



**CITY OF RICHMOND**

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

**TO:** Public Works and Transportation Committee  
**FROM:** Gordon Chan, P. Eng.  
Manager, Transportation

To PW&T - September 20, 2000  
**DATE:** September 11, 2000  
**FILE:** 1040-01

**RE: FEDERAL GREEN MUNICIPAL ENABLING FUND - APPLICATION FOR ELECTRICALLY POWERED VEHICLE PILOT PROGRAM**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That staff pursue establishing a partnership with the local automobile dealers and manufacturers to secure a one-year pilot study for an electrically powered vehicle as part of the City's fleet for a grant application to be submitted by the City to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Enabling Fund.
2. That the electrically-powered vehicle pilot program be referred to the Corporate Sponsorship Committee for review.
3. That, if the grant from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Enabling Fund is approved for the above study, a project steering committee be established with representation by Council, as required under the terms of the grant agreement.

Gordon Chan, P. Eng.  
Manager, Transportation

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<b>ROUTED TO:</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>
Manager, Fleet Operations. <i>Verbal</i> .....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

## STAFF REPORT

### ORIGIN

In July, 2000, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities invited member municipalities across Canada to apply for grants for feasibility studies that assess the technical, engineering, environmental, and/or economic viability of proposed municipal environmental projects aimed at improving energy or process efficiency. To qualify for this grant, introduced as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Enabling Fund, the feasibility studies need to assess projects that would, if implemented, generate financial savings in municipal operations over five to ten years. The studies are also required to yield long term payback that would aim for energy or process efficiency improvements of 35 to 50 percent or more above the current levels.

In August, 2000, staff submitted an "intent to apply" to the Fund for cost-sharing a one-year pilot study using an electrically powered vehicle as part of the City's fleet. Staff were subsequently invited to submit a formal application on this initiative by September 30, 2000.

This staff report presents a description of the proposed project and partnership, as well as seeks Council's endorsement on the proposed pilot study.

### ANALYSIS

#### **1. Rationale and Description of the Proposed Project**

Automobile travel represents a significant source of air pollution, as the burning of fuel releases carbon dioxide which is the major pollutant causing global warming. Staff are proposing to apply for funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Enabling Fund to study the feasibility of using a vehicle that is at least partially electricity-powered as part of the City's fleet over a one-year period. The general goal of this project is to reduce the overall emissions generated by the City's fleet.

If the results of the study indicate that there is a business case for using this type of vehicle as part of the City's fleet, the current fleet could be replaced over time with this type of vehicle. The pilot program will be evaluated based on the following information:

- Estimated energy efficiency improvement;
- Cost justification;
- Vehicle lifecycle;
- Maintenance costs; and
- Reliability.

This project is an important leadership initiative. With sponsor logos (City of Richmond, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and an automobile manufacturer or dealer) placed on the vehicle, the presence of the vehicle in the community will serve the purpose of educating the public on the availability of new clean vehicle technology and the importance of protecting the environment. This project is expected to generate significant interest by private organizations and the public as well as local and national media.

## 2. Partnership Opportunity

Staff have started to investigate opportunities to partner with a local and national automobile manufacturer or dealer to obtain a vehicle that is at least partially electrically powered. Staff are currently carrying out discussions with local automobile dealers and manufacturers to secure a partnership for a one-year pilot study using this special type of vehicle as part of the City's fleet.

The City's Partnerships and Alliances strategic team will be asked to endorse the submission of this pilot program to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Enabling Fund for cost-sharing.

## 3. Council Involvement in the Study

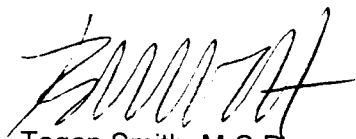
If the grant from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Enabling Fund is approved for partial funding for this pilot project, it would be required by the grant program that a project steering committee be established with representation by Council. This steering committee would oversee issues related to the implementation of the pilot program, measurement of results of the program, and further implementation of electrically powered vehicles as part of the City's fleet.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

None to the City. It is expected that all costs of this project would be shared by the grant from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Enabling Fund and an automobile manufacturer or dealer. The total cost of the project will be \$22,000, with a one-year lease cost being approximately \$15,000 and the sponsor decal cost being \$7,000. It is proposed that if the grant (which would cover 50% of the total project cost) is approved, funding for the remaining 50% of the cost would be sought through partnership with the local automobile dealer by donating the vehicle and assuming any related maintenance costs for the one-year study period.

## CONCLUSION

At this time, staff are seeking endorsement from Council to apply to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Enabling Fund for 50% funding of a one-year pilot study of an electrically powered vehicle as part of the City's fleet. In order to secure the remaining 50% of the required funding, staff recommend that a partnership be sought from local automobile dealers and manufacturers for the pilot study.



Tegan Smith, M.C.P.  
Transportation Planning Analyst

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