

# FEDERAL GREEN SCHOOL BUS PRIORITIES

Green Bus Summit  
April 20, 2021

# About the Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE)

- ▶ National Non-Profit
- ▶ Technical and project management support for zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) deployments
- ▶ Other areas of focus
  - Prototype Development
  - R&D support

CTE's mission is to improve the health of our climate and communities by bringing people together to develop and commercialize clean, efficient, and sustainable transportation technologies.



# Overview of the Presentation

- ▶ The Latest from Capitol Hill
- ▶ The Path to Clean School Buses
- ▶ Legislative Opportunities
- ▶ How to Engage in the Advocacy

# What's Happening in DC Right Now

- ▶ President Biden announced his infrastructure proposal on March 31
  - American Jobs Plan
  - Top view on a variety of infrastructure and jobs proposals
- ▶ Both the House and the Senate are actively considering how to move major infrastructure packages. Key issues include:
  - Ensuring that infrastructure investments reflect the Biden Administration's commitment to Climate Change solutions
  - Promoting Equity in federal infrastructure investments
  - How to pay for Transportation and other Infrastructure programs

# U.S. House of Representatives

- ▶ In the last Congress, the House passed H.R. 2, “The Move America Act” which included House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair DeFazio’s federal surface transportation reauthorization legislation, the cornerstone of the infrastructure proposal.
- ▶ Chairman DeFazio tells us that he plans to reintroduce this legislation in late Spring and will work to move it through the House floor through the Summer.
- ▶ At the same time, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, chaired by Rep. Frank Pallone of NJ, is working on the CLEAN FUTURE Act, a wide ranging climate focused bill that addresses issues from cleaner non-transportation infrastructure, the transition to electric passenger vehicles, and Department of Energy programs to support these initiatives.
- ▶ There is a potential that this two bills could be integrated on the House floor to form a major package.

