



REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

MEETING DATE: February 21, 2023
PREPARED BY: Mike Opatz, Transit Administrator
AGENDA ITEM: Blink Electric Vehicle Charging Letter of Intent for Parkway Station

PREVIOUS ACTIONS:

On March 15, 2021, the city council approved an agreement with Blink Network for electric vehicle charging stations at the Maple Grove Transit Station.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign letter of intent with Blink regarding electric vehicle charging stations for Parkway Station.

COMMENTS:

On March 15, 2021, the city council approved an agreement with Blink Network for four electric vehicle charging (EVC) stations at the Maple Grove Transit Station. Under this agreement, Blink provided, installed, operates, and maintains the EVC stations at no cost to the city. Blink also reimburses the city for the EVC electrical costs. Customers using the Blink EVC stations are charged a fee for this service via their personal credit card. Depending on the amount of customer usage, a percentage of the overall revenue comes back to the city.

Attachment A is the letter of intent (LOI) with Blink to explore EVCs at Parkway Station. With electric vehicle ownership increasing, staff feels it is important to explore further expansion of EVCs locations in the city. The expansion of this demonstration project is a natural fit with Maple Grove Transit's mission and goals, especially the environmental benefits.

The LOI does not commit the city to agree to the project. However, the LOI is needed to allow Blink to submit an application for grant funding under the Minnesota Volkswagen Settlement Beneficiary Mitigation Plan. If awarded, Blink will be able to offer a full turnkey agreement to install, operate and maintain four EVC stations at Parkway Station at no cost to the city, similar to the agreement for the Maple Grove Transit Station.

If staff and Blink feel compelled to move forward with the project after these LOI steps, an agreement with project details would be presented to city council for consideration.

The City Attorney's office has reviewed the proposed LOI.

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ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Blink Electric Vehicle Charging Letter of Intent for Parkway Station