COALITION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT
OF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

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Feb. 3, 2012.

Comments on the Louisville Metro AQ Redesignation Request

Please enter these comments into the official Record of this Hearing.

My name is David Coyte. I am a resident of Louisville and President of the Coalition for the Advancement of Regional Transportation, CART. CART has been actively promoting improved AQ through transit, biking and walking and sustainable transportation development since it's founding in 1993. Our membership includes retirees, construction workers, students, teachers, housewives, disabled citizens and lawyers from across the metro area. We are drivers, bus riders, bikers and walkers. As a construction worker I personally experience the poor air quality that has earned our metro area notoriety for high asthma rates and chronic pulmonary and cardiac diseases associated with such conditions.

We welcome the EPA today and look to you for protection for our members and fellow citizens.

Early in the 1990's CART embraced the concept of "LUTRAQ" that describes the relationship between Land Use, Transportation, and Air Quality. Much of our work since then has revolved around those relationships as we have sought that balance between growth, health, and mobility. EPA has been a leader in promoting the understanding of this relationship.

However, neither Kentucky nor Louisville have grasped this concept. Efforts here focus on avoiding AQ regulations rather than embracing them. Our governor's message to the EPA in his last State of the State address was "Get off our backs." This attitude permeates government in Kentucky and the health of our citizens reflects that.

We all know that there are tremendous health benefits to children and elderly in simple walking or riding bicycles. Kentucky leads the nation in childhood obesity, so

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encouraging these simple acts seems a no-brainer. However, as Mr. Hixson will show, the air quality around our major thoroughfares is not being adequately tested . Recent studies demonstrate that major transportation corridors show significantly elevated levels fine particulates – some of the most dangerous pollution. Do we want to encourage our children to exercise in that?

The Jefferson County APCD may protest that they are adequately testing and enforcing regulations, but history disputes this. Citizens in the industrial west end of Louisville fought for years for protection against seriously toxic air quality. Only when they began collecting and testing samples independently of APCD, proving the seriousness of the conditions, did any action take place.

Louisville like many of our nation's cities is under financial duress. Transit services have been cut at a time when more people are dependent on them. Meanwhile highway projects are being promoted that will admittedly increase sprawl and increase traffic. Funding requirements for the Ohio River Bridges Project forced the removal of all major transit initiatives from the MPO's planning documents in 2005. This re-designation effort, if successful, will kill any consideration of "LUTRAQ" as these projects move forward.

CART wants you on our backs. Citizens of metro Louisville need you on our backs. We need the regulations in both form and spirit to be enforced.

I will leave the discussion of monitoring science and monitoring failures to our Attorney, Mr. Hixson.

Thank you.

David Coyte

David Coyte, President
CART