

# U.S. Department of Environmental Protection (EPA)

## Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants General Competition

### *Harnessing Transportation Alternatives to Decarbonize Travel Across Greater Philadelphia:*

#### **Letters of Commitment:**

- City of Philadelphia, Office of Transportation, Infrastructure, & Sustainability



City of  
**Philadelphia**

April 1, 2024

The Honorable Michael S. Regan  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

The City of Philadelphia's Office of Transportation and Infrastructure is pleased to join the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority's (SEPTA) application for funding through the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) Program. Together, SEPTA and the City intend to advance a program of infrastructure and assistance programs designed to reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions in the greater Philadelphia region.

The CPRG Program would support two major SEPTA initiatives and three mobility projects for the City of Philadelphia. Specifically, funding would allow SEPTA to make significant investments in priorities conceptualized under its Reimagining Regional Rail Master Plan: 1) separating from freight operations on the Manayunk/Norristown Line in Norristown, Montgomery County and on the Airport Line in Philadelphia, and 2) funding a portion of the replacement of the current Silverliner IV railcars, which comprise two-thirds of SEPTA's entire Regional Rail fleet and were purchased more than 50 years ago. Commuter-freight interactions create significant operational impacts not just on the two lines but throughout the Regional Rail Network. Separating operations would unlock the potential for significant ridership growth associated with providing high-frequency service of trains every 15-20 minutes on these lines. Similarly, a modern and reliable Regional Rail system demands new railcars and new facilities to properly maintain and store the new cars.

The City's three projects – expansion of the Indego Bike Share program, an e-Bike rebate program, and EV charger installation – will deliver immediate enhancements to alternate, zero-emission mobility platforms that have a demonstrated and effective track record. Taken together, these projects will increase the use of lower emission transportation modes, reducing car dependence while also making these alternative services more affordable and reliable – particularly for low-income and disadvantaged communities.

The transportation sector is one of the largest contributors of greenhouse gas emissions. Regional Rail and rail transit and biking are inherently sustainable and proven alternatives to personal vehicles. Air quality in a dense metropolitan region like the Delaware Valley MPO is a persistent and growing challenge – especially in the City of Philadelphia where heat deserts and poor air quality are serious concerns for residents in disadvantaged and underserved communities. Inducing users of the region's transportation network to migrate to more sustainable transportation modes will provide significant environmental benefits.

The City looks forward to partnering with SEPTA on these projects to further our joint goals to create a sustainable, reliable, and efficient transportation system for the Philadelphia region.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Carroll, *Deputy Managing Director for Transportation and Infrastructure, City of Philadelphia*