



CITY OF HARRISONBURG CITY MANAGER

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TO: Ande Banks, Interim City Manager
FROM: Wesley Russ, Assistant City Attorney
DATE: January 4, 2022
RE: Adoption of a Resolution for Authorizing Clean School Bus Program Grant Application

Summary:

A resolution authorizing the Director of Public Transportation to apply for and administer the Clean School Bus Program project.

Background:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) administers the Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust to reduce air pollution in Virginia, funded as the result of settlements involving allegations that Volkswagen violated the Clean Air Act. DEQ has made a portion of the Trust funds available to applicants to replace old diesel school buses through the Clean School Bus Program.

Key Issues:

DEQ requires applicants identify an authorized individual who will act on their behalf to apply for and administer the funds.

Environmental Impact:

According to DEQ, replacing existing diesel school buses with electric school buses results in immediate benefits to passengers through reduced exposure to emissions, and long-term benefits by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and fuel use.

Fiscal Impact:

The Program is intended to offset up to \$300,000 per bus of the cost difference between a new electric school bus and an equivalent diesel school bus.

Prior Actions: N/A

Alternatives:

- (a) Adopt the resolution as presented
- (b) Decline to authorize participation in the Clean School Bus Program grant opportunity

Community Engagement: N/A

Recommendation: Staff recommends alternative (a)

Attachments:

1. Proposed resolution

Review:

The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.