

CITY OF PHOENIX  
ELECTRIC VEHICLE AD HOC COMMITTEE



Summary Minutes from Friday, January 7, 2022

Virtual Meeting – Via WebEx

**Ad Hoc Committee Members (Present)**

Councilwoman Ansari  
Autumn Johnson  
Caryn Potter  
Catherine O'Brien  
Clark Miller  
Court Rich  
Delbert Hawk  
Kathy Knoop  
Lisa Perez  
Omar Gonzales  
Tim Sprague  
Jason Smith

**Ad Hoc Committee Members (Absent)**

Katherine Stainken  
Vianey Olivarria  
Columba Sainz

**City Staff Present**

Karen Peters, CMO  
Mark Hartman, Office of Sustainability  
Karen Apple, Office of Sustainability  
Michelle Litwin, OHRM  
Karl Kaseoru, ITS  
Aaron Kane, Council District 7 Office  
Alan Stephenson, Planning and Dev.  
Albert Crespo, Transit  
Alexis Yaple, PWD  
Christine Mackay, CED  
Felissa Washington Smith, PWD  
  
Gabriel Navarez, Aviation  
Gary Lovgren, Aviation

Jami Buttermore, PWD  
Jesus Sapien, Transit  
Joe Bowar, Transit  
Joe Giudice, PWD  
John Chan, PCC  
Kimberly Brown, Aviation  
Kini Knudson, Streets  
Sandra Hoffman, Planning and Dev.  
Sarah Demory, Aviation  
Scott Coughlin, Parks  
Stephanie Bracken, Office of The  
Council  
Stephen Dudley, Planning and Dev.  
David Benton, City Attorney's Office

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Councilwoman Ansari called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. and Karen Apple, the City's EV Program Manager performed the roll call. Councilwoman Ansari reported that this is the fifth meeting for this committee.

**2. Approval of Minutes – Dec. 3, 2021 Electric Vehicle Ad Hoc Committee Meeting**

Councilwoman Ansari requested a motion to adopt the minutes, Committee Member Hawk called for a first motion and Committee Member Knoop called for a second, unanimous pass, motion carried.

### **3. News and Announcements**

Councilwoman Ansari introduced Karen Apple, EV Program Manager, to discuss recent news in the EV world.

Ms. Apple presented on recent news in the EV world which included information on the new Chevrolet Silverado Pickup, other crossover models, and GM EV updates.

Committee Member Knoop stated that GM had started to make announcements on their EV goals including having 20 EVs available by 2030. Committee Member Knoop also highlighted Chrysler's goals.

Committee Member Miller commented that there had been a meeting at ASU to with APS to discuss solutions for EV charging infrastructure for a large scale EV parking needs. Additionally, how to meet changing needs of staff and student population, and how to think about that. Furthermore, ASU is planning a study in collaboration with APS about what future infrastructure might look like.

Ms. Apple continued to present on EV News which included introduction of Tesla deploying floor locking devices in China at some Supercharger stations to prevent ICEing. ICEing is when an internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicle parks in an EV charging stall.

Committee Member Miller asked what kind of social behavior is being observed and on what scale that leads them to believe this is a necessary form of innovation.

Ms. Apple stated that typically EV charging spots are closer to the businesses, and ICE vehicles are most likely parking wherever there is an open space, not paying attention to it being an EV charging space.

Ms. Apple continued to present on EV News which included information on new EV battery plant announcements and EPA's finalized new emission and fuel economy standards for passenger and light duty pickup trucks. Additionally, the presentation included information on Hyundai's goal to stop research and development of new gas and diesel engines, focusing on EVs, and goal to be fully EV by 2040.

Committee Member O'Brien asked if there is any additional information or outlines on how ARPA funding will be allocated. Additionally, Committee Member O'Brien asked if there is there a process in place for ARPA funds?

Mark Hartman, Chief Sustainability Office stated that the city is slated to receive \$198M and received specific guidance on how it could spent. There will be a public

meeting Tuesday January 11 at 2:30, which will discuss the various proposals and EV infrastructure is included in that discussion.

#### **4. Zero Electric Vehicles – Fleet Conversions Overview: Existing ICE to EV**

Councilwoman Ansari presented Craig Johnson from Zero Electric Vehicles to present on how internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles can be converted to EV.

Mr. Johnson presented on why to convert to EV, which included, but not limited to, information on the need to address sustainability goals, getting ahead of government mandates, use of available incentives and credits, and open robust software to manage EV performance.

Mr. Johnson continued to present information on ICE vs. EV and provided a graph on the comparisons and cross over. Furthermore, Mr. Johnson reported on ATHENA which is a complete solution that includes a personalized fleet assessment, infrastructure, vehicle electrification, fleet management data services, and support and training. The presentation also included information on using ATHENA to achieve electrification as fast as possible. The process includes electric powertrain configuration, battery mobile supply chain allocation, price and turnaround time, and fleet management. Mr. Johnson continued to present on fleet assessments including but not limited to incentive and rebate identification, fleet characterization, and infrastructure improvements.

Conversation around the presentation continued with questions around capabilities, process, and capacity.

Committee Member Knoop asked if they had completed any half-ton pickup truck conversions, and if so, how many.

Mr. Johnson stated that they started really focusing on Ford Sprinter vans and in their Gilbert location, they are working to convert a half-ton, e50 transit and utility trucks. Mr. Johnson stated that they are in the early stages, doing a conversion of each, and trying to create a process the replicable, prior to opening it up for a larger number of vehicles.

