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Information Item No. 6
Transportation Standing Committee
May 28, 2015

TO: Chair and Members of Transportation Standing Committee
Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY: Jane Fraser, Director of Operation Support

DATE: February 27, 2015

SUBJECT: Support for Electric Vehicles

INFORMATON REPORT

ORIGIN

At the January 22, 2015 Transportation Steering Committee, the Committee requested a staff report regarding Halifax Regional Municipality's support for electronic vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 79 (1) (o) of the Halifax regional Municipal Charter gives Council the authority to expend funds on public transportation services.

BACKGROUND

On January 22, 2015 a representative of the Nova Scotia Electric Vehicle Highway Services made a presentation to the Transportation Standing Committee. The presentation introduced the Committee to the Electric mobility Canada Conference that is being held in Halifax May 25-27, 2015. The conference is kicked-off after Sun Country Highway Ltd. E-Mazing race. The E-Mazing race is a coast to coast rally of approximately 300 electric vehicles.

In support of the race Sun Country Highway Ltd. has announced that up to 100 AC charging stations will be provided in Nova Scotia in recognition of the Electric Mobility Canada conference. The installations are to be completed by the May conference, where possible. It is estimated that the Halifax Region will require approximately 40 charging stations to support the 300 electric vehicles participating in the race.

There are currently 13 charging stations in Halifax, view <http://www.caa.ca/evstations/> for a listing of locations. These stations have been constructed by the private sector.

DISCUSSION

In the presentation that was made by the representative from the Nova Scotia Electric Vehicle Highway Services, two requests were presented for consideration.

The first request was that HRM, in concert with the Department of Energy and NSPI, formulate a strategy to promote the use of electric vehicles, with the aim of reducing the import of fossil fuel and increasing the use of locally generated electricity from renewable sources. The strategy would be a highlight at the 2015 Halifax Electric Mobility Canada Conference to be held in Halifax in May.

The completion of a strategy for the use of electric vehicles in HRM is a prudent step. Before launching an initiative to invest or promote the use of electric vehicles HRM should look how an initiative such as this fits within existing policy.

What are the required investments to make the initiative a success, what are the opportunities for partnerships, and what role should HRM play are just a few of the questions that should be answered as part of a strategy. Unfortunately this strategy cannot be initiated prior to the May 2015, Electric Mobility Canada Conference.

The second request contained in the presentation was that Regional Council contribute \$16,000, approximately 14% of the total costs, to help defray the installation costs for up to 40 AC electric vehicle charging stations across the Halifax Region, for the immediate purpose of supporting the arrival in the province of electric vehicles in connection with the national Electric Mobility Canada conference and the Sun Country Highway E-Mazing Race.

Sun Country Highway Ltd. is a private sector firm that supplies chargers for electric vehicles; they sponsor the E-Mazing race as a means to raise awareness of electric vehicles and promoting zero emission transportation options. The company's goal for 2015 is to install 1,000 charging stations in Canada. This would double the number of charging stations in the country. Sun Country Highway Ltd is focussed on providing environmentally and economically sustainable transportation options.

Given that the Sun Country Highway is a private sector company, contributing to the installation of charging stations that are supplied by Sun Country Highway Ltd could be viewed as a sole source contract and a potential violation of the municipality's procurement policy.

If HRM wants to invest in electric vehicle promotion through the supply and installation of charging stations it should be done after a strategy, or business case, has been carried out and through a competitive process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the recommended approach in this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not required.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

No negative impacts.

ALTERNATIVES

ATTACHMENTS

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/index.php> [or other appropriate Committee link] then choose the appropriate [Community Council/Board] and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

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