



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Title: Pacific Power Oregon Clean Fuels Electric Mobility Grant Application

Preferred Agenda: December 13, 2022

Submitted By: Blair Larsen, Community & Economic Development Director

Reviewed By: Kelcey Young, City Manager

Type of Action: Resolution X Motion Roll Call Other

Relevant Code/Policy: City of Sweet Home Downtown Streetscape and Parking Plan

Towards Council Goal: Aspiration I: Desirable Community; Aspiration III: Viable and Sustainable Infrastructure; Goal 4: Economic Strength

Attachments: Oregon Clean Fuels Electric Mobility Grant Agreement
Electric Mobility Grant Site Map
Electric Mobility Grant Application Itemized Costs

Purpose of this RCA:

The purpose of this RCA is to request approval of a grant agreement with Pacific Power for an Oregon Clean Fuels Electric Mobility Grant.

Background/Context:

Recent years have seen an increasing number of electric vehicles on the roads, as well as a push toward more electric vehicle infrastructure, both throughout Oregon and Nationwide. Pacific Power administers a program known as the Oregon Clean Fuels Electric Mobility grants, or E-Mobility. This program offers grants for a number of improvements associated with electric vehicles, from fleet conversions to charging stations. This grant potentially covers an entire project, with no local match required. In addition, the grant program may provide up to 75% of the funding at the very beginning of a project, with the remaining 25% provided upon completion. This allows an applicant to complete an eligible project at no cost.

Last May, the City Council adopted the Downtown Streetscape and Parking Plan, which calls for 10th Avenue to be converted to one-way traffic in order to add head-in (90-degree) parking spaces to the downtown area and match a similar one-way conversion on 13th Avenue.

In August, City Staff submitted an application to Pacific Power for an E-Mobility grant, proposing that the new parking on 10th Avenue include two electric vehicle 'DC Fast Charging' stations. Sweet Home's position as the easternmost community along Highway 20 on the west side of the Cascades makes it an ideal location for travelers traveling from the coast to Central Oregon to charge their vehicles. This can benefit Sweet Home's downtown area, as travelers often patronize businesses next to charging stations while they wait for their vehicle to charge. Currently, the nearest publicly accessible electric vehicle charging stations are in Lebanon,

however they level 1 or level 2 chargers that require several hours to charge a vehicle. DC fast chargers can charge a vehicle in less than one hour, and the nearest charging station of that type is in Albany. The nearest such charging stations to the east of Sweet Home are in Sisters.

Pacific Power recently approved the City's grant application and provided the attached grant agreement for approval.

The Challenge/Problem:

How does the City meet the needs of current and future travelers and bring additional visitors to Downtown Sweet Home?

Stakeholders:

- Sweet Home Residents – Residents who own electric vehicles have no charging options in Sweet Home other than what they are able to install at their own homes.
- Sweet Home City Council – The City Council is responsible for ensuring that City rights-of-way contain the infrastructure improvements needed to meet the needs of residents, businesses, and visitors.
- Sweet Home Visitors – Visitors benefit from amenities such as electric vehicle charging stations.
- Downtown Sweet Home Businesses – Businesses benefit every time travelers stop, but especially when travelers stop and spend time in our downtown.

Issues and Financial Impacts:

The application proposed a budget of \$250,818, however the proposed grant award is for a maximum of \$200,000. Fortunately, there are areas that can be trimmed in the project budget. Staff can work with any selected contractors to ensure that project costs are reduced to the actual grant award.

Once the charging stations are built, they will be owned by the City. Operational costs are not known at this point, however there are several firms that manage charging stations and are paid only through usage fees. Currently charging stations do not bring in a lot of revenue, but they can at least pay for their own operating costs. Staff recommend seeking a firm to manage the charging stations for the City in such a manner that they are entirely self-sustaining or bring revenue to the City. If any revenue is generated from the charging stations, it could be directed to downtown improvements and events.

Converting 10th Avenue to one-way traffic will require minimal costs—paint and signage. Staff estimate those costs to be less than \$2,000.

Elements of a Stable Solution:

A stable solution includes adding amenities to Downtown Sweet Home at low or no cost.

Options:

1. Do Nothing – If the Council chooses to do nothing, then no grant agreement would be made with Pacific Power for electric vehicle charging stations.
2. Authorize the City Manager to sign the Pacific Power Oregon Clean Fuels Electric Mobility Grant Agreement – Once the agreement is fully executed, staff can issue a request for proposals for the charging stations to be installed and begin the process for changing 10th Avenue to one-way traffic.
3. Direct Staff to research other ways to accomplish the same goals.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends option 2: Authorize the City Manager to sign the Pacific Power Oregon Clean Fuels Electric Mobility Grant Agreement.