

Arlington County C2E2 Energy Committee

Meeting Summary

Wednesday, June 8, 2021

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Held via Conference Call on MS Teams Due to COVID-19 Emergency Status

Agenda Items

1. Greetings and introductions (7:00)

- Tim Effio welcomed everyone. He noted that while tonight's agenda is somewhat light, we expect a lot of discussion about the CIP. He welcomed everyone to look at the links that Claire shared. He wants to know what the Energy Committee (EC) thinks about the CIP. Also, the EC sent to staff some questions about electric vehicles (EVs), which we will look at later in the meeting.

2. Review/approve agenda and May meeting summary (7:05)

- Both the June meeting agenda and May meeting summary were unanimously approved

3. Public Comment on General Topics (7:10)

- Three members from the public joined the meeting:
 - Ronald Decker joined and is interested in being part of the EC. He moved from Chicago to Arlington about 6 months ago.
 - Aaron Kocian – oldmankocian@hotmail.com joined the meeting. He used to work for the County, plus he has solar PV on his house.
 - Katherine Roberts also joined the meeting. Solar and EVs are her specific areas of interest.

4. Monthly update from the AIRE team (7:20) – Rich Dooley

- Five studies were completed – the January 2022 PPT slides showed different reports that no longer show up on the AIRE Progress Report on Studies and Plans:
 - EVSE Electrical Study – Q1 2022
 - That is a subset of and rolled into the DecTrans Plan
 - Parts of the DecTrans Plan were inadvertently broken out as standalone projects or reports in the Jan 2022 Progress Report on Studies and Plans
 - The DecTrans Plan draft will be available at end of this CY, and Q2 2023 is the final plan date
 - There is also a public engagement element of the DecTrans Plan
 - GB Bonus Systems Assessment
 - Fleet Matrix
 - 2020 GB Bonus Cost Analysis
 - Electrification study
 - There was a 2021 Steven Winter Associates (SWA) report, which was provided to C2E2. Staff found some issues with the report, e.g., use cases for the buildings were limited, which prompted the County to do this more expansive electrification project
 - Demetra noted that staff previously sent to the EC the old SWA report.

- John Bloom noted that he recalled that SWA report being distributed to the C2E2.
- The updated electrification study is being done using FY23 funding
 - Staff will have a report to share once that report is done
- Steve Burr provided the EC information about the project he is managing
 - 12 scenarios per each facility and seeing what outcomes would look like, including what would happen via electrification
 - It is more than replacing equipment with like equipment
- Tim asked Stephanie Burns and Rick Keller to think about how we should look at EVSE and how the EC might want to prioritize to C2E2 and the CB the analysis of what is needed to support the growth of EV usage and growth

5. CIP Review (7:45) – Claire Noakes

- Claire sent out to EC members an e-mail earlier today that had links and other CIP information
 - She highlighted the County Manager’s message about the CIP and how it relates to the CEP
- She was surprised to see the APS Electric Bus Grant from the Commonwealth as an accomplishment, since APS declined the buses since the Grant did not pay for the charging equipment
 - Demetra offered an update, noting that the County paid for the charging infrastructure which enabled APS to get the electric buses it wanted
- The stormwater infrastructure that is noted in the CIP is carbon intensive, so how does that help us reach our GHGe reduction goals?
- There is \$1.9M being noted for a microgrid feasibility study.
 - It is challenging for the EC to comment meaningfully on the CIP entries such as this since we do not know if \$1.9M is enough to conduct such a study.
- While the \$1.5M for public EV charging seems low, Demetra noted that the money is to provide publicly accessible EVSE on County sites, e.g., Courthouse, Central Library, community centers
- For facility energy upgrades, the CIP references the building electrification study.
 - **REQUEST:** Can the EC see the Building Decision Support Tool once it is done?
- The CIP included \$89M to convert ART buses to electric buses, which is great to see
- Tim asked what the EC would need to send to C2E2 to support C2E2’s letter to the CB about the CIP
 - John B.: EC comments would need to be sent to C2E2 quickly to enter into the letter-drafting process that may already be underway by C2E2
- Claire: She asked whether C2E2 planned to offer comments at an upcoming CIP discussion (June 14) with the County Board. She also asked whether someone from the EC could also provide comments at the CIP Work Session.
 - Tim supported that idea of providing comments at the June 14th meeting and suggested bringing that up at the next C2E2 meeting.
 - Tim would prefer to provide comments, if possible, at a CIP Work Session (for example, June 14, 3-6 pm, for Facilities) as opposed to the June 28 CIP Public Hearing
- Tim: Thinks that the progress toward CEP goals is not measurable. He does not think we have done that.
 - Greg B.: The Metrics Group of the EC is looking at the CEP and developing a list of things that should be measured.
 - **ACTION:** Greg asked whether the AIRE Team could meet with the EC Measurement Group to discuss the measurement process, metrics, etc.
 - Jonathan M.: He still wonders whether the 2019 CEP includes metrics that can be used to measure progress toward goals. He would like to see quantitative goals set forth for some of
- John B. – Noted that Fairfax County government operations is aiming for its operations to become carbon neutral by 2040. The community goal is still 2050 for carbon neutrality.

