

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Kenneth Zetye, Construction Inspection Manager for Engineering
Brad Buckman, City Engineer
Ginny Sawyer, Lead Project Manager, City Manager's Office

SUBJECT

First Reading of Ordinance No. 153, 2025, Creating a New Article VI in Chapter 24 of the Code of the City of Fort Collins Relating to Electric Vehicle Charging by Temporary Cord Draping.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to secure and promote the public health, safety, and general welfare of persons using City sidewalks by regulating the placement, covering over, use, and removal of electric vehicle charging cords located upon certain public sidewalks within the City. To expand charging opportunities for electric vehicles for persons without dedicated off-street parking at their residence, this proposed new City Code (Code) regulates the safe draping of an electric vehicle charging cord across a sidewalk or other public right-of-way at the person's residence for the purpose of providing a charge to a curbside vehicle at the person's residence.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Ordinance on First Reading.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Staff set out to address certain issues that have arisen because of the needs of residents who do not have access to off-street parking to be able to charge their electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. Through the proposed Code, staff seeks to provide for a resident to temporarily and safely drape a cord across the right-of-way to charge their electric vehicle while also maintaining ADA accessibility/requirements on city sidewalks. The proposed Code aims to expand charging opportunities for residents without dedicated off-street parking by providing regulations for how to safely cover a charging cord draped perpendicularly across a sidewalk or public right-of-way for the purpose of providing a charge a curbside vehicle. Cord draping is a permitted use for any person who complies with all the requirements of the proposed Article VI, but the City Engineer may rescind cord draping permission from any person for failure to comply with any of the requirements and may also remove any unsafe equipment.

The proposed new code provisions provide that if off-street parking is available for a residence, a person must use such off-street parking for electric vehicle charging rather than using the street to charge by cord draping. Also, a person may only charge one vehicle at a time at their residence, only when the residence does not have available dedicated off-street parking or alley access at the residence, and only when the residence is a single-unit or multi-unit residence.

The proposed new code provisions also provide that a person charging their electric vehicle by temporary cord draping must:

- Place the electric vehicle charging cord perpendicular across to the sidewalk and must cover the cord with a highly visible, stable, and secure low-angle cable ramp while charging.
- Plug the electric vehicle charging cord into an outlet linked to the person's utility bill for the person's single-unit or multi-unit residence.
- Remove all charging equipment and covering when not charging an electric vehicle.
- Use only Level 1 (110-120V) charging equipment. No Level 2 (240V) charging cords may cross the right-of-way.
- Follow all local parking regulations, both temporary and permanent.
- Comply with all relevant sections of the National Electric Code and NFPA 70.
- Not sell charging time or space.
- Not use signage or other means to reserve a parking space.

Under the proposed code, cord draping is a permitted use for any person who complies with all the requirements of the proposed Article VI, but the City Engineer may rescind cord draping permission from any person for failure to comply with any of the requirements, may issue citations, and may remove any equipment that has been placed, used, failed to be covered, or failed to be removed in violation of the proposed Article VI.

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

None.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Ordinance No. 153, 2025