

2021 North Carolina VW Settlement Program
Phase 2 Diesel Bus and Vehicle Programs Application

This is a representation of the application information submitted by the applicant in the DAQ Grants Management System. Required application attachments and the original application are available to view in the DAQ Grants Management System.

Applicant Contact Information

Project Title		Application ID
Electric Bus Purchase		100000xxx
Organization Name		
City of ABC		
Organization Mailing Address		
1 Main Street		
City, State Zip		
ABC, NC 27633		
Authorized Representative Name		
Tom Thumb		
Authorized Representative E-mail Address		Authorized Representative Phone Number
Tthumb@abc.gov		(555)555-5555
Project Manager Name (primary contact)		
Wile E. Coyote		
Project Manager E-mail Address		Project Manager Phone Number
wecoyote@abc.gov		(555)555-5555
Financial Contact Name		
Buggs Malone		
Financial Contact E-mail Address		Financial Contact Phone Number
bmalone@abc.gov		(555)555-5555

Project Details

Program Type	Eligible Applicant Type
Transit Bus Program	Government
Vehicle/Equipment Type	Project Type
Class 4-8 Transit Bus Replacement (EMA-2b)	Vehicle Replacement - All Electric

Project Location (where equipment will be installed and/or used)

Street Address		
2 Depot Lane		
City	County	Zip
ABC	County	27633



Project Details (Questions 1-5 are required.)

1. Please provide a detailed description of the proposed project.

The City of ABC (ABC Transit; formerly ABC Area Transit Authority) currently provides fixed route bus and paratransit (Demand Response) services for residents and visitors of the City and County of ABC. ABC Transit provides over 7.2 million annual fixed route trips and approximately 175,000 annual paratransit trips to the City and County residents as well as visitors (the highest among our peers systems in the state of North Carolina). Additionally, we provide special bus services to the University, the University Hospital, VA Hospital, and to the local county fair. We have managed to deliver all these services with 70 buses and 46 vans and our plan is to replace 3 of the current 18 diesel buses that have passed their useful life with three total electric units. Two of these electric buses are to be purchased used grant funds obtained from the Federal Transit Administration. We are therefore applying for funding from the VW grant funds for the third electric bus. The requested amount is noted below and elsewhere in the application.

As noted above, the City of ABC currently has federal grant funds (5339C) and local matching funds in the amount of \$4.5 million dollars to purchase three electric buses. The total cost of each bus including the delivery and spare parts is \$1,250,325.00. We have collaborated with the local utility to build a new electric power transmission infrastructure capable of supporting 6 or more buses at the approximate cost of \$500,000.00. Our budget also included the cost of required infrastructure, in-house building retrofits, purchase of related electric bus equipment including tools and training, at an additional cost of \$450,000.00, bringing the total budget for the entire project at \$4,700,975. Unfortunately, we currently have 4.5 million; enough to buy two electric buses including building the required infrastructure, and a balance of \$200,975. Therefore, we are requesting approximately \$200,975 from the VW grant program to add to the balance in order to purchase the third electric bus with delivery and spare parts costs.

A major difference between us and our transit partners in North Carolina is that many of our routes run on 15 and 30 minutes headways with no break during the off-peak period and in the process, add more miles to our vehicles than other transit partners whose services are reduced during midday or off-peak. Thus, our vehicles have to be replaced sooner. Currently 18 out of 60 diesel buses have passed their useful life and must be replaced. And mindful of the new concerns about the effect of diesel emissions on the environment, we are determined to replace these vehicles with zero emission electric buses.

2. Explain how this request fits into North Carolina's Beneficiary Mitigation Plan.

The City of ABC adopted a resolution endorsing the development of a fundable action plan towards a road map to carbon neutrality in City operations by 2040. This action would result in significant improvement of the City and the State's carbon footprints by reducing emissions from our diesel vehicles and helping with the sustainability of our environment while providing cleaner air and health benefits for the people of ABC and the State. The replacement of 3 older diesel buses with newer electric buses, is consistent with several of such local and regional plans to improve public transportation while lowering impacts to the environment. These plans include the ABC Metropolitan Planning Organization (ABC-MPO) Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), the North Carolina State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and the ABC City-County Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Local Action Plan. The ABC MPO MTP, adopted by the ABC MPO Board on March 1, 2021, identifies the transportation priorities that ensures air quality attainment.

3. What is the likelihood that the project will incentivize future indirect NOx and other emission reductions? That is, will this be the beginning or continuation of a transition of the fleet to an alternative fuel or electricity? If so, please provide details.

