
Executive Director
Greater Nashville Regional Council
44 Vantage Way, Suite 450
Nashville, TN 37228

RE: Climate Pollution Reduction Grant – Greater Nashville Regional Council Letter of Support in response to EPA's CPRG Implementation Grant General Competition

Mr. Skipper,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Lebanon Municipal Government in support of the Greater Nashville Regional Council's (GNRC's) application for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program: *Implementation Grants General Competition, EPA-R-OAR-CPRGI-23-07*. If funded, we look forward to helping implement GNRC's proposed transportation measures included in the application to EPA.

GNRC is the CPRG lead planning entity for the Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and administers the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Nashville area, of which Lebanon is a member. GNRC's proposal focuses on enabling the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) to expand and enhance the operations of the WeGo Star passenger rail line extending from downtown Nashville in Davidson County, Tennessee to Mt. Juliet and Lebanon in Wilson County, Tennessee. Specific upgrades include the conversion of rolling stock to zero emissions and the implementation of planned capital upgrades to enable higher levels of service along the corridor. If funded, these measures will set the stage for possible future route extensions to serve additional, higher density areas within Middle Tennessee.

Our city is eager to collaborate with GNRC and RTA to implement these measures by assisting with equitable and meaningful outreach and engagement during project implementation; supporting any workforce development, job creation, and other related training opportunities; providing access to data and information that can contribute to project design and implementation; supplementing CPRG funding with our own funding, programs, etc. as feasible; and other activities that support the implementation of the proposed project.

The City of Lebanon fully supports the expansion of passenger rail in Middle Tennessee via upgrades to the WeGo Star, which will result in significant emissions reductions for the region. We believe GNRC's proposal aligns with local and regional goals for decarbonization, social equity, transportation, and economic development and look forward to partnering with GNRC and the RTA on this project.

Sincerely,

Rick Bell
Mayor