

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 99

Approved February 28, 2025

WHEREAS, The City of Providence is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and promoting sustainable transportation options, as outlined in the *Climate Justice Plan*; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence has set a goal of becoming a neutral city by 2050, with interim targets of reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by 11% by 2035 and 20% by 2050, as well as ensuring that 43% of VMTs are powered by electric vehicles (EVs) by 2035 and 85% by 2050; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence has committed to transitioning to renewable energy for 100% of its municipal fleet and school buses by 2040; and

WHEREAS, Electric vehicles (EVs) are a critical component in achieving these goals, with the increased availability of EV charging infrastructure being vital to the adoption and success of EV usage within the City; and

WHEREAS, Electric vehicle shall mean an automotive-type vehicle for on-road use, including but not limited to, a passenger automobile, bus, truck, van, or motorcycle, powered by an electric motor that draws current from a storage battery charged from an external source; and

WHEREAS, The Rhode Island General Laws, Title 31, Chapter 21, defines a *Street Light Electric Vehicle Charger* as an “electric vehicle charging station,” which includes the installation and operation of charging units in public spaces such as streetlights; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence, through the Departments of Public Property, Public Works, and Sustainability intends to continue to expand and improve the availability of EV charging infrastructure to support the transition to electric vehicles and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, The City of Providence has already allocated funding to support these efforts, including \$100,000 in the Master Lease for City-owned vehicle charging infrastructure.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the City Council of the City of Providence that the following measures shall be implemented to advance EV charging infrastructure within the City of Providence:

Section 1: Municipal EV Fleet Expansion

1. Expansion of Municipal Fleet Charging Infrastructure. City of Providence shall continue to advance the installation and expansion of charging infrastructure for the City’s municipal fleet through its Master Lease and Capital Improvement Plan process and other grant funding, prioritizing locations that will facilitate the use of EVs in City operations.
2. Completion of EV Fleet Study. The City will use federal funding pending availability from the U.S. Department of Energy’s Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant to update the City’s Electric Vehicle Fleet Study, ensuring that future infrastructure investments align with cost-effective recommendations.

Section 2: Publicly Accessible Charging Infrastructure

1. Grant for Publicly Accessible Charging. The City will apply for and pursue Publicly Accessible Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grants to help fund the expansion of public charging stations.
2. Implementation of the U.S. Department of Transportation Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant with State Agency Partners Pending Availability of Funding.

Phase I Implementation. a. The City, working with Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources and Department of Transportation, will install publicly accessible charging stations at a variety of parking lots in City parks, ensuring that these locations are well-distributed throughout the City to provide equitable access to EV infrastructure. b. The City will develop a strategy that identifies optimal locations for additional publicly accessible charging stations and creates a roadmap for increasing the City’s EV charging capacity.

Phase II Implementation: Based on the findings of Phase I, the City will implement additional EV charging infrastructure at locations identified in the strategy, ensuring that installations align with the City’s goals for EV adoption and transportation sustainability.

3. EV Charging Infrastructure in the Public Right of Way. The City, in partnership with Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources, will investigate how to manage EV chargers in the public right-of-way, ensuring that installation, operation, and maintenance of charging stations are conducted efficiently, equitably, and in a manner that supports the long-term transition to electric vehicles.

Section 3. Implementation and Reporting

The Departments of Public Property, Public Works, and Sustainability will oversee the implementation of these initiatives and provide yearly updates to the City Council on progress, challenges, and future needs related to EV infrastructure expansion.

IN CITY COUNCIL
 FEB 20 2025
 READ AND PASSED



 RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT


 CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.



 Mayor

Date: 2/20/2025