

13-09-0003 Request2

From: Rogers, Michael D. <Michael.Rogers@Illinois.gov>  
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 4:23 PM  
To: Holly Ostdick; Ross Patronsky  
Cc: Burkhart, Darwin J.  
Subject: Chicago Clean School Bus Project Change

Holly and Ross,

The Chicago Clean School Bus Initiative CMAQ project has issued over \$1 million to school district-owned bus fleets to install both emissions- and idle-reduction technology. The CMAP MPO Policy approved recently approved a \$5 million continuation of the program from FY2012 to 2016 (TIP ID #13-09-0003). The second "phase" of the program expands applicant eligibility to include private school bus service providers. As originally approved, such private companies would have to provide a 50% match for equipment.

During the first phase of the Clean School Bus program, over 90% of the funds requested were for direct-fired heater idle reduction equipment, primarily because the use of this equipment significantly reduces school bus fuel usage, saving the school districts money. Exhaust emissions reduction equipment such as diesel particulate filters are significantly more expensive than the heaters and do not provide any fuel use reduction benefits, so there is no financial incentive to install them. For this reason, through our separate Illinois EPA Clean Diesel Grant Program, no match is required for the purchase and installation of such exhaust emissions reduction equipment.

We believe that the private school bus operators might be interested in installing the idle reduction equipment with the required 50% match, but that there would be little or no interest in installing the particulate filters with the match requirement and no associated fuel reduction benefit. The private bus operators primarily operate within the City of Chicago and Cook County, so there may be very little exhaust emission reduction benefit from this program within that area due to this constraint.

Therefore, the Illinois EPA is requesting to change the Chicago Clean School Bus program to drop the 50% match requirement for private school bus operators for the purchase and installation of diesel particulate filters. The match would still be required for the purchase of idle reduction technology.

Please call me with any questions. Thank you.

Mike Rogers

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