

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Administration

Date: April 4, 2023

Subject: Electric Vehicle Charging Location

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council authorizes the Chief Administrative Officer, to execute the ten-year agreement with BC Hydro to allow for the purposes of charging multiple electric vehicles, and for the use of certain parking stalls as dedicated electric charging stalls.

BACKGROUND:

At the Regular Council meeting of March 13, 2023, staff brought forward the proposed agreement for the Level 3 Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) station (Appendix A), with the proposed location at the northwest corner of the 616-parking lot. Since then, staff has gathered feedback from the public though in person and online mediums. Below is a summary of the comments that staff have received to date. Staff have also received photographs of the proposed site for Councils review and are included in Appendix B.

Staff asked residents three questions to gauge the level of support for the project. They are as follows:

With regards to the Level 3 Charger Installation:

What are you happy with?

- I feel it's great that this is going to be a service for EV. Will be nice to have a spot for tourists to come and charge up.
- I think this project was inevitable and good for Mackenzie. I am pleased that Mackenzie has been able to leverage funds for the project from BC Hydro and Federal and Provincial governments. Well done!
- Having an EV station is important.
- Good use of space and nice to see it in town to promote a green environment.
- I guess we need this station as long as there is no cost to residents for use. I had heard the electric charging is free to users.....meaning tax payers cover the charging costs. If that is the case then free fuel for all!

- Not happy.

What are your concerns?

- I feel that there are better spaces available that are not going to take an already congested area away for the charge station. This parking lot has lots of vehicles always parked there taking 17 spots away will leave it way more congested.
- Who's paying the power bill?
- The location.
- Concerned about power loss to the town center mall during charging station activation.
- None
- The EV station should be viewable from Mackenzie Boulevard - Ideally placed between the meridian and the boulevard in front of 600 Mackenzie boulevard--not in the 616 parking area.
- Are the users paying a road tax? Who pays for damage to the station?
- Don't like the planned area to place this set upit is terrible. It is a bottle neck there most days, snow removal in that parking lot is brutal. Good grief they can't even keep that little boulevard tidy in good weather.
- Useless waste of space and money for a select few. We need fiber optic high speed internet more. Something for a majority not a select few. You want an electric car you pay for it your self.

Do you have any suggestions?

- Put the charge station where the old dentist building was. It would be close to the rec center, mall and the rest of the amenities at the 616 as well. Or having it on the backside of the 616 by the purple bike the parking lot close to the main drag.
- Let's get high speed internet first! This town is dying and do you honestly think bringing in an "EV station" is going to solve that? No!
- Why not have it at the old dental building. There is already power there, it's right beside the recreation centre and walking distance to everything else. It's on a main road so it will be less likely to be vandalized. There is already a paved parking lot there.
- I hope the project has signage on Mackenzie Boulevard so visitors can find the station. I am willing to offer some of the Town Centre facade if it works with our scheme and looks attractive.
- Public consultation needs to be inclusive of all ways of communicating and for all community residents to be aware of the methods of communicating. Transparency is critical.
- If we are going to do this....please put in a more visible area so the odd vehicle that shows up can easily find it. My suggestion is across from 7-11 on the old dental site. I have heard that is Rec centre land...but please...bottom line is the District owns rec centre land as well. Perfect place as the rec centre is going to solar power so a unified clean energy site!

- High speed internet first.

The feedback included in this report is as of April 5, 2023. Further feedback received up until the deadline of 4:00 pm April 11th, will be included as a handout for Council's consideration at the Regular meeting.

Staff also received several inquiries, which the District and BC Hydro provided the following answers:

- **Power Outage** - The current servicing plan is designed to avoid a power outage. However, it is possible for circumstances to change during the detailed design and construction phase if, for example, a safety concern arises.
- **Snow Clearing** - The agreement does not require the District of Mackenzie to shovel around the chargers, only that the EV station area be included in normal maintenance services, such as the regular ploughing of the parking lot as is typically done.
- **Signage** – There will be appropriate signage to show the location of the charger from Mackenzie Blvd. All BC Hydro Chargers have their location on a web-map on the BC Hydro website.
- **Maintenance** – BC Hydro will be responsible for all maintenance on the improvements (charger).

Next Steps and Timeline:

If approved, staff will execute the agreement with BC Hydro. The next step will be the pre-construction phase, as well as looking at final considerations of the site which will begin in late spring or early summer. It is expected the charger will be installed this year.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

Community and Social Development

- Our investment in the municipality's services and infrastructure, our commitment to principles of social equity and well-being, and our belief in the value of resident engagement, creates a healthy community in which everyone feels valued and enjoys a high quality of life.

Environmental Sustainability

- The way we operate has an impact on the environment. We are committed to integrating sustainability and Environmental, Social and Governance factors (ESG) into our decision making and business practices.



Respectfully Submitted,

Luke Thorne
Luke Thorne
Land and Environmental Coordinator

Diane Smith
Approved for Submission to Council