



October 24, 2017

Ms. Tricia Treece  
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality  
5301 Northshore Drive  
North Little Rock, AR 72118-5317

Dear Ms. Treece,

Rock Region METRO is excited about the possibility of the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Funds being used in Arkansas to further develop the use of alternative fuels in our state. As you know, the use of these fuels contributes to better air quality, something that all Arkansans should welcome.

Rock Region METRO recommends that transit buses be explicitly stated as a funding target in IV - C. Statewide Alternative Fuels Grant Program. Transit buses have 12 year, 500,000 mile lifetimes. This means that buses being replaced in 2017, would have an engine manufacture date of 2005 or older. This is well under the 2009 timeframe listed in the Eligible mitigation projects listed on page A-2 of the Request for Information.

By targeting transit buses, the Federal Transit Administration will match local funds for 85% of the total purchase cost, which means only 15% would come from the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Funds. This is a great way to leverage Federal Funds with the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust Funds. Also, since a cost share is required, Transit buses would be a perfect fit for this program.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Request for Information. Rock Region METRO looks forward to applying for these funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wanda Crawford".

Wanda Crawford  
Interim Executive Director