

ITEM 9 – Information

September 20, 2023

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program

Background:

The Board will be briefed on the new U.S. EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Planning (CPRG) grant for the Washington, DC/MD/VA/WV Metropolitan Statistical Area.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Planning Board
FROM: Jeff King, Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Programs
SUBJECT: Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program
DATE: September 14, 2023

This month, COG will be sending letters to request appointments to Steering and Technical Committees for the development of Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) climate plans as part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program.

BACKGROUND

The CPRG program is providing grants to states, local governments, tribes, and territories to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and other harmful air pollution. Section 60114 of the Inflation Reduction Act provides an investment of \$5 billion to support efforts by states, municipalities, air pollution control agencies, tribes, and groups thereof to develop and implement strong, local greenhouse gas reduction strategies. This two-phase grant program provides funding of \$250 million for noncompetitive planning grants, and \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants.

COG'S ROLE

COG has received a \$1 million CPRG planning grant, via the District Department of Energy and Environment's (DOEE) formula grant from the U.S. EPA to develop a MSA Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) by March 1, 2024 and a MSA Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) by summer 2025. This will serve as an implementation plan to the Metropolitan Washington 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan. This fall, local governments will be asked to submit projects to include in the plan. Measures and projects in the plan will be eligible for the CPRG competitive implementation grants. The grant requires significant stakeholder engagement, including with low-income disadvantaged communities (LIDAC).

The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the first round of CPRG implementation grants will be released as early as September 2023 and applications will be due in April 2024. Local governments can apply directly for the implementation grants. COG will also be eligible to apply as well as some additional project partners.