



Seattle Parks & Recreation

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 11, 2017
To: Board of Park Commissioners
From: Joelle Hammerstad, Sustainability Manager
Subject: Partnership with Seattle City Light to pilot Electric Vehicle charging stations

Requested Board Action

Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) would like to enter into a pilot project with Seattle City Light (SCL) to install up to four electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in SPR parking lots throughout the City. Staff seek input from the Board on:

- The type of partnership
- The length of the partnership
- Possible locations

Project or Policy Description and Background

Increased levels of carbon in the atmosphere are resulting in climate change. Burning fossil fuels is the main contributor to this global problem. In Seattle, about 65 percent of fossil fuel emissions are from vehicles.

Yet Seattle residents have access to locally sourced, renewable energy from Seattle City Light. Seattle City Light was the first electric utility in the nation to become greenhouse gas neutral in 2005. About 90 percent of its power is generated from hydroelectric dams on the Skagit and Pend Oreille rivers. SCL has ample capacity to provide energy for electric vehicles.

In March 2016, Mayor Ed Murray announced his Drive Clean Seattle electrification initiative. It contains aggressive goals for reducing emissions from vehicles in the City. The initiative directs City Light to, among other things, pursue innovative partnerships that help support residents switching to clean fuel.

SPR and SCL will collaborate to identify two to four sites in geographically diverse locations that have available parking to dedicate about three parking stalls for an EV charging station, are visible to passing traffic, and have the electrical grid capacity nearby to energize a charging station. The stations will be designed, built, operated and maintained by Seattle City Light through a vendor.

SPR's role will include the following:

- Determine if an MOA or concession contract is appropriate.
- Participate in the site selection.

- Shepherd the design process through the Planning and Development design vetting process.
- Assign a project manager to ensure SCL and their vendor adhere to department's best management construction processes.
- Provide long-term contract management.

SCL's role will include the following:

- Execute an MOA or concession contract with SPR.
- Participate in the site selection process.
- Hire and manage a vendor.
- Maintain and manage the charging stations.
- Provide annual updates on usage.

Issues for Discussion

A number of possible issues have surfaced during discussions around this project, including:

Does this constitute a non-park use of parkland?

Engel Lee in the City Attorney's Office determined that parking lots are an amenity and the property owner (SPR) has the right to decide what sorts of amenities to offer.

Will the site have enough parking to host EV charging stations?

Before final sites are determined, we will need to work closely with site managers to determine if parking spots can be dedicated to EV charging. About three spots are needed for one charging station.

Have you identified any possible locations?

We have identified three **potential** locations; however, this is subject to more discussion from the Board and from Seattle City Light. They are:

1. **Jefferson Park Clubhouse (see attached).** This location seems one of the best possible locations due to its proximity to so many other park amenities, as well as the fact that three parking spots are already dedicated to low-emission vehicles as part of the building's LEED certification.
2. **Interbay Golf Course.** Upsides to this location include ample parking.
3. **Amy Yee Tennis Center.** This location has great visibility, and is easily seen from MLK Way S.

Who will deal with mechanical problems, ongoing maintenance and vandalism?

Seattle City Light and/or their vendor will be responsible for this.

What kind of EV charging station will this be?

This will be a fast-charge. Fast-charge stations can take anywhere from 20 minutes to 1 hour to fully charge an EV battery – depending on the type of EV.

Environmental Sustainability

This effort will support our Healthy Environment Action Agenda.

For many potential new EV owners, the biggest issue is range anxiety – or, will they have enough stored power to handle daily living. The more EV owners have access to charging capacity, the less range anxiety they feel, and the more likely they are to adopt EV technologies.

Budget

The Sustainability & Environmental Performance Management capital improvement project budget will provide up to \$10,000. This money will fund an SPR capital project coordinator's time to act as construction liaison with Seattle City Light and their vendor.

If we enter into a concessionaire contract with Seattle City Light, there will be some amount of revenue for the department from this relationship. This could be structured in any number of ways – from a flat rate annual payment to a percentage of overall sales.

Schedule

In broad strokes, we would like to have the charging stations installed by the end of the year. A more detailed schedule will be available at the briefing.

Additional Information

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[Drive Clean Seattle](#)

Attachments

- Jefferson Location.1.pdf

Electric Vehicle Charging Station #1:

Jefferson Park Golf Course Clubhouse

