

# Staff Report to Council

**Title:** Electric Vehicle ChargeON Grant

**Report Number:** Operations-2023-26

**Director:** Infrastructure & Development

**Manager:** Operations

**Meeting Date:**

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

**Date to be considered by Council:**

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

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## Recommendation:

That Council direct staff to submit an application to the Ministry of Transportation for the Electric Vehicle (EV) ChargeON Program Grant.

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## Executive Summary:

On October 20, 2023, the Ministry of Transportation launched the EV ChargeON Program for communities outside of large urban centers. The Ministry's goal is to assist smaller communities in acquiring Electric Vehicle Charging Stations and to improve network coverage of Electric Vehicle fast chargers to reduce range anxiety by filling existing gaps and supporting long-distance travel. The deadline for the application period is January 31, 2024.

## Strategic Priorities:

B.5-Evaluate and proactively plan for infrastructure to meet population growth and long-term sustainability

## Financial Considerations:

The Ministry of Transportation is offering 50-75% of capital funding through post-construction rebates up to \$1,000,000 per Project. As the applicant, we must demonstrate existing financing or intent to finance 100% of Project costs prior to seeking reimbursement from the Ministry. Financial support is based on the total amount of funds available for the Program and the Program timeframe. Recipients are responsible for funding any cost overruns related to their Project. We have estimated that the cost for a Level 3 EV Charging Station would be approximately \$120,000 for the Municipality to fund initially. Once the installation of the project is complete and operational, the Ministry will cover up to 75% of capital funding through post construction rebates, providing the Municipality with a rebate of up to \$90,000 for our EV Charging Station Project.

The expectation is that the unit would be a fee for service with some amount of revenue received by the municipality, depending on the usage. It is anticipated that revenue would be set aside for future maintenance and replacement of the new asset.

**Policy:**

N/A

**Context and Background Information:**

The Ministry of Transportation is offering an application-based grant program that will cover up to 50-75% of capital funding through post-construction rebates. They will cover costs up to \$1,000,000 per Project. As a part of the application process, it is required that we submit documentation to confirm the validity of Project details, establish property ownership or access, as well as to have Council support for the Project. If the Municipality's application is approved by the Ministry, we will have 24 months from the receipt of Letter of Agreement date to complete installation and operationalize their approved EV chargers.

After having the EV Ports installed for a year, the Municipality will be required to submit Annual Usage Reports to the Ministry, showing the usage data from the previous 12 months, for a five-year period.

With the rise in the purchases of electric vehicles throughout our area, it would be beneficial to have more options to offer our community and others travelling to Kincardine. From a tourism standpoint, it would be a good way to help promote visitors with electric vehicles to come to Kincardine and know that they will have this option available to them. This possibility helps to bridge the gap between communities and improve network coverage throughout Ontario.

Currently, in the Municipality of Kincardine, there are few Electric Vehicle charging stations available to our residents and our visitors. To keep up with the growth of our community and the changeover of vehicles to electric, this grant would be a benefit to our Municipality.

**Consultation Overview:**

Community Input - In 2022 staff conducted a public survey through Kincardine Talks (Bang the Table) to gain insight into the use of EV vehicles in our Municipality and the need for a charging station. The results indicated a move towards EV vehicles and the need for more EV charging stations in the Municipality.

**Origin:** Electric Vehicle ChargeON Grant

**Implementation Considerations:**

The Municipality would need to have properties in mind as to where the Level 3 EV Charging Station would go, so that it is accessible and available to the public 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. EV Chargers that are not accessible to the public are ineligible for this Program. Our proposal for the location of the Level 3 EV Charging Station would be at either within the Victoria Park Street parking along Durham Market and/or the Davidson Centre

parking lot. The Grant cannot be used for replacement of other existing EV Charging Stations.

By the Spring 2024, we would have to produce a signed copy of the Letter of Agreement and be prepared to start the Project and complete it within a 24-month period. After Project completion, the Ministry will review and, subject to compliance, will release Project Funds.

At 6, 12 and 18 months from Letter of Agreement, the Ministry reaches out to Recipients for progress updates.

**Risk Analysis:**

N/A

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**Attachments:** N/A

**Prepared by:** Kelly Vickery, Operations Administrative Assistant

**Submitted by:** Corey Voisin. Manager of Operations