

Request for Legislation / Legislative Summary

Authorizing the Director of Capital Projects of the City of Cleveland in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Sustainability to enter into a contract with Volta Charging, LLC, to provide a publicly accessible network of EV charging stations in the public right of way and on City-owned property, at no cost to the City.

Background/Purpose:

As of 2018, on-road transportation contributes 15% of the total greenhouse gas emissions for the City of Cleveland, and emissions from passenger cars and trucks make up about 80% of all on-road emissions. Additionally, air pollutants from internal combustion engine vehicles contribute to negative health outcomes through tailpipe emissions. In order to increase EV adoption and the related benefits of that adoption in Cleveland, to provide a service to residents and visitors in a vehicle market that is increasingly electric, and to achieve greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, the City wishes to expand public EV charging Citywide. Through a competitive procurement process, the City has identified a vendor to provide a network of public charging stations in the public right of way and at City-owned properties at no cost to the City.

Summary:

This legislation request is to authorize the Director of Capital Projects to enter into a contract with Volta Charging, LLC, (Volta) who will install, own, and operate a publically accessible EV charging station network. Volta will coordinate with the City to determine a final charging station siting plan that satisfies priorities of both parties, including alignment with Cleveland Planning Commission street plans, availability of electrical infrastructure, equity considerations, economic viability, and consideration of surrounding commercial and residential properties.

Volta will provide coordination with the appropriate electric utility in order to confirm required infrastructure upgrades, and will perform all installation work for the charging stations. They will own and operate all equipment for the duration of the contract term, providing 24/7 access to the public and maintaining a minimum uptime of 97%. They will be responsible for all operating and maintenance costs of the equipment, including payment for the electric services provided by the appropriate utility. The public-facing charging station fee structure implemented by Volta is to be approved on an annual basis by the City administration, including an agreed upon revenue share to be paid to the City by Volta.

The City is requesting authority to enter into a 10-year contract term for the project, with one 5-year option to renew.

Justification/Urgency:

Between 2020 and 2021, Ohio saw a 45% year-over-year growth in electric vehicle registrations. As car manufacturers set goals to phase out production of internal combustion engine vehicles, and as electric alternatives become increasingly available and economical, the adoption of EVs will continue to rise. Cleveland currently lags peer cities in the availability of EV infrastructure, which makes residential adoption more difficult and discourages EV drivers from visiting the city. By contracting with a vendor to provide this service, the City is encouraging equitable, citywide coverage of charging infrastructure, can influence station siting to align with multiple priorities, and ensures equipment consistency across the city. Additionally, this will come at no cost to the City and will provide added benefit through a revenue sharing model.

Anticipated Costs and funding source:

There is no cost to the City associated with these contracts.

Schedule or Term of Contract:

The requested contract term for the project is 10 years with one 5-year option to renew.

Current Contract(s):

CSB Participation on the Current Contract:

N/A