



To: Mayor and City Council

From: Donald Kom, Electric Services Director

Date: August 12, 2025

Subject: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Submission

Staff became aware of the recent Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) opportunity from the Iowa Economic Development and Finance Authority to advance electric vehicle (EV) charging. **Since this aligns with the City's Climate Action Plan, and Capital Improvement Plan, and given the short timeframe to apply, staff proceeded with submitting a proposal believed to be feasible to accomplish.**

This memo is meant to apprise the City Council of the staff's submittal of this grant opportunity. No action is required of the City Council. More information about the opportunity is provided below.

The State of Iowa established the EECBG with \$2 million it received from the federal government. Approximately three-quarters of the funds were distributed in the initial round. With the remaining funds, the EECBG program has sought additional applications, inviting proposals from local governments, nonprofits, and for-profit entities.

In reviewing the grant opportunity, staff identified a qualifying project that aligned with the Climate Action Plan and the 'Downtown Ames: A Guiding Vision for the Future.'

The proposed project involves the installation of a Level 3 Direct Current (DC) Fast Charger electric vehicle charging station near the Hy-Vee Fast & Fresh location. A Level 3 DC Fast Charger operates between 400 – 1000V AC, supplying 50 kW and above. DC Fast Chargers, which are generally only available in public locations, can typically charge a vehicle to 80% in approximately 20-30 minutes.

This grant application has been pursued by staff in part due to the cancellation of a previously planned EV charging project south of Highway 30. The Level 3 charging facility project was not selected for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Program that was

submitted in fall 2024. Therefore, the \$280,000 in Electric Utility funds that were intended to be used as a local match for the grant remain available for other electric vehicle charging projects.

The grant does not require a match; however, priority is given to projects that support the local downtown plan and offer a cost-share. The City of Ames Electric Department has committed a \$105,000 cost-share, which will be funded through the department's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan and commercial rebate program. If awarded, the grant would provide an additional \$156,000, which is anticipated to cover the cost of the charger equipment and the installation.

Applications were due on August 1 and required a detailed project description for how awarded funds would be utilized, as well as a preliminary project timeline. A conservative timeline is outlined below:

1. Engineering and Design (Target Date 12-01-2025): Complete pre-construction and engineering work required to prepare the site for installation.
2. Equipment Procurement (Target Date: 01-31-2026): Purchase order processing and shipping arrangements.
3. Permit Acquisition (Target Date: 02-01-2026): Ensure the appropriate electrical work permits are obtained for the EV charger.
4. Construction (Target Date: 05-01-2026): Charging station location preparation and installation.
5. Inspection and Commissioning (Target Date: 05-15-2026): Charging stations provisioning and activation on our existing network.
6. Public Opening (Target Date: 06-01-2026): Charging stations open to the public.

EECBG plans to notify awardees on September 5, 2025. Projects will need to be completed by September 30, 2026.

A project budget is shown below:

Funding Sources		Expenses	
EECBG Grant	\$ 156,000		
EV Infrastructure CIP	100,000		
Commercial EV Rebate	5,000		
		Charging Equipment	\$ 206,202
		Transformer	25,000
		Labor/Installation	23,000
TOTAL	\$ 261,000	TOTAL	\$ 254,202

ATTACHMENT(S):

[EECBG Grant Submission.pdf](#)