THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA

REPORT NO. SI-2024-0002

FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL
January 24, 2024

SUBJECT: EV ChargeON Grant Program Update

1. RECOMMENDATION:

1. **That Council receive Report No. SI-2024-0002 prepared by the Strategic Initiatives Department dated January 24, 2024 respecting the EV ChargeON Grant Program Update;**

2. **That Council direct staff to apply to the EV ChargeON program for EV Charger Installations at the Replacement Civic Centre;**

3. **That Council designate signing authority to Rob Wheater, Deputy CAO/Treasurer, to complete and sign the Proof of Funding document referenced in Attachment 1, demonstrating a $20,000 cost-share contribution from the Replacement Civic Centre project budget; and**

4. **That Council direct staff to put forward a Business Case for 2025 to create an Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Plan and explore the option of combining the review with the Green Fleet Strategy.**

2. PURPOSE:

This report provides an overview of the Province of Ontario's EV ChargeON grant program and recommendations on which locations to apply for grant funding to support electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure as well as next steps to support the EV charging network in Georgina.

3. BACKGROUND:

On June 22, 2022, Council endorsed the following recommendation from the Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee: "Council direct staff to investigate funding/grant opportunities for installing electric vehicle chargers in Georgina at various municipal facilities". The recently released EV ChargeON Grant Program is an opportunity to receive grant funding for electric vehicle charger installation.

EV ChargeON Grant Program Overview

The Province of Ontario's EV ChargeON program aims to increase the number of public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across Ontario. To be eligible for funding, the EV ChargeON program requires the applicant meet the following requirements:

- A minimum of four (4) charging ports must be installed per location (in other words, four cars must be able to charge at the same time)
- The chargers must be available to the public 24/7
- Chargers must be installed within 24 months of approval
- Notice of approval is expected in Spring 2024

The maximum funding allocation is $7,500 per Level 2 charger port installed, or 75% of total project costs, whichever is the lesser. Since the minimum required is for four (4) charger ports, the Town is eligible to receive $30,000 of cost-share contribution per location. For the cost-share requirement, the Town is required to confirm proof of funding contribution at the time of application. The deadline to apply to the grant program is January 31, 2024.

Municipal and Regional-Owned EV Charging Infrastructure in Georgina

Currently, the following locations have municipal or regional-owned EV charging stations:

Location	**Service Provider**	**Number of Ports**	**Usage Rate**
Pefferlaw Park	Flo	2	Charger will be in use Q1 2024
MURC	Chargepoint	4	Charger will be in use Q1 2024
LINK – currently operated by York Region	Chargepoint	*2*	2023: 58,497 minutes (975 hours)

Based on the recent EV charger installation at Pefferlaw Park in Fall 2023, it is expected to cost $50,000 per location to install 4-port charging units. A breakdown of these cost estimates is below:

Installation Costs
Site Electrical Capacity Assessment: $3,000
Charging Units ($13,000 per 2-port unit x2): $26,000
Infrastructure upgrades and site works: $21,000
Total: $50,000

At a $50,000 installation cost per location, and a $30,000 contribution from the grant, the Town would need to commit $20,000 for 4-port charging stations.

In addition, the Town would need to include roughly $2,050 in annual operating costs per location to operate and maintain the chargers. A breakdown of these cost estimates is below:

Annual Operating Costs (for 4-ports)
Software Subscription: $1,000
Extended Warranty: $250
Maintenance/Repairs: $800
Total per year: $2,050

Cost recovery potential is still to be determined, which will consider pricing structure and expected usage against annual operating costs and depreciated capital value.

4. ANALYSIS:

Identifying locations with planned EV charging station installation – Replacement Civic Centre

Based on this funding opportunity, staff first identified whether there are any approved projects that meet the funding requirements and would not require additional budget requests. The Replacement Civic Centre project will include charging infrastructure that meets the grant requirements, and therefore, should Council endorse the staff recommendation, staff can apply for $30,000 in cost-share funding for this location. Since the installation of charging infrastructure is already part of the project scope, the project budget includes the $20,000 contribution that can be leveraged for the grant, and no additional funding is needed.

There are no other EV charging station installations planned within the eligibility timeframe.

