



**City of Racine, Wisconsin**  
**AGENDA BRIEFING MEMORADUM**

**AGENDA DATE:** Finance & Personnel Committee, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Communication sponsored by Alder West, on behalf of the Transit & Mobility Director, requesting permission to accept \$1,235,000 from the United States Department of Energy through Congressionally Directed Spending for the development of a solar array at 1900 Kentucky Street transit facility and energy-savings investments.

**PREPARED BY:** Trevor Jung, Transit & Mobility Director

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** The purpose of this clean energy project is to advance the City of Racine as a leader in sustainability and decarbonization innovation by applying clean energy technologies at City-owned sites. As first in the State to do so, this solar project will offset electric transit bus charging with renewable energy generated on site, materializing the City's vision for low/zero carbon operations. To further accelerate sustainability goal achievement, and to drive energy and operational savings, this project will include energy efficiency and conservation measures in facilities City-wide. The proposed plan is to implement, monitor, and report the results of this project. Implementing this sustainability solution in the City of Racine – a location with extreme weather conditions – will provide critical leadership for sustainability investments in Wisconsin and exhibit the impact of offsetting EV charging with renewable energy. As proposed in the original Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) application, funding of 50% via a local contribution/match and 50% via CDS funding assistance, will allow the City to implement this impactful sustainability project resulting in long-term operational savings for the City of Racine.

**BACKGROUND:** This solar and energy-savings initiative provides a shovel-ready project that includes a combination of clean energy solutions to be newly integrated into City-owned facilities. The project scope solutions include large, community facing, solar photovoltaic (PV) carports (267kW) at the City's Bus Storage Garage site to offset Electric Transit Bus charging combined with a city-wide facility energy efficiency and conservation measures – such as commissioning and lighting upgrades.

This project will be accomplished by applying the above listed sustainability solutions working with local experts, contractors, equipment, and teams. Once installed, the energy and operational performance will be tracked using advanced energy management systems and performance of the project will be reported to the City and public.

The local community impact of this project is significant, providing positive outcomes for the City of Racine, RYDE Racine, the surrounding community, and the State of Wisconsin. This project will be the first in the State to offset electric transit bus charging with renewable energy generated on site. Incorporating Citywide energy efficiency solutions will further reduce energy and operational costs, reduce the City's carbon footprint, create local jobs, and provide public-facing clean energy technologies.

Specifically, it is anticipated that this project will save \$76k /year in energy and operational costs, reduce carbon emissions by 249 metric tonnes/yr, create over 25 local jobs, offset charging of 5 Electric Buses/yr with renewable energy, and act upon the City's commitment to the Paris Climate Accord – driving towards a zero-carbon future.

This project's planned funding rely on Congressionally Directed Spending from the United States Department of Energy and ARPA Energy funds committed to the City of Racine.

**BUDGETARY IMPACT:** Total turnkey project cost amounts to approximately \$2,599,673 with minimum local match of 50% in ARPA energy allocation of \$1,364,673.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** That the Mayor and City Clerk be granted permission to accept \$1,235,000 from the United States Department of Energy through Congressionally Directed Spending for the development of a solar array at 1900 Kentucky Street transit facility and energy-savings investments.