



U.S. Department
Of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

Headquarters

1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington DC 20590

NOV 3 2015

Dear Colleague:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is pleased to offer its next round of Environmental and Sustainability Management Systems (ESMS) training and technical assistance for public transportation agencies. The FTA is offering this opportunity to selected transit agencies to receive assistance in implementing an ESMS. Public and private entities that have integrated ESMS into their operations report improved compliance with environmental regulations and enhanced support of environmental stewardship objectives. ESMS affects every aspect of an organization's current and planned operations and produces environmental benefits such as:

- energy conservation,
- efficient water use,
- vehicle emission reduction,
- materials recycling, and
- management of hazardous materials.

Organizations with an ESMS often report cost savings over time, improved bond ratings, reduced insurance premiums, and better community relations.

The FTA's program is designed to help transit agencies develop and implement an ESMS at a chosen facility, using the 14001 Standard of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) (<http://www.iso.org/iso/home/standards/management-standards/iso14000.htm>). The 14001 Standard is a toolbox of management techniques to minimize harm to the environment. The 14001 Standard will serve as the basis of the ESMS training, although it will be at the discretion of the transit agency whether or not to pursue ISO certification. At the completion of the program, FTA will assemble a final report that includes the participating transit agencies' case studies and will also assess training results.

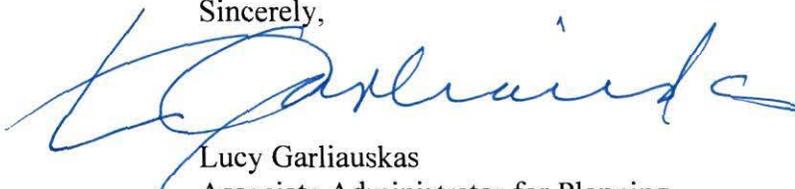
The program will extend over a period of two years. The FTA will provide assistance in the form of three training workshops, on-site technical support visits, electronic materials and resources, and consultation. Participant agencies will be responsible for their staffs' expenses to travel to and from the workshops. The FTA will again employ the services of the Center for Organizational and Technological Advancement at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), located in Roanoke, Virginia. Virginia Tech's history working with FTA makes its program uniquely designed to meet the needs of transit agencies.

Application instructions and a brochure describing the training in detail are attached. Transit agencies interested in applying for this program should submit a signed letter of application by

November 24, 2015. You may learn more about FTA's ESMS program and view past final reports at www.fta.dot.gov/EMS.

We are excited about continuing to partner with transit agencies in this environmental stewardship opportunity. I hope that you will consider having your agency participate in this ESMS program. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Antoinette Quagliata at 202-366-4265 or Antoinette.Quagliata@dot.gov.

Sincerely,



Lucy Garliauskas
Associate Administrator for Planning
and Environment

Enclosures