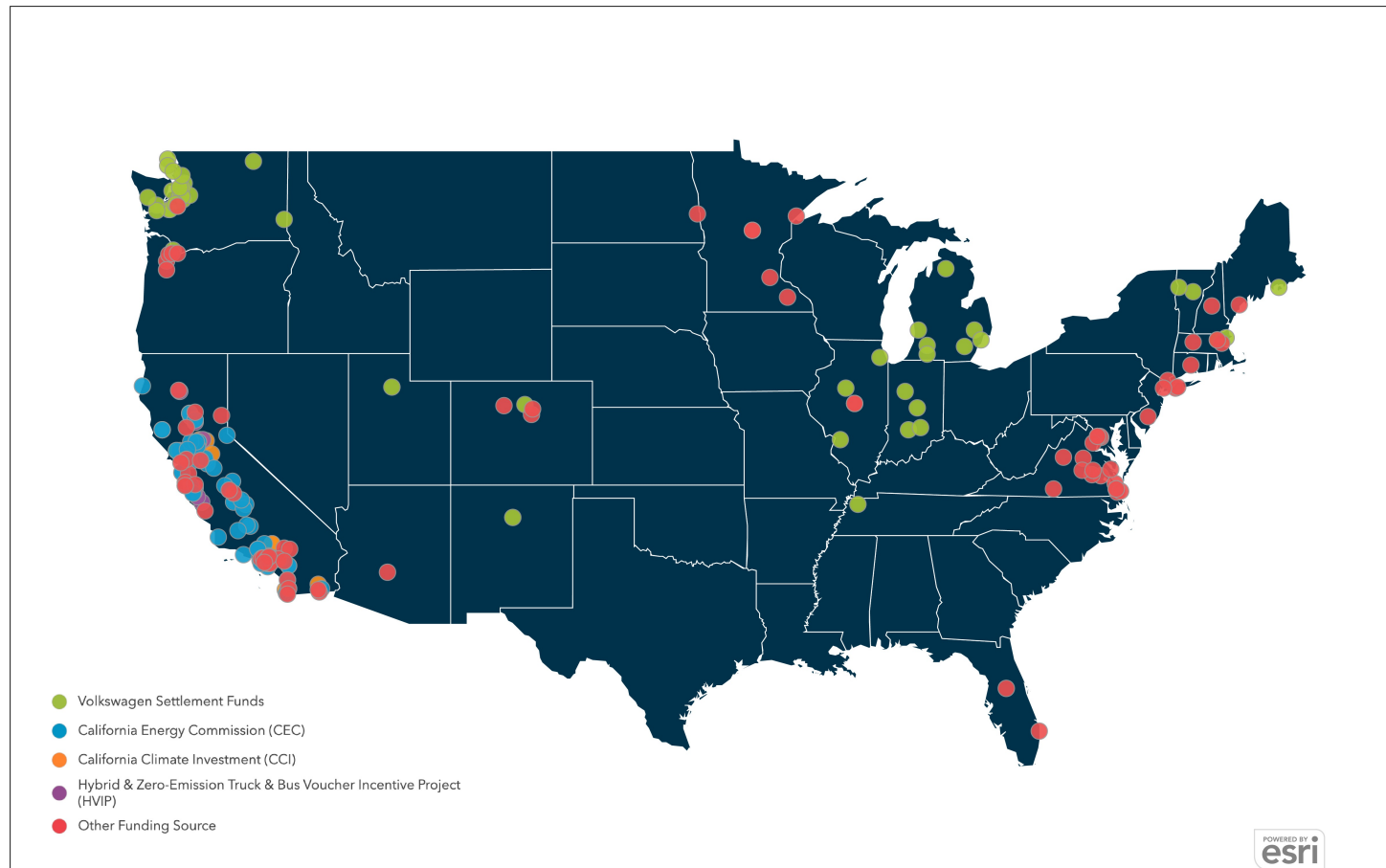
# U.S. Senate

- ▶ Now that the Senate is in Democratic control, their Committees' leaderships are working to develop legislative proposal that track with the House efforts.
- ▶ Senator Carper of Delaware is the Chair of the Senate EPW Committee and Senator Maria Cantwell from WA will be key leads on pulling together a comprehensive projects.
- ▶ "Clean Corridors" which include plans for EV/ZET charging infrastructure
- ▶ Considerations:
  - ▶ What is possible on bipartisan level?
  - ▶ Can and will the Congress use the reconciliation process to move infrastructure stimulus?  
Not all Democratic Members are on board with this idea at this time.

# The Path to Today

- ▶ No Clear Federal Role
  - No Consistent Federal Funding Mechanism
  - VW funds have been a critical bridge but are not a sustained source
  - The Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) of 2010 allows EPA to offer rebates in addition to grants to reduce harmful emissions from older, dirtier diesel vehicles. The rebate program has funded vehicle replacements or retrofits for over 2,000 vehicles.
- ▶ Learning the Lessons from Transit
  - Making the right investments
- ▶ Working with Utilities

# Database Tracking Current ESB US Deployments





# Making Clean School Buses a Priority

- ▶ Children's Health
- ▶ Sustainability in Infrastructure
- ▶ Lower Operating Costs
- ▶ Better for our Neighborhoods
- ▶ New Focus on Grants/Funding Support



# Legislative Policy and Funding Opportunities

- ▶ President Biden's Infrastructure plan
  - Create a new Clean Buses for Kids Program
    - ▶ \$20 billion for ESB that would electrify at least 20 percent of our yellow school bus fleet
    - ▶ Environmental Protection Agency, with support from the Department of Energy.
  
- ▶ Surface Transportation Reauthorization – needs to be addressed by Sept 31
  - This bill will likely be the anchor of an infrastructure package
  - Great opportunity to include ESB proposal

# The Clean School Bus Act

- ▶ Led by Senators Murray (D-WA) and Cortez Masto (D-NV)/ Reps. Hayes (D-CN) and Cardenas (D-CA)
- ▶ Establishes a Clean School Bus Grant Program at the Department of Energy (DOE) to replace diesel school buses with electric school buses, invest in charging infrastructure, and support transportation workforce development.
- ▶ Grants will prioritize support for lower-income students and replacing the most polluting buses.
- ▶ 1 billion dollars over 5 years; 2 million grants



# Issues for Consideration

- ▶ Funding levels
  - 70 percent of projects are only one bus — we need larger deployments
- ▶ Equity
  - Funding to low-income neighborhoods
- ▶ Transition plans
  - Can be less technical than transit buses which go about 150 miles daily
  - One size doesn't fit all
  - Focus on financial planning
  - Utilities

# How to Get Involved

- ▶ Contact your Member of Congress and Senators
- ▶ Connect with Advocacy organizations
- ▶ Reach out to us
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