

Staff Report for Decision

DATE OF MEETING APRIL 8, 2019

AUTHORED BY JAMIE ROSE, MANAGER, TRANSPORTATION

**SUBJECT ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION GRANT OPPORTUNITY
FOLLOW UP**

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

Further to the April 1st, 2019 report Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant Opportunity, this report provides follow up information, and maintains the same recommendation as the previous report. The original report dated, 2019-APR-01, is attached for reference.

Within the City of Nanaimo there are currently more than 20 publicly available vehicle charging stations. The majority of these are level 2 chargers and are located at commercial businesses and are owned, operated and maintained by the proprietor. Level 2 chargers operate at 220 volts and are similar to an oven or dryer circuit.

Some of the stations require membership in a service network, such as a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) card or app, and others are accessible for free. In BC, the majority of these level 2 charging stations are currently free to use; however, parking fees normally apply.

The City of Nanaimo currently owns/operates three Level 2 (220 volt) public electrical vehicle charging stations. They are located at:

1. Port of Nanaimo Center Parkade – one Level 2 charger – free to use.
2. Harbourfront Parkade – one Level 2 charger (there is also a fast charger, see below) – free to use
3. Beban – two Level 2 chargers and two Level 1 chargers (110volt outlet) – free to use

There is also a Level 3 charging station (DC fast charge) located in the Vancouver Island Conference Centre (VICC) parkade that can charge a vehicle up to 80% in 30 minutes. This is a premium station installed in 2013 through a BC Hydro pilot program and there is a charge for use and consumption. This is the only City station has utilization information, and over the past year, there have been 1273 charging sessions. The fees charged are based on rates established by BC Hydro and generally make the station cost neutral.

Within the City, management of vehicle charging stations is currently not consolidated. Existing stations are maintained by the respective facility staff at the location.

With the planned Active and Sustainable Transportation Master Plan scheduled for 2020 the plan is to include an overall strategy and business plan around electric and autonomous vehicles. This would include an organizational evaluation and a staffing strategy for planning, implementing, operating and maintaining Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. In the absence of a strategy, this is an opportunity. Four stations were seen as affordable without impacting the budget.

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is currently prioritizing locations for the 10 stations they have planned and funded. Within the City limits, RDN Staff are currently proposing that one of the stations be located at the RDN offices on Hammond Bay Road. RDN staff are planning to bring a detailed plan to the RDN Board at a future date, which may include a second location within the City limits. Without Nanaimo moving forward with the addendum to the grant application the charging stations will be limited to what the RDN Board approves. |

OPTIONS

1. 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.
 - **Budget Implication:** Allocating funds from within the existing 2019-2023 Financial Plan will not affect existing projects, but may limit Staff's ability to react to unanticipated projects.
 - **Strategic Priorities Implication:** Applying for this grant funding supports strategies towards sustainability.
2. That Council decline to 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.
- The City and RDN are working together to improve sustainability throughout the region.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Report 2019-APR-01 Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant Opportunity |

Submitted by:

Jamie Rose

Manager, Transportation |

Concurrence by:

Poul Rosen

Sr. Manager, Engineering

Laura Mercer

A/Director, Financial Services |