

DRAFT

**A LETTER EXPRESSING THE INTENTION
OF
CENTRAL OHIO JURISDICTIONS AND PARTNERS TO WORK
COLLABORATIVELY
FOR
COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS SERVICES**

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND RELATED ENTITIES IN CENTRAL OHIO have been working collaboratively over the past year to develop partnerships pertaining to fleet shared services. Building upon this foundation, a group of political subdivisions and organizations have met to discuss ways to successfully implement alternative fueling solutions in the region to save money and reduce adverse impacts on the environment.

THE PARTIES hereunder are in the process of reviewing operations, services and procedures within their respective organizations in an effort to identify areas where shared services may be appropriate. In discussing their respective fleet operations, including fueling, infrastructure, maintenance and equipment needs for vehicles running on compressed natural gas (CNG), the Parties have agreed that working collaboratively may result in efficiencies and/or cost savings.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE A CNG PLANNING GRANT IS AVAILABLE that may assist partners in further developing plans for the implementation of CNG infrastructure in the region. The Local Government Innovation Fund (LGIF) was established in Ohio HB 153 to provide grants and loans to political subdivisions for local government innovation projects that promote efficiency, shared services, coproduction, and mergers among local governments. A group of political subdivisions may apply for a grant to the Ohio Department of Development of up to \$100,000 to fund feasibility studies, process implementation, cost benchmarking, or planning. Funding through the LGIF grant would enhance the Parties plans for alternative fueled vehicles and CNG infrastructure projects by providing valuable planning and policy information through a feasibility study.

THEREFORE, with this Letter, the undersigned Parties agree to pursue in good faith:

- 1) A collaborative application, with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission as lead applicant, to the Ohio Department of Development for the Local Government Innovation Fund (LGIF); and
- 2) Should it be awarded, Parties shall provide necessary information to any engaged consultant(s) during the planning process for the feasibility study; and
- 3) Pursue the collective goals and mission of the group; and
- 4) CNG Fleet Services may include, but are not limited to, the sharing of CNG fuel, training of vehicle and equipment operators and station attendants, procurement of CNG-related

fuels, vehicles and equipment, and vehicle and equipment maintenance and repair services; and

- 5) Signature on this Letter does not commit any Party to a financial obligation of any kind as a part of the grant application or any work following it.

FURTHERMORE, with this Letter the undersigned Parties agree to reach out to other neighboring local governments to invite them to join this effort and, as appropriate, will amend this Letter with the signature of the appropriate leader of said jurisdictions.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD by the undersigned Parties that this Letter expresses our intention to pursue in good faith agreements between jurisdictions and organizations on shared services, especially those related to the Local Government Innovation Fund grant and the use of compressed natural gas. This Letter is non-binding and as such does not usurp the Constitutional, Statutory and Charter authority of the executive and legislative authorities of the jurisdictions of the undersigned Parties. However, this Letter does represent the intention of the undersigned Parties to pursue in good faith, agreements and upon reaching such agreements, to follow the procedures of the legislative authorities in our respective jurisdictions, to enact such agreements.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties, each by an authorized agent, have entered into this Agreement on the date last signed by a party below.

CITY OF COLUMBUS, OHIO

By: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

CITY OF DUBLIN, OHIO

By: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

CITY OF GAHANNA, OHIO

By: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

CITY OF HILLARD, OHIO

By: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

CITY OF NEW ALBANY, OHIO

By: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

CITY OF WHITEHALL, OHIO

By: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

CITY OF WORTHINGTON, OHIO

By: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP, OHIO

By: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS

By: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

GAHANNA-JEFFERSON SCHOOLS

By: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

**CENTRAL OHIO REGIONAL
TRANSIT AUTHORITY (COTA)**

By: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

**MID-OHIO REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION (MORPC)**

By: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

CLEAN FUELS OHIO

By: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____