



AGENDA BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

COMMITTEE: Finance & Personnel

AGENDA DATE: January 11th, 2020

DEPARTMENT: Mayor's Office

PREPARED BY: Cara Pratt, Sustainability and Conservation Coordinator

SUBