

**COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**  
CITY COUNCIL *of* SALT LAKE CITY



**TO:** City Council Members  
**FROM:** Sam Owen, Policy Analyst  
**DATE:** October 4, 2022  
**RE:** FY23 Sustainability Holding  
Account Funds –  
Electrified Transportation

Item Schedule:

Briefing: October 4, 2022

Public Hearing:

Potential Action:

**ISSUE AT A GLANCE**

There are 3 Electric Vehicle (EV) holding account items before the Council for review and a decision on funding release:

- [Installing Publicly Accessible EV Chargers on City Property and Right-of-Way \(\\$214,000\)](#)
  - Funds for installation of new public access EV charging stations in the City
- [Evaluating Opportunities to Incentivize Public Adoption of Electric Vehicles \(\\$150,000\)](#)
  - A study and assessment of optimal city strategies for meeting carbon emission reduction goals
- [City Fleet and Assessment of Projected Internal EV Charging Needs \(\\$150,000\)](#)
  - A study and assessment of infrastructure, logistical and other requirements related to the electrification of the City corporation's internal fleet

These funds were appropriated but held during the Council's fiscal year 2023 budget process. The items are now before the Council for potential decision on release.

**ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND**

1. Beginning in February 2018, the department reports the City first began providing public charging at EV stations for free. The Council at that time approved the expense. The department reports that utilization of the stations increased measurably with the onset of free charging.



2. The department's request for an internal charging study will clarify coordination about internal city charging stations and those provided for ongoing public use. My
3. The department's requested internal EV charging study ([City Fleet and Assessment of Projected Internal EV Charging Needs](#)) might clarify this coordination (between internal city charging stations, and those provided for ongoing public use).
  - a. (See appendix B)
4. Specific to the \$214,000 requested for new EV charging stations, the department indicates the money will fund up to six new chargers with up to 2 ports each.
5. The department indicates locations for these public-facing charging facilities are coordinated via the City's Electrified Transportation Committee. The plans requested herein for funding would elaborate the process for selection of charging sites, especially [Evaluating Opportunities to Incentivize Public Adoption of Electric Vehicles](#).
6. The department indicates the expectation that some or all of that \$214,000 could be reimbursed through grants from government and private sources (e.g. federal funding or Rocky Mountain Power). **See policy question #5.**

### **Resolution 45 of 2020**

This document is included here as attachment 2. The resolution is tied into the department funding requests discussed in this report. In particular, the resolution relates to transportation goals related to electrifying the city's fleet, incentivizing public EV adoption, and providing infrastructure for those processes.

The resolution was adopted jointly by the Council and Mayor in 2020. See section below for questions and discussion on the policy statements referenced above. It includes a number of policy statements, such as:

Electrified Municipal Fleet Goals: The City will strive to purchase electric vehicles for its internal fleet, while also considering total cost of ownership, to ensure progress towards its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2040. The City sets the following goals for purchases within its fleet, including target dates that may be adjusted to account for market availability and total cost of ownership considerations:

- a. All new sedans purchased will be plug-in vehicles by 2023;
- b. All new sports utility vehicles ( SUVs) purchased will be plug-in vehicles by 2025;
- c. All new pickup trucks purchased will be plug-in vehicles by 2027;
- d. All new medium- and heavy-duty vehicles and off-road equipment purchases will be evaluated for electric options prior to purchase;

- e. The City will financially support the charging infrastructure necessary to own and operate plug-in vehicles within its fleet.

...

Electrified Personal Vehicle Goals: The City will support the development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, plus other programs, policies and projects that encourage the purchase and use of electric vehicles by local residents and non- governmental fleets. The City will strive to accelerate uptake and use of electric vehicles at rates higher than national averages and in line with achieving local air quality and community carbon reduction goals.

**See section below for questions and discussion on the policy statements referenced above.**

## **POLICY QUESTIONS**

1. Which City department is the decisive authority on each component topic of electric vehicles and infrastructure? For example, how are decisions made for the various city departments who may have a preference for EV purchases. For EV charger placement? (See appendix B)
2. Council May wish to clarify whether the evaluation being conducted will consider pros and cons of providing free EV charging versus returning to the practice of charging for electricity at public charging stations, and whether proposed studies would also evaluate the practice that entities have nationally of charging for both electricity and some portion of the maintenance, operation and installation cost of the charging stations, so the programs can be self-sustaining.
3. One Council Member has asked whether the current level of City funding for EV incentives, or funding a study of potential additional EV incentives, has a disproportionate benefit for people in society who already have the financial capability to acquire electric vehicles. On one hand, current users of the charging stations might have access to some privilege.
  - a. What funding or policy interventions might be available to reduce greenhouse gas emitting vehicles where owners are not in a position to purchase an EV? Will proposed or other studies consider that?
  - b. Staff attempted to capture two aspects of the equity conversation but definitely does not intend for the two sub questions above to be exhaustive.
4. Does the Council want to review RESOLUTION 45 noted above in a future dedicated work session briefing and consider:
  - a. Does the Council wish to review any part of the resolution?

