

4/27/2023

Re: U.S. DOT Charging & Fueling Infrastructure Grant Program

CFI Technical Review Team:

The Town of Bristol submits this Letter of Support for the Michiana Area Council of Governments' application as the prime awardee to implement a regional award under the Charging & Fueling Infrastructure grant program.

Bristol is located in rural Elkhart County, and currently does not have public charging at any speed available in the town or nearby. Electric vehicle adoption in the town is currently low, and it is unlikely that the private market will provide public charging for many years without this federal subsidy due to the upfront cost and long payback. Announcements from automakers shifting to all plug-in models in the next 10 to 15 years is concerning, as rural towns like Bristol are not as prepared for the increase in EV adoption compared to urban areas.

To mitigate this potential disparity in EV infrastructure investment in our rural community, the town is interested in hosting at least one electric vehicle charging station at either the popular Congdon Park or downtown at a planned public parking lot planned for construction in 2023-2024. This charging station will give visitors and tourists a place to charge, and serve as a backup for residents who may primarily charge at home. This station will also provide the town with experience with the technology before evaluating implementing electric vehicles in its fleet.

MACOG will:

- Be responsible for financial administration
- Own the equipment for the useful lifetime of 5 years, before transferring to the site host
- Conduct procurement on behalf of all site hosts (hardware, software, warranties)
- Secure consultants and contractors for planning, preliminary engineering, design work, and installation to cost effectively implement the projects on a region-wide basis
- Oversee environmental review, compliance with regulations, permits, standards etc.
- Access software dashboard to conduct required reporting on behalf of site hosts
- Assist site hosts in securing the 20% cost share, including corporate sponsorships, funding requests to foundations, etc.

Site hosts such as the Town of Bristol will:

- Operate and provide electric service to the charging station(s) for at least 5 years
- Collect all revenue from drivers of the station
- Collect and pay state sales tax, if necessary
- Set a reasonable charging station fee for users the first 5 years that will promote high utilization at the station. A reasonable fee is defined as a fee (\$/kWh or \$/time) that approximately recoups the cost of operation (electricity, credit card fees, etc.), and if necessary recoups the upfront cost of the 20% cost share.
- After 5 years, set the fee for users at any level determined by the site host.