



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

April 11, 2016

Mr. Scott Reamy
External Affairs Manager
Dominion Energy Services, Inc.
3072 Centreville Road
Herndon, Virginia 20171

RE: Dominion Energy Proposal for the City of Falls Church Electric Vehicle Initiative.

Dear Mr. Reamy:

For years, the City of Falls Church Energy Transition Subcommittee has been actively working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions generated by City residents with measurable success. The City realizes, however, we must do much more to quickly minimize one of the largest threats in the history of our time - climate change.

Realizing our City covers a small footprint, we nonetheless have many highly educated and engaged residents willing to adopt new methods of transportation in the interest of reducing their carbon footprint. The City also values working collaboratively with other jurisdictions in Northern Virginia, so that results from a concerted environmental campaign will yield impacts beyond our borders.

One option with strong promise is reducing emissions from our tailpipes through the deployment of electric vehicles. Knowing that our region is in an area of nonattainment for ozone, air quality is a significant concern for local residents. Our City is disproportionately impacted by poor air quality days being bordered on one side by a major interstate - I-66 - and a major thoroughfare through the heart of the City via Route 7 (Broad Street). If we could reduce the emissions coming from vehicles both within and beyond our City, we could help the region's air quality and simultaneously reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We are also pleased by Dominion Energy's efforts to increase renewable energy in its resource mix, and feel that the emissions reductions could be even greater through our campaign to electrify vehicles.

While the City has not yet specifically established a target number of vehicles deployed, early conversations have set goals as high as 50% by 2030. We feel that this target may be achievable through a comprehensive package of incentives, education and awareness, and accessible and convenient public, residential, and workplace charging. Given our small size, it is critical that we get help from other organizations to achieve these goals.

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To date, the City has secured eight Level 2 public chargers through the Electrify America program that will be located at the renovated City Hall. The City is also working to secure a DC fast charger through the EVgo program through the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality near the corner of Broad Street and Washington Street. Public and residential charging was also required for several new major projects in the City, including Founders Row, Insight, and the Kensington. The City is also exploring installing EV chargers as part of the library renovation project.

Despite this progress, we realize much more needs to be done. The City is exploring options to reduce vehicle taxes for electric vehicle drivers, secure booth space at the weekly Farmers Market to educate residents about EVs, and volunteers have published articles about EVs in the local weekly paper, the *Falls Church News Press*.

When we initially approached Dominion Energy at the end of 2018, we were pleased to learn about Dominion's efforts to quickly develop an electric vehicle offering for residents in its service territory. When we met with you in January, we were invited to submit a proposal. After thorough discussions, we have decided to request two options that would greatly increase the magnitude of our EV initiative efforts. These include:

1) Electric School Bus Demonstration Project

The City is known in the region for its commitment to high quality public education and many parents move to this area specifically for the academic programs. These parents are exceptionally engaged in the schools as demonstrated by the high level of community engagement in PTA, School Board, and school-related City Council decisions.

Traditional diesel school buses are known for having extremely poor on-board air quality creating both near-term and potentially long-term health issues for the City's children. Through a City Electric School Bus Demonstration, Dominion could not only experiment with the technology, but the City could use it as a tool to promote electrification via the children and their active parents.

The City is requesting a total of four electric school buses and the corresponding charging infrastructure. The City is open to discussing options that make economic and financial sense for both the City and Dominion. That said, this is still a nascent technology and the City wants to be a first adopter and influencer among other school districts in the Commonwealth to showcase the positive benefits of electric buses.

Because the City is moving its current bus maintenance and parking location from the City's high school to a new location, now is a good time to configure the parking lot for electrified buses. The entire lot will be repaved and the electrical reconfigured to handle the new site needs. The City would appreciate some consulting assistance as we evaluate options. The City would prefer a Type C bus, but is agnostic to the manufacturer as long as it meets the City's safety and technology requirements (e.g., on-board GPS location tracking, side cameras). We have confirmed that the Virginia Department of Education will allow FCCPS to use electric school buses, and our small jurisdictional boundaries and bus routes along the highly trafficked Route 7 provides great visibility for this project.

Knowing that electric school buses could have an impact on on-peak energy consumption levels – particularly if scaled up – the City proposes having the school buses enrolled in a managed charging program. The City would work with Dominion to modify charging activity to better correspond with off-peak time periods that would still allow for optimal use of the school buses.

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2) EV Charging Incentives for Multi-Unit Dwellings

The City would also be interested in working with Dominion to implement a rebate program for multi-unit dwelling chargers. The City has a combined total of over 700 condo and apartment units. Knowing that many of the individuals living in these units do not have access to a dedicated home or workplace charger, it would be nearly impossible for many of them to logistically own and operate an electric vehicle despite the positive financial benefits.

The rebate program could be similar in nature to other utility rebates whereby an apartment or condo building owner could select from a pre-approved list of equipment and vendors. Once installed they could claim a certain rebate amount based on the total number of charging ports with an agreed-upon length of time keeping the infrastructure in place.

Similar to the electric bus program, it would be great if Dominion could also leverage those multi-unit dwelling chargers for a managed charging program to help increase knowledge around this technology, minimize local impacts to our grid system, and keep rates low for City residents.

The City feels strongly about maintaining social equity and environmental justice for our community members. By gaining access to charging infrastructure, all members of our community, including our low- and moderate-income households, would have access to the financial benefits that come from transportation electrification.

We appreciate your consideration of this proposal and would be happy to discuss the details of it with your team in person. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Wyatt Shields
City Manager, City of Falls Church



Peter Noonan
Superintendent, Falls Church City Public Schools System