

8. CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION IMPLEMENTATION GRANT OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND

The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act provided an investment of \$5 billion to support efforts by states and governmental entities to develop and implement greenhouse gas reduction strategies through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program. The CPRG is a two-phase grant program. The first phase of the CPRG provides \$250 million nationally in non-competitive planning grants. The second phase of the program will provide \$4.6 billion through a competitive grant process to implement strategies in the plan.

EPA awarded one of these non-competitive planning grants to H-GAC in September of 2023 to assist in the development of region-specific emission reduction strategies and measures. The initial portion of the planning effort came to fruition on March 1, 2024, when MPO staff, with the help of regional partners, completed and submitted the first required planning deliverable, a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) for the 13-county H-GAC region.

CURRENT SITUATION

Following the PCAP's completion, agency staff have transitioned efforts to development of a grant application aimed at spearheading development of a regional coalition to apply for the competitive implementation phase of the CPRG program.

Throughout the development of the PCAP, H-GAC staff collected feedback from regional stakeholders and conducted a Call for Projects to solicit emission reduction projects. Input from both of these activities have been used to develop a suite of regional emission reduction projects to be included in the implementation funding application. It is anticipated that this application will include a mix of projects from eligible sponsors within the H-GAC region with a total maximum value of \$100 million. This application must be submitted no later than April 1, 2024.

ACTION REQUESTED

For Discussion and Possible Action. [No Action Requested]