The purchase of these electric buses is in line with the City's commitment to reduce NOx, VOC, CO and PM2.5 emissions in order to effect our air quality and improve the health of its citizens. To achieve this goal the City intends to replace all fleet of trucks and buses currently powered by fossil fuels with electric units or with the cleanest possible technology available by the year 2040. In furtherance of this goal, ABC Transit now has a vehicle replacement plan starting with the initial 3 and achieving total fleet replacement by 2030. We are mindful of the condition of our environment today, and are in tune with the national wave to conserve and protect this environment. We therefore desire to switch from using diesel fuels to alternative, less or zero emission form of fuel. Previous CMAQ analyses by staff and those from electric bus companies have confirmed that this program could decrease emissions and significantly contribute to air quality attainment or maintenance of NAAQS.

4. Are there any societal co-benefits of the project? Are there any “sensitive” populations including, but not limited to asthmatics, children, or the elderly that are likely to be directly benefited by the project?

ABC Transit is currently delivering efficient, effective and reliable transit service to residents and visitors of ABC especially, non-vehicle owners, children, the disabled and people with respiratory issues who would breath easier around these electric buses. Our current fixed route ridership per hour averages more than 38 passengers and 25,000 passenger trips per day. This performance out-paces all of our peers in North Carolina and also several others peer systems in the nation. More elderly children and transit dependent riders would not only have continued transit service but would be riding on sustainable carbon-free transportation units.

5. Project Feasibility: Provide a description of how you as the applicant have the necessary technical, managerial, procurement, and financial capability and experience to execute on your proposed project.

City of ABC currently has 3 staff persons with several years of grant management exposure or experience who are responsible for all grant management and technical oversight of grant-related projects, contracts and asset management planning. These 3 individuals work with a team of other financial management staff in the City's Finance Department. These individuals constantly attend FTA sponsored workshops, webinars and conferences to update and upgrade their knowledge and skills related to federal grants and also stay abreast of FTA policies and procedures. We are therefore confident that we have the necessary technical, managerial and financial capability to execute the project.

6. Use this space for any additional information that you believe will be helpful in evaluating the project. (Optional)

Even though the goal of the initial electric bus purchase is for three buses, contract for the first two has already been awarded. This VW fund for a third bus is going to be on a separate track using a new bid and a new contract and not associated with the first two already on order. If this application is approved, we hope to go to bid and award the purchase of this single vehicle to the winner via a new contract.

Breakdown of funding request:

Total Project Cost: \$1,250,325

Request for new equipment, delivery, and spare parts is \$200,975 (16.1%) Matching fund \$1,049,350.

Total Funding Request is \$200,975.

Certification

The undersigned is an official authorized to represent the applicant. The person that submitted this document in the DAQ Grants Management System has the authority to legally bind the applicant or be the designated fiscal agent. The application was electronically signed in the DAQ Grants Management System when submitted by the applicant.

I certify that all proposed activities will be carried out; that all money received will be utilized solely for the purposes for which it is intended; that records documenting the planning process and implementation will be maintained and submitted when requested, and DEQ is hereby granted access to inspect project sites and/or records. It is understood that if this project is selected a contract with DEQ will be executed. I further attest that at least 70% of the equipment's operation will occur in North Carolina for the next 5 years.

Print Name of Authorized Representative	Title
Tom Thumb	Transit Administrator
Date	
02/5/2022	

Required and Optional Attachments

Required application attachments and the original application are available to view in the DAQ Grants Management System.

1. A completed the DAQ application vehicle worksheet.
2. Any nonprofit applicants required to obtain a Charitable Solicitation License from the North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State must provide a copy of the license.
3. Applicants using renewable energy credits must include a signed copy of the agreement with the local utility documenting the percent of renewable energy purchased for each station or other documentation agreed upon with NCDEQ.
4. An itemized budget for the project.
5. Any optional attachments such as any supporting documentation or letters of support, etc.

2022 North Carolina VW Settlement Program

Transit and Shuttle Bus Program

Budget Item	Project Total	Requested Amount	Matching Funds	Other Funds	Other Funds Description
Application ID 10000xxxx					
D001 New equipment/vehicle/engine	\$1,250,325.00	\$200,975.00	\$1,049,350.00	\$0.00	
D002 Infrastructure costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
D003 Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Total	\$1,250,325.00	\$200,975.00	\$1,049,350.00	\$0.00	