Identifying other locations for EV charging station installations

Staff next assessed whether there is an opportunity to identify additional locations that are suitable for EV charging infrastructure to take advantage of this grant funding as directed by Council, with the understanding that additional budget approval would be required.

To provide a recommendation, staff considered costs, locations, community impacts, and the broader EV infrastructure network.

Staff brainstormed potential locations and provided feedback on the benefits and limitations of each one. Below is a list of some of these considerations:

- Facilities – Unsure of infrastructure requirements and upgrade costs as it varies per facility, and unsure of demand for charging infrastructure based on network of chargers nearby
- Parks - Parking concerns at Parks (limited parking, charging spaces take away spaces for the public), difficulty enforcing correct use of the spaces, and not completely plowed in the winter months (not 24/7 access which is a grant requirement)
- Downtown BIAs - Could be an Economic Development benefit to installing chargers in downtown BIAs, but running power to these locations may be an issue, and available parking spaces are limited especially on main streets.
- Other locations are not used as frequently by the public or all year round (Stephen Leacock Theatre, Udora Community Hall, ROC)

The initial assessment raised the concern that staff did not have the necessary information to effectively assess and identify priority locations for EV charging infrastructure. With the goal of being efficient with taxpayers' dollars, and strategically implementing a plan that will lead to the greatest use, staff recommend that a 2025 business case be put forward for an Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Plan. Staff can explore whether it is advisable to combine the strategy with the Green Fleet Study, also being put forward in 2025. The plan would provide clarity on the following considerations to implement a cost-effective approach:

1. Current Usage and Public Need - Assess usage of existing chargers, gaps in charging infrastructure, expected public use at these locations, and impact to parking spaces/tourists/local businesses to understand the business case and associated community impacts.
2. Infrastructure and Logistics – Understand the electrical capacity and infrastructure needs per facility or location, and the associated costs and impacts.
3. Service Provider – Provide clarity about the Service Provider (multiple service providers exist) and type of charger to be consistent across the Town.
4. Pricing – Determine hourly rate for use, considering the breakeven point of operating the charger, costs at nearby chargers, cost recovery and revenue potential, and policy around subsidizing electric vehicle use.
5. Costs – Understand installation and annual operating costs and options for the funding and/or offsetting of these costs.
6. Connection to Internal Green Fleet Strategy – Analyze how to prioritize chargers for internal use (fleet and staff) versus public use.
7. Municipal Role in Broader Network – Assess our role in the charging infrastructure network, and how else we can work with businesses, developers, and residents to cost effectively build the network.

5. RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Advancing Environmental Sustainability
Supporting the adoption of electric vehicles in our community promotes environmental sustainability, a key objective in our strategic plan. Electric vehicles are growing in popularity due in part to the environmental benefits which aligns to the Town's commitment to developing a Climate Change Action Plan, Green Fleet Strategy, and reporting on the number of environmental sustainability initiatives developed and implemented by the Town.

6. FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY IMPACT:

In applying to the EV ChargeON grant program for the Replacement Civic Centre project, the Town can leverage $20,000 from the Replacement Civic Centre budget that would have been allocated to EV Charging Station Installation, in order to request $30,000 in grant funding for the charging infrastructure.

There would be a business case put forward in the 2025 Budget to develop the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Plan.

7. PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS:

Not Applicable

8. CONCLUSION:

The EV ChargeON grant program provides an opportunity to secure $30,000 in cost-share funding per location for the installation of Level 2 EV charging infrastructure (four ports). Based on the Town's previous project experience, it would cost an estimated $50,000 per location to install 4-port Level 2 EV charging infrastructure. Staff recommend applying for funding for the Civic Centre EV charging infrastructure which is already in the project scope with no need for additional budget allocation. If successful, the grant funding will provide $30,000 to offset project costs.

Based on the preliminary investigation into potential locations for new EV charging stations, staff identified several key questions that need to be answered to be cost-effective in the selection of these locations. Therefore, staff recommend putting forward a 2025 Business Case to develop an Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Plan to prioritize investment efficiently and cost-effectively in electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the municipality.

APPROVALS

Prepared By:	Simone Weinstein Program Manager
Reviewed By:	Olga Lawton Manager, Corporate Strategy and Transformation
Recommended By:	Shawn Nastke Director, Strategic Initiatives
Approved By:	Ryan Cronsberry Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments: Proof of Funding Template