

DATE OF MEETING APRIL 1, 2019

AUTHORED BY JAMIE ROSE, MANAGER, TRANSPORTATION

**SUBJECT ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION GRANT OPPORTUNITY**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report**

To seek Council direction to participate in the Mid-Island Electric Vehicle Network Project and associated CleanBC Communities Fund Application with the Regional District of Nanaimo.

### **Recommendation**

That Council direct Staff to:

1. participate in the Mid-Island Electric Vehicle Network Project and associated CleanBC Communities Fund Application with the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) as the lead applicant;
2. allocate up to \$24,000 from within the 2019-2023 Financial Plan for the installation of four public electric vehicle charging stations at City-owned sites within the community;
3. amend the 2019-2023 Financial Plan to add the charging stations project to 2019 for \$80,000 including private (grant) contributions and City share, and,
4. collaborate with RDN Staff to select specific locations within the area that optimize coverage.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Nanaimo Official Community Plan, Community Sustainability Action Plan and the Transportation Master Plan all outline strategies to reduce the environmental impacts of mobility. A common objective of these plans is to reduce the production of Greenhouse Gas (GHG's) emissions in the community. While the City has taken important steps to lower the use of motor vehicles by expanding active transportation infrastructure and by advocating, marketing, and educating users on how to comfortably walk, cycle, and use transit facilities; the majority of trips in Nanaimo are still taken by motor vehicles. Therefore, efforts are being made to support more environmentally sound vehicle choices, such as a shift to Electric Vehicles (EV's).

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Community Energy Association (CEA) made a presentation to the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board of Directors seeking approval to apply for CleanBC Communities Grant Funding with the RDN as the lead applicant. The intent of this application was to address shortfalls in the regional network of publicly accessible EV charging stations. The proposal presented by the CEA, was structured such that CEA would act as the Project Manager for the grant application, and oversee the design and construction of each charging station. Within this proposal, the CEA has indicated that the grant funding will cover 73% of the capital cost of each charging station with the RDN responsible for the remaining 27%. The RDN will be applying by the deadline of March 27, 2019.

At the February 26<sup>th</sup> RDN Board Meeting, the RDN Directors voted to direct Staff to work with the CEA to complete a grant application and to identify 10 - Level 2 charging stations.

Following this meeting, City and RDN staff discussed opportunities to collaborate with this grant. It was determined that the best way forward would be for the City to contribute funding for four additional locations and submit an addendum to the grant with a Council resolution. The exact cost of each station is expected to be in the range of \$13,000 to \$20,000; however, the exact costs will not be known until the sites are selected and the detailed requirements established. The total cost to the City for the four locations is expected to be in the range of \$80,000; however, 73% will be recovered through the grant. The net cost to the City is anticipated to be less than \$24,000.

## OPTIONS

1. That Council direct Staff to:
  - participate in the Mid-Island Electric Vehicle Network Project and associated CleanBC Communities Fund Application with the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) as the lead applicant and,
  - allocate up to \$24,000 from within the 2019-2023 Financial Plan for the installation of four public electric vehicle charging stations at City-owned sites within the community;
  - amend the 2019-2023 Financial Plan to add the charging stations project to 2019 for \$80,000 including private (grant) contributions and City share, and,
  - collaborate with RDN Staff to select specific locations within the area that optimize coverage.
    - **Budget Implication:** This change will be included in a future budget bylaw amendment for the 2019-2023 Financial Plan.
    - **Strategic Priorities Implication:** Applying for this grant funding supports strategies towards sustainability.
2. That Council direct Staff to not participate in the Mid-Island Electric Vehicle Network Project and associated CleanBC Communities Fund application. |

## SUMMARY POINTS

- The Nanaimo Official Community Plan, the Nanaimo Transportation Master Plan, and the Community Sustainability Action Plan identify strategies to create a more sustainable transportation system in Nanaimo, which includes a shift to EV's.
- Grant funding provides an opportunity for a 73% cost savings on the expansion of publicly accessible EV Charging stations.
- Having the CEA manage the project of the grant application, will allow the work to be expedited.

## ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Regional District of Nanaimo Minutes 2019-FEB-26. |

**Submitted by:**

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**Concurrence by:**

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