



To: Douglas DDA Board

From: Lisa Nocerini, City Manager & Sean Homyen, Planning & Zoning Administrator/DDA

RE: Vehicle Charging Station at Beery Field

Date: January 22nd, 2025

The City Administration was asked to look at options for a new charging station at Beery Field to replace the existing one.

During the winter of 2019/2020, the City installed the existing charging station at Beery Field at a total cost of \$19,640 and received a \$5,000 rebate. We reviewed another option for a \$7,500 rebate program available through Consumer's Energy for installing a new charging station and wanted to provide you with a brief summary of our findings.

The current rebate program offers an increased incentive, but there are several factors to consider before moving forward.

The City's existing charging station at Beery Field is not a revenue-generating asset. Additionally, identifying a suitable location for a new station that meets the rebate requirements presents a challenge. The program stipulates that stations must be located within 1-3 blocks of a multi-dwelling unit with at least four tenants, and it is unclear whether an appropriate site exists within the downtown area or other qualifying locations. Suggestions for potential sites are welcome.

Another consideration is the cost and quality of the charging station itself. While the station at Beery Field has served its purpose, there have been concerns about its speed and questions regarding higher-than-expected electrical bills at that location. If the City decides to move forward, it may be prudent to explore higher-end models to ensure faster charging and greater efficiency. However, we must also keep in mind that the rebate is a one-time incentive and does not offset the long-term costs associated with utilities and maintenance.

If the DDA is interested in pursuing this opportunity, it may be best to consider including it in the FY2025-2026 budget. This timeline would allow for adequate research, cost analysis, and potential site evaluation to ensure any investment aligns with the City's broader goals and priorities.

We also welcome feedback and ideas from the Board regarding suitable locations, potential partnerships, or other factors that might influence the feasibility of this project.