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430 Myatt Drive
Nashville, TN 37115
WeGoTransit.com
615-862-5969

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March 29, 2024

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

RE: Letter of Intent to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding in response to EPA's CPRG Implementation Grant General Competition

Dear Mr. Skipper,

I am writing on behalf of the Regional Transportation Authority of Middle Tennessee, doing business as WeGo Public Transit, 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 intend to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with GNRC to serve as the subgrantee responsible for implementing the proposed transportation measures included in the application.

The grant will enable WeGo Public Transit 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 diesel-powered rolling stock to zero emissions vehicles 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.

In addition to serving as the lead implementing agency, WeGo Public Transit is eager to assist with conducting 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.

WeGo Public Transit 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 we look forward to partnering on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen G. Bland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" and last name "Bland" clearly legible.

Stephen G. Bland
Chief Executive Officer