

Memo

To: City Council
From: Bryan Myrkle, Community Development Director
Date: October 7, 2020
Re: Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Earlier this summer, former City Manager Guetschow asked me to look into electric vehicle charging stations and any opportunities for installing them locally.

I have identified an opportunity to bring an EV charging station to Charlotte at no cost to the City -- this would be through a partnership with Consumers Energy and one of their pre-approved vendors. The program also includes a modest revenue sharing arrangement that would compensate the City for the use of public space.

For a limited time, Consumers Energy has a \$5,000 rebate available for the installation of EV charging stations that meet its standards. After discussing this rebate with Consumer's lead on the program, I was directed to Hage Automotive and its Red E charging system.

According to Consumer's representative, the Red E system has the best cost-benefit ratio, as it is among the cheapest to install, yet offers reasonably high performance -- two-bay, Level 2, 80 amp charging station.

Under this program, the \$5,000 rebate is used to offset the cost of installation. The charging station would be owned and maintained by Hage, which would subsequently provide the City of Charlotte 10 percent of the revenue from the charging station for a period of 10 years. Similarly, the expected useful life of the charging station is approximately 10 years.

The immediate benefit to consumers may be modest. While it's common now to see electric vehicles in Charlotte, we do not have any reliable information about how many there are, or where they are from. However, it is also clear that the number is likely to increase over time, as nearly all automotive manufacturers are making electric vehicles a higher priority and a larger part of their model offerings.

The initial users are likely to be EV owners in transit, i.e. a person who has chosen to drive their EV to Charlotte, knowing a charging station is available; or a person traveling to a further destination who chooses to stop in Charlotte as a charging way-point on their trip.

The community, and specifically the downtown business district, would stand to benefit from being one of the first areas in rural mid-Michigan with an EV charging station. It is likely that drivers who would not otherwise get off I-69 and visit downtown Charlotte might do so knowing they could charge their car while taking a break on their trip.

The commitment the City would have to make is dedicating two public parking spaces, and enforcing their use as charging stations (working to ensure the spaces aren't used as regular parking spaces by non-electric vehicles).

After discussing this opportunity with the Charlotte police and public works departments, we have identified City Parking Lot No. 7 (the one with the US Post Office box) as a potential location for this station.

I will be working to prepare a more formal proposal for this project in the near future, once the site has been evaluated by Consumers and Hage. However, I wanted the Council to be aware that I am working on this, and offer you the chance to ask any questions or request information that you would like to see included in the proposal when it is presented to you.

Please feel free to contact me via email at bmyrkle@charlottemi.org, or by telephone at (517) 543-8853.