

September 23, 2024

Edith Makra  
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus  
433 W. Van Buren St., Suite 450  
Chicago, IL 60607

Dear Edith Makra:

The City of DeKalb commits to work to earn the EV Ready designation as part of a cohort of communities that the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus will lead. We will dedicate staff to work as a member of a cohort to meet the requirements to earn EV Ready designation.

Once we determine how best to direct our efforts with the help of the EV Readiness Team at the Caucus, we will seek to earn Bronze, Silver or Gold EV Ready designation. We expect to complete all program requirements within the allotted time for the cohorts, which is approximately six to nine months.

Our aim is to advance transportation electrification in the region and make it faster, easier, and more affordable for our residents and businesses to install EV charging stations in our community. As a signatory to the Caucus' Greenest Region Compact (GRC), we passed a resolution this year formally supporting the following goals related to EV readiness and agreed to work to achieve them in our own communities and in collaboration throughout the region. Joining the Caucus' EV Readiness Program cohort would allow us to address these high-level GRC goals:

#### Mobility and Municipal Operations Goals



- Support efficient transportation that uses resources wisely.
- Integrate sustainability into transportation policies, programs, and regulations.
- Promote sustainable transportation choices.
- Maintain a diverse, safe and efficient transportation network.
- Operate a safe, clean, and efficient fleet.

We will actively participate in the EV Ready Communities Cohort and share our knowledge and experience with the Caucus and other members of the cohorts, when

helpful. With guidance from the Caucus, we will aim to complete the requirements to earn EV Ready Bronze at a minimum. We will:

- Review zoning requirements and act to remove barriers to EV charging infrastructure development.
- Create and distribute a checklist detailing the steps of our permitting process for EV charging stations.
- Participate in staff training for permitting employees, inspectors, first responders, and other relevant staff members.
- Educate the community about electric vehicles (EVs) and EV charging stations through our website and community events.
- Measure progress along the way by tracking key metrics, such as the number of EVs in the community (data available on the Secretary of State's website) and the locations of publicly accessible EV charging stations.
- We will take additional actions to advance transportation electrification that are most suitable for our community, thereby earning additional points toward EV Ready Bronze designation.
- We may take additional actions and pursue EV Ready designation at Silver or Gold level as suits our community needs.

In recent years, the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus helped 45 local governments earn SolSmart designation by leading three successful cohorts. This collaborative approach has proven to accelerate solar development and investment in the region. The Caucus will use a similar collaborative approach with EV Readiness Program cohorts to advance transportation electrification in northern Illinois. We are eager to begin on the path toward EV Ready designation and look forward to working with the Caucus.

Please contact Scott Zak, City Staff Liaison to the DeKalb Citizens' Environmental Commission, for inquiries about this application.

Sincerely,



Cohen Barnes  
Mayor, City of DeKalb

