



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MATA Receives \$2.1 Million Grant from Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation
*Transit and Shuttle Bus Grant Under Volkswagen Settlement Environmental Mitigation Trust***

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – The Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) received notification recently from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation that MATA is the recipient of a \$2.1 million grant to support the replacement of three diesel transit buses with three all-electric transit buses as well as the acquisition and installation of associated charging infrastructure. TDEC also awarded funds to the Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority and the City of Knoxville (Knoxville Area Transit). The total grant announcement is \$5,690,845.53.

The electric transit buses will be funded under TDEC's Transit and Shuttle Bus Grant Program, which is the state's second grant program to be funded by the Volkswagen Diesel Settlement Environmental Mitigation Trust (VW Settlement EMT). The purpose of the trust is to execute environmental mitigation projects that reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx).

"These grants will allow us to provide energy-efficient buses for transit systems in three of our largest communities, where mass transit is a key service," Gov. Bill Lee said. "These grants meet a need and meet the spirit of the settlement."

"These buses will run entirely on electric power which will significantly reduce the transit authority's carbon footprint, improve air quality and reduce operating costs," said Gary Rosenfeld, Chief Executive Officer of the Memphis Area Transit Authority.

TDEC Commissioner David Salyers agrees: "These grants will support the adoption of all-electric and diesel-hybrid buses, so they will have a significant environmental impact. This will help reduce emissions and enhance quality of life in these communities."

According to TDEC, the grantees will thus replace a total of nine engine model year 2009 or older diesel transit buses with six all-electric and three diesel-hybrid transit buses. These projects are expected to yield NOx emissions reductions of an estimated 17,027.46 pounds, or 8.51 tons, over the lifetime of the new vehicles. All nine transit buses funded will operate 70 percent or more of the time in former nonattainment areas for ozone and/or fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) National Ambient Air Quality Standards and will collectively travel more than 400,000 miles each year.

(more)

In 2019, TDEC awarded over \$8,380,826.94 in VW Settlement EMT funding to 37 grantees to support school bus replacement projects across Tennessee. TDEC is the lead agency for administering the state's VW Settlement EMT allocation. Announcements on future funding programs under the trust will be shared by the department. For additional information on the VW Settlement, visit the TDEC website here: <http://www.tn.gov/environment/VWSettlement>. Interested persons and entities are advised to sign up for the TDEC VW email list at <https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1843437/1737620/>.

About MATA

The Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) is the public transportation provider for the Memphis area. As one of the largest transit operators in the state of Tennessee, MATA transports customers in the City of Memphis and parts of Shelby County on fixed-route buses, paratransit vehicles and vintage rail trolleys. For more information, visit www.matatransit.com.

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