


COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

	Number:	21-091	Meeting:	February 22, 2021
	Agenda Item:	33	Roll Call:	21-0281
	Submitted by:	Steven L. Naber, P.E., City Engineer		

AGENDA HEADING:

Authorizing submittal of applications in the second funding cycle of Iowa's Volkswagen Settlement Environmental Mitigation Trust for Zero Emission Vehicle Supply Equipment in March 2021.

SYNOPSIS:

This action authorizes the City Manager or his designee to submit grant applications to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) for electric vehicle infrastructure as part of the Volkswagen Settlement Environmental Mitigation Trust Grant and, in partnership with the National Biodiesel Foundation for Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) National Grants Program to the IDOT. City staff recommends that the City submit applications to install equipment in the City's public parking garages.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: Anticipated total project cost is \$103,420, with a City share of \$73,420 if maximum grant award is received for an application.

Funding Source: Grant program provides for a maximum award amount of 90% of the costs up to \$15,000 per project application. The balance of costs would be addressed with funds by the applicant. Local matching funds for the following projects would be provided in the 2021-2022 CIP for Parking Facilities Improvements.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- For the 2021 solicitation, two (2) applications will be submitted for new equipment for (1st priority) the 9th & Locust and the (2nd priority) the 4th & Grand parking garages. The installation of two (2) Dual Level 2 electric vehicle charging stations would be included in each application. An installation in the 9th & Locust facility would be proposed on the ground floor level in the metered space area to provide the greatest degree of availability and visibility for the units to the motoring public. An installation in the 4th & Grand facility would be proposed on the parking level adjacent to the Skywalk. Locations of the facilities are shown below.



- It is anticipated that the installation of equipment would be phased to occur in the City's Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 and FY 2023, as allowable under the terms of the award agreement, if both applications are awarded funding. This phasing of installation over two (2) FYs is due to significant shortfalls in revenue in the City's parking system during calendar year (CY) 2020 and anticipated to continue into CY 2021 due to the global pandemic, which are used as matching funds to the grant and are provided through monies in the Parking Facilities' Capital Improvement Program.
- In 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) filed a complaint alleging Volkswagen violated the federal Clean Air Act with the sale of motor vehicles between 2009 and 2016 equipped with "defeat devices" designed to perform differently during normal vehicle operation than during emissions tests; exceeding the EPA compliant levels of nitrogen oxides (NOx) during normal use.
- Volkswagen agreed to settle some of the allegations with the creation of an Environmental Mitigation Trust to fund a specific set of mitigation actions that will reduce NOx emissions.
- Iowa will receive approximately \$21 million in trust funds for NOx mitigation projects. The IDOT has been designated the lead state agency to administer the funds.
- In 2020, the City was awarded funding from the first cycle of Iowa's Volkswagen Settlement Environmental Mitigation Trust for Zero Emission Vehicle Supply Equipment. These four (4) units have been installed in the 3rd & Court and 5th & Keo parking facilities.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S):

Date: November 9, 2020

Roll Call Number: [20-1785](#)

Action: [Approving](#) and authorizing the execution of Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Agreement for Iowa Volkswagen Settlement Environmental Mitigation Trust Project: 3rd & Court and 5th & Keo Parking Garages. ([Council Communication No. 20-484](#)) Moved by Boesen to adopt. Motion Carried 7-0.

BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE

ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE

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