Committee Member Knoop asked if they had looked at wireless charging conversions.

Damon Kuhn stated that they have investigated wireless charging, however, due to safety and efficiency issues it has not been fully adopted.

Committee Member Miller commented that it is an important business opportunity as well an innovative opportunity. However, Committee Member Miller stated that this committee is particularly concerned with equity issues in the EV adoption space, and asked if a business like this would work with small minority owned businesses to offer conversions for underserved populations. This might be a more low-cost option

for a lot of people, and could be complementary to small businesses in low-income areas.

Mr. Kuhn highlighted their original business model called distributive manufacturing model, that is a method for small manufacturing to assist with those types of scenarios.

Mr. Johnson included that they want to look at small business and come up with solutions to assist them.

Committee Member Potter stated that there have been conflicting studies around overall efficiency in conversion kits. Committee Member Potter asked if there are any studies that show anything different, specifically around is their loss of efficiency converting ICE to EV. Furthermore, Committee Member Potter stated that conversation is going to be a necessary tool in obtaining equitable adoption.

Mr. Kuhn stated that there is a lot of misinformation. Mr. Kuhn continued to provide information on the various methods, tests, and variances. Mr. Kuhn highlighted that you cannot use the entire capacity of the battery without effecting efficiency and they want to maximize efficiency.

Mr. Kuhn stated that they can provide live info/data via their software including route optimization.

Mr. Johnson stated they want to get in with their customers at a pilot standpoint to work together to optimize the use of fleet vehicles.

Mr. Hartman asked how many conversions have been completed to date.

Mr. Johnson stated they expect over 1000 by the end of the year.

## **5. Deliverables Update & Draft Recommendations for Feb 2022**

Councilwoman Ansari presented Mark Hartman, Chief Sustainability Officer to present on current deliverables.

Mr. Hartman stated that the roadmap is still on path to get public outreach in March. However, we want to have a snapshot of key elements to release to council in February. The idea is what is the info that would benefit to let Council know now related to the budget, things the committee might want to communicate early to take into consideration. Mr. Hartman shared ideas for content for February Council update.

Mr. Hartman would suggest proposing key content what will be the committee's initial findings including summary of activity, approach, and preliminary

recommendations or items needing action and potential funding starting next fiscal year.

Mr. Hartman stated that over the next month the committee should develop content/items that might need funding, and asked members if the listed items are quick start items if it is what the members want to communicate to Council.

Councilwoman Ansari posed a question to the committee members, are these initial draft deliverables too ambitious, what capacity would be needed to implement. Councilwoman Ansari highlighted 3A: City-wide EV Program Manager position and asked if this is efficient or should there be a request for more support to achieve the goals set forth by this committee.

Committee Member Perez asked if all city departments have weighed in on the deliverables. Furthermore, Committee Member Perez asked will departments be lending resources or just advice. This information would help the committee members better understand if there is capacity or more is needed.

Mr. Hartman stated that after today, they would send the information to City departments and committee members on these initial actions. Mr. Hartman reiterated that the content has not been curated in final format nor circulated yet. Mr. Hartman clarified that the document needs additional input from staff and committee members, specifically for the February update that would benefit immediate action.

Committee Member Potter posed questions around section three of the document. Committee Member Potter asked if there is there a way to have a high-level view and the categories they are sitting under. Furthermore, the language for the position recommendation may want to include potential expansion.

Edits were made to the document.

Mr. Hartman commented that there is potential to include early policy recommendations as well, however, the priority for early recommendations should be for items that have budget implications.

Committee Member Potter stated that it will depend on what the policy is or what the committee is trying to determine by year. Something to consider, what are different actions that will affect policy that impact budget. Furthermore, it would be helpful to know where the recommendations/content is coming from and why that recommendation was identified.

Committee Member Miller stated that this is a good list of preliminary items. However, the immediate reaction is it doesn't do the job of answering or highlighting the point of equity. Committee Member Miller discussed options for edits to the preliminary recommendations including reflection of equity in the consultant study.

Edits were made to the document.

Councilwoman Ansari supported that the document be sure to include equity in a strong way. Furthermore, Councilwoman Ansari advocated for a recommendation that includes a small EV unit in year one. The unit being a small team that can help bring recommendations to life and work across all city departments.

Mr. Hartman stated that staff can be a repository to create and update the information by the end of January to transform into a final document. Likewise, the information will be sent for review, and asked if there is a different way the committee members want to articulate this information.

Committee Member Potter asked how much of the background of this committee and background work has been communicated with council. Furthermore, Committee Member Potter asked to expand on the timeline, impetus, how business was conducted and what has been done so far.

Councilwoman Ansari also supported the idea of a timeline. Additionally, there has been no formal report of the committee yet. Councilwoman Ansari suggested another way of forming some of the items listed in the content idea format.

Committee Member Potter asked if committee members could present or be a part of the update and commented that it might be useful to have some of the subject matter experts available.

## **6. Public Comment**

Councilwoman Ansari asked if any members of the public had registered to speak. No members of the public registered to speak for public comment.

## **7. Future Agenda Items**

Councilwoman Ansari asked if anyone had items they'd like to add to future meetings. No items were suggested.

Councilwoman Ansari highlighted the opportunity to discuss the infrastructure bill more, and potentially bringing in the city's lead, Mario Paniagua to discuss.

## **8. Adjournment**

Councilwoman Ansari adjourned the meeting at 11:22am. Next meeting is Friday February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021.