

Spokane Regional Clean Transportation Coalition

Meeting Notes

January 18, 2024

In attendance: Rendall Farley, Rick Giddings, Jami Hayes, Char Kay, Kelly Thomas, Christian Bigger, Jackie Churchill, Dave Stensland, Eve McMenemy, Jason Lien

- Agenda Item 1 – Announcements / Updates
 - Jason highlighted cold weather impacts on electric motors. The group discussed the effect on charging equipment and their electric fleets.
- Agenda Item 2 – Review / update process for Regional Charging Buildout Plan
 - The Regional Buildout Plan was developed by Avista and other stakeholders in 2020. It shows recommended site locations for EV charging stations in our region (see [Avista's Electric Transportation website](#) to view the map). The plan was the basis for existing and planned installations funded through the Dept of Commerce in a joint project between Avista and SRTC. Avista suggests regular updates to the plan to ensure continued and efficient buildout of EV infrastructure.
 - The question is what is the process for refreshing the buildout plan? Avista does not necessarily want to be the lead for doing this, considering there are areas not served by Avista and interest in encouraging private investment in infrastructure to complement public investment.
 - Jason offered that SRTC is working on a Smart Mobility Plan as part of its next long-range transportation plan update (with consultant assistance). Refreshing the Regional Buildout Plan would logically fit in this work effort and allow SRTC to coordinate with stakeholders from regional jurisdictions, utilities, etc. One constraint is SRTC's planning area is limited to Spokane County.
 - Dave Stensland asked if social aspects are considered for charging locations—i.e. basic amenities and other land use considerations where people might be waiting during charging. Rendall replied that this is typically part of the site assessment methodology. Dave offered that Itron does not have geographic constraints and he has been looking at national opportunities through MPOs.
 - To enable coordination with areas outside of SRTC's planning area, Char Kay suggested reaching out to NEW RTPO to the north and Palouse RTPO to the south. NEW RTPO has formed an electrification steering committee. Another good resource is Tonia Buell at WSDOT.
- Agenda Item 3 – Review of 2024 Grant Opportunities
 - Jason shared the following table of potential grant opportunities in 2024. The table is updated to reflect additional suggestions provided in the meeting.

Program	Est. NOFO	Est. Application Due	Source
<u>Climate Pollution Reduction Grant</u>	Jan 2024	April 1, 2024*	US EPA (IRA)
<u>Charging & Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grants</u>	March 2024	June 2024	FHWA (BIL)
<u>Level 2 EV Charging</u>	Sept 2024	November 2024	WA Dept of Ecology
<u>HD/MD diesel to zero-emission vehicles/equipment</u>	July 2024	October 2024	WA Dept of Ecology
<u>WA EV Charging Program</u>	Sept 2024	December 2024	WA Dept of Commerce
<u>SMART Grants Program</u>	August 2024	October 2024	US DOT (BIL)
<u>Grid Resilience Utility & Industry Grants</u>	Next round in late 2024		US DOE
<u>Zero-emission Access Program (ZAP)</u>	March 2025	May 2025	WSDOT
<u>Zero-emission Vehicle Infrastructure Partnerships (ZEVIP)</u>	March 2025	June 2025	WSDOT
<u>NEVI Formula Program</u>	TBD	TBD	FHWA (BIL)
<u>Carbon Reduction Program</u> **	TBD	TBD	FHWA (BIL)

*NOI to apply due 2/1/24

**Portion of funding allocated to MPOs for projects that meet intent of program

- City of Spokane is submitting for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program re: EV battery storage and return to grid technologies. Dave (Itron) is also involved.
- Agenda Item 4 – Potential Guest Speakers
 - Jason asked if the group had any guest speakers they’d like to hear from this year. Rendall mentioned a person he saw at a conference that has expertise in fleet electrification.
- Agenda Item 5 – Next Meeting

- The meeting ended at 4:05pm. Jason will send an invite for the next meeting in March 2024. Eve mentioned that the Climate Commitment Act will be coming to a public vote and this could have implications on funding in WA state.
- Rick shared that the City of Spokane is returning to use of conventional diesel fuel in the winter as renewable diesel's gel point is at a higher temperature and affects vehicle operations during cold spells. The City is also working toward greater adoption of renewable natural gas in its fleet.