- b. Do these measures support effective reduction in the City's most polluting vehicles?
- 5. If the funds for placing new EV charging stations are reimbursed from public and private grantors as discussed above, the Council might wish to discuss with the department the process for appropriating those reimbursement funds.
- 6. Furthermore, it is unusual for government to front the money for a project or study and plan, and have that be reimbursed by a grant. In many cases, reimbursing expenses for which funds are already appropriated is considered 'supplanting' and is expressly prohibited, particularly by the federal government. The Council might want to clarify the process on this grant and reimbursement process.
- 7. The Council might wish to inquire whether a methodology exists or could be developed to assess the number of unique public charging station users, especially in relation to the City's free-charging policy.
  - a. If the council wishes, staff can gather national or regional information on what fees others are assessing (cities and privately owned), how it impacts use, and when cities have transitioned from no fees to fees, to provide the Council information on how or if they want to charge fees
- 8. Is the City the best entity to be paying for this? The US government recently made available significant funding related to EV charging. The Council might evaluate the funding landscape and evaluate the best City role in this context.

## **APPENDIX A**

One example of the department attempting to leverage available grant funding relates to Rocky Mountain Power funding availability for installation of charging stations.

In the context of this availability, the department suggests that major upcoming City construction projects such as the redesign at 200 South and 300 West could rely on the RMP funding for the project to include charging stations.

If the funding for new stations were released, the department would continue with an existing application for grant reimbursement on new installations as part of this 200 South 300 West project. The City's Transportation Division has prepared site plans that include charging stations for this project.

## APPENDIX B

### *From the transmittal*

The Sustainability Department, in collaboration with Public Services Department, have been working to develop the scope of work attached herein for the competitive solicitation of a consultant to assess the City's fleet, which will include: 1) evaluating the long-term fleet replacement strategy, including electrification; 2) analyzing current and planned fleet usage patterns and 3) identifying future electric infrastructure needs at City facilities to support a more electrified fleet.

### *From the Administration-Council staff email Q & A:*

**Q:**

**Do you think all City departments and divisions are on the same track with these proposals— in other words, there are not other efforts in the City that duplicate or go against the proposals in the EV transmittal (question for all three line items)**

**A:**

In short, yes, we have worked with departments and divisions to ensure these efforts are not duplicative or counter to other priorities:

- a. General Cross-Departmental Collaboration: Sustainability launched an Internal Electrified Transportation committee in 2021 which includes members from different Departments and Divisions, including: Fleet, Airport, Facilities, Engineering, Planning, Transportation, Economic Development, and RDA. City Council members and staff are welcome to attend these meetings. The Committee reviews all Electrified Transportation initiatives proposed by Sustainability to ensure there is alignment and to avoid duplication. Sustainability also participates on an internal Funding committee, convened by Transportation on a monthly basis, where projects and grant funding ideas are discussed. All departments are invited to send representatives to this meeting.
- b. Internal Fleet Electrification Study: We have been working closely with Public Services (Fleet and Facilities) to develop the scope of work for the Internal Fleet Electrification Study, and both Departments will collaborate in this effort. Members of the Internal Fleet Committee, which is convened by the Public Services Fleet Division, have had the opportunity to review and provide input on the scope of the study.
- c. EV Infrastructure Study: There is a subcommittee of the Internal Electrified Transportation Committee working on the scope of work for this study, which will assess opportunities to support and incentivize public adoption of EVs. Subcommittee members include staff from Planning, Engineering, RDA, and Transportation. The scope of work for this study is being prepared by staff from Transportation and Sustainability. All subcommittee members will have an opportunity to review and provide input on this scope of work.

- d. Installation of EV stations: Sustainability is collaborating with other Departments and Divisions to evaluate sites.

## **Attachments**

- 1. Transmittal**
- 2. Resolution 45 of 2020**