



TO: Mayor and Council Members
FROM: Council Assistant Rebecca Boydston on behalf of Deputy Mayor Ibsen
COPY: City Manager and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution in Support of Initiatives Fostering Electrification of Transportation – May 22, 2018
DATE: May 9, 2018

SUMMARY:

Resolution expressing policy support for planning and initiatives to foster better conditions for electrification of transportation, including electric vehicle purchase and usage; and, directing the City Manager to collaborate with the Director of Utilities and report to the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee on the feasibility, cost, estimated greenhouse gas reductions, grant opportunities, and strategy for implementation.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Deputy Mayor Ibsen and Council Members Beale, Camarata and Ushka

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

This resolution to support planning and initiatives for electrification of transportation to improve air quality by reducing greenhouse gas emissions best aligns with the City Council Strategic Policy priority to:

- Assure outstanding stewardship of the natural and built environment.

BACKGROUND:

Rapidly increasing electric vehicle (EV) sales in the United States is a trend that will have positive impacts for our communities in the form of fewer greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector, improved air quality and reduced fuel costs. It would be very prudent for the City of Tacoma to express full policy support for improving the conditions that bolster transportation electrification in our community and to encourage the expenditure of staff time and resources to explore and implement electrification of transportation initiatives. The Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability, under the Environmental Services Department, and Tacoma Power staff have been exploring a range of actions that would incentivize and improve necessary infrastructure to support electrification of transportation and equipment. At the May 8, 2018 Study Session, a Council Consideration Request was shared by Deputy Mayor Ibsen requesting City Council consensus to bring a resolution forward for City Council consideration to support electrification of transportation. In addition, we encourage General Government departments and Tacoma Power to align their planning efforts.

This action aligns with the City of Tacoma's Environmental Action Plan, as well as the Tacoma 2025 strategic vision goal of improving the natural and built environment. Tacoma Power has begun work on the Transportation Electrification Initiative and will develop a Transportation Electrification Plan that identifies EV charging solutions, among other strategies. Additionally, Tacoma Power is exploring EV initiatives, such as a residential charger incentive pilot program and supporting commercial charging infrastructure by working with electric vehicle equipment suppliers to make investments of subsidized charging equipment and maritime electrification.

There are many opportunities that General Government departments and Tacoma Power can explore together, including alignment of government relations advocacy on this issue, requiring EV



infrastructure for residential new construction and identifying a solution for residential on-street charging where homes do not have a garage. Both Tacoma Public Utilities and General Government can contribute to the overall goal of electrification of transportation operationally through additional EV fleet purchases, as well as collaborating on the electrification of Tacoma General Government parking garages. We request that these concepts, and any other emerging ideas from staff, be explored in terms of feasibility, cost, estimated greenhouse gas reductions, grant opportunities, and a strategy for implementation and long-term accountability metrics, with a report to be shared with the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee by November 2018.

ISSUE:

In order to reduce the negative impacts of greenhouse gas emissions, the City should implement a policy strategy to foster better conditions for electrification of transportation.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council could adopt, modify or reject this resolution.

RECOMMENDATION:

We are recommending adoption of a resolution in support of an electrification of transportation concept, and any other emerging ideas from staff, be explored in terms of feasibility, cost, estimated greenhouse gas reductions, grant opportunities, and a strategy for implementation and long-term accountability metrics. We are also recommending that the City Manager collaborate with the Director of Utilities and report to the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee by November 2018.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the adoption of this resolution.