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October 30, 2017

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Transportation Directors

FROM: Deborah Basnight, Manager, Emissions and Control Strategies;  
Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD)

SUBJECT: Application for School Bus Early Replacement Project using 2017 DERA  
Funding

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division is pleased to announce the funding request for early school bus replacement projects for 2017. Through the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) State Clean Diesel Grant, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded approximately \$386,000 to EPD for the purpose of reducing diesel emissions.

EPD is issuing a request for applications (RFA) to school systems in Georgia for the purpose of reducing school bus diesel emissions. The emissions will be reduced by early replacement of older, high emitting school buses with newer model-year buses with lower emissions. School systems that choose to replace older school buses can dramatically reduce emissions and create a healthier environment for the school children, bus drivers, mechanics, teachers, and communities where the buses operate.

School buses proposed for replacement must not have been previously scheduled for replacement within three (3) years of October 2017. Only school buses built between the model years of 1995-2006 are eligible to be replaced, and the new buses that are purchased must be model years 2017 or newer. Project Applicants are required to match a minimum of 86.25% of the project cost.

The project application is enclosed. The application period starts October 30, 2017 and the deadline for submitting applications is 5:00 p.m. on December 4, 2017. Instructions for submitting an application are included on the application form.

If requests for funding exceed available funds, the following selection preferences will apply:

- First priority will be given to public school systems whose fleets are based in counties that have been designated as nonattainment or maintenance for the 2008 or 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).
- Second priority will be given to public school systems with fleets based in counties that have not

been designated as nonattainment or maintenance for the 2008 or 2015 ozone NAAQS.

- Within each priority, applications will be ranked according to cost effectiveness of the project - cost per ton of emissions reduced over the lifetime of the project.

Please note that school buses purchased for the early replacement of existing school buses must remain in the fleet for a minimum of four years.

For those school systems interested in applying for the DERA School Bus Early Replacement RFA, please complete the enclosed application and submit it to EPD's Stacy Allman via e-mail, mail, or hand delivery.

Mailing and Street Address: Georgia Environmental Protection Division  
Mobile & Area Sources Program  
Attn: Stacy Allman  
4244 International Parkway, Suite 134  
Atlanta, GA 30354

E-Mail Address: [stacy.allman@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:stacy.allman@dnr.ga.gov)

Phone: 404-363-7033

The applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on December 4, 2017. If an application is submitted by e-mail, please contact Stacy Allman to confirm receipt of the application.

Once the RFA closes on December 4, 2017, EPD staff will review each of the applications to ensure that they are eligible as stipulated in the grant criteria. The eligible applications will then be ranked in terms of cost effectiveness.

Recommendations for issuing subgrants will be made to the EPD Director based on the top-ranked projects and available funding.

If you have any questions related to the grant criteria, information contained in the cover letter or the application, please contact Stacy Allman. Note that Stacy will share the questions and answers with all of the eligible school systems, so that every potential applicant will have access to the same information. EPD staff will not be able to make comments or answer questions related to the potential scoring or viability of a project while the RFA is open.

This RFA does not commit the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to enter into an agreement, to any cost incurred in the preparation of the response to this request or in subsequent exclusive negotiations, to procure or to contract for the project. In addition, EPD reserves the right to award projects for less than the requested amount.

EPD thanks you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to receiving your application.

DB:sa