



Customer Driven.
Community Focused.SM

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Bob Kahn, Austin Energy General Manager *BK*

DATE: September 18, 2023

SUBJECT: Response to Council Resolution 20230309-027

The purpose of this memo is to report on the status of Austin Energy's progress regarding [Resolution 20230309-027](#) related to electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. Below in bold are the specifics of the resolution and our plan to achieve this direction.

- **Develop a vision plan for equitable distribution of public charging stations throughout the City, including both DC fast chargers and Level 2 chargers, and establish priorities for an initial three-year implementation phase of the vision, with actionable funding options that include federal incentives and grant opportunities.**
 - There are three components of our vision plan for equitable distribution for public charging:
 1. The amount of public charging needed to support EV adoption,
 2. Equitable distribution analysis, and
 3. Infrastructure deployment methods.
 - The Climate Equity Plan established a goal of 226 megawatts of charging to support the goal of having 40% of vehicle miles traveled be electric. This effort will be a combination of publicly provided infrastructure as well as private sector investment in EV charging infrastructure.
 - Austin Energy has grown the Plug-In Austin network to 1,600 charging ports, to include 30 DC Fast Chargers throughout Austin Energy's service territory and will continue to offer incentives to grow charging infrastructure to support commercial, multi-family, workplace and fleet applications.
 - Austin Energy applied for \$15 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant to increase Fast Charging in Austin with an emphasis on publicly-owned facilities. This funding would enable deployment of

approximately 80 DC Fast Chargers co-located with Level 2 charging in Austin. Award notifications are expected before year-end 2023. If awarded, Austin Energy will identify partners through a competitive process as permitted by the U.S. DOT Community Grant Program. Austin Energy has requested capital budget over the next five years for EV charging station growth that can be used to match grant funding or support further EV charging deployment. Funding opportunities through the program are expected through 2026, and Austin Energy will continue to review future announcements.

- Austin Energy is engaging software and data solutions through industry and academia to identify charging needs based on existing infrastructure coverage, access for historically underserved communities and access to multi-family properties. Environmental justice is a priority for EV charging infrastructure deployment through prioritizing projects that target at least 40% of benefits going to disadvantaged communities. Austin Energy is utilizing the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, a geospatial mapping tool designed to identify disadvantaged communities that are marginalized and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment, in this effort. An integrated map depicting ideal charging stations is in development and will be complete by mid-year 2024.
- Austin Energy has participated with the Austin Apartment Association through presentation sessions to multi-family property managers. This increases reach about the Plug-In Austin program to its target audience and explains the benefits of having EV charging infrastructure at multi-family properties.
- Austin Energy participates at the Austin Apartment Association annual trade show with over 1200 attendees that include property owners, managers and maintenance personnel.
- Austin Energy offered a limited-time 80% rebate for multi-family properties in Austin to install EV charging within their community.
- Austin Energy is working with property management on a dedicated car share pilot for low- and moderate-income housing to provide EV access and charging as an amenity to the multi-family unit. In these forums, Austin Energy promoted the 80% rebate to multi-family properties for installing an EV charger within their communities.
- **Coordinate with local and regional partners to develop a shared charging resource model for their fleets.**
 - Austin Energy has been actively working with Capital Metro, Austin Independent School District and City of Austin Fleet Services on fleet electrification efforts. While each entity has specific operational and support needs, the collaboration has resulted in identified co-location of fleet and public charging at City of Austin properties; sited DC fast charging at an AISD school; and inclusion of Travis County properties in the grant application to the U.S. DOT. Austin Energy will continue to evaluate opportunities that allow for shared access. Additional analysis should be conducted since not all facilities are accessible to the public or outside entities.
- **Prepare a report on the uptime and reliability achieved with the equipment in the Plug-In Everywhere network over the past year as well as time-to-repair data and ongoing levels of effort and budget for preventative maintenance of the system.**
 - The current outage rate for all EV charging stations in the Plug-In Austin network is 11%, down from 28% in January 2023. Austin Energy is performing quarterly preventative

maintenance on all stations in the network through its service provider, Smart Charge America, to provide advanced and on-site diagnostics. This preventative maintenance run is also providing detailed quotes for needed repairs to both City of Austin-owned and privately-owned stations in the Plug-In Austin network. Austin Energy has a contract in place for \$800,000 for repairs and preventative maintenance to support these efforts.

- Austin Energy obtained City Council approval in July 2023 for a five-year contract with ChargePoint for network services to monitor the Plug-In Austin network.
- Through its negotiations with ChargePoint, Austin Energy has obtained the status of Critical Customer designation, which ensures dedicated local and organizational support, account and technical support, and specific response time commitments for service.

Austin Energy views these efforts as parts of a holistic vision that grows and maintains electric vehicle charging infrastructure for the community. Austin Energy is focused on opportunities to advance these efforts through leveraging federal funding where possible. Austin Energy will continue to adhere to best practices of each approach as it continues to develop additional recommendations.

Please contact Richard G  nec  , Austin Energy’s Vice President of Customer Energy Solutions, if you have any questions.

cc: Electric Utility Commission