- Tim agrees with Claire that there is a bit of greenwashing in the amount of money that is supposedly being devoted to address climate change.
 - How does the EC's EV Group view the CIP?
- **ACTION:** Tim and Claire will develop points to bring forward to the C2E2 for consideration. He will ask whether both C2E2 and EC members should present comments to the County.
- Greg B.: He sees metrics in the Roadmap, but he wondered whether the County is incentivizing the private sector to help reduce GHGe.
 - Rick noted that the County government cannot give money directly to the public.

6. EV Working Group Discussion (8:30)— Rich Dooley, Demetra McBride, Rick Keller

- Rick Keller sent questions to the AIRE team and look forward to a discussion around those questions.
- The EC group looked over the Kimley-Horn SOW for the DecTrans Plan.
- They're interested in where the EVSE (20 chargers) will be installed.
- Demetra provided information:
 - The County uses E-Virginia, SourceWell, and other contracts to get EVs.
 - Every nine years – the average useful life given that we are a compact community – is the replacement time period in general for County fleet sedans.
 - We are currently experiencing supply chain issues when it comes to actually getting the EVs we order. We are hopeful that more models from more manufacturers will be available for us to purchase. This includes pickup trucks.
 - 15% of the sedan fleet are EVs. We expect another 50 or so new EV sedans via the County Operating Budget. We will provide exact numbers afterwards. Overall, our EV percentages for sedans are better than other governments in our region.
 - We plan our County government EVSE based on the locations where we plan for more EVs coming into the fleet.
 - FMB will have a new employee (FTE) who will be focusing on EV and EVSE growth for County operations.
 - Part of the DecTrans Plan is looking to right-size the fleet.
 - In addition, we are working with other jurisdictions and MWCOG to put forth a joint proposal to get Infrastructure Bill (IIJA) money for more EVSE.
 - Demetra noted that coming up at the June CB meeting is an item for an interim EV charging rate ordinance for the publicly accessible charging stations, such as at Long Bridge Park and Arlington Mill. The current rate is slated to be approximately 14 cents per kWh.
 - Rick provided an update that in August the APS will receive their electric buses, due to manufacturing delays. The Trades Center already has the EVSE ready and waiting to be used by those buses.
 - APS does have an EV Transit Van as part of their EV fleet.
 - Demetra noted that the APS fleet is included in the DecTrans Plan project scope.
 - Claire asked whether the County is interested in paying for transformer improvements in advance to facilitate the private sector's advancement of EVs and EVSE.
 - Demetra noted that we do not have the data from Dominion Energy to proactively anticipate those improvement needs. The only time the County or private sector property owners get the information noting that transformers need to be updated is after a project is proposed and information is sent to Dominion Energy.
 - Rick K. appreciated the information provided tonight.

7. Adjourn (9:00)

- Tim will send out e-mails summarizing what was discussed tonight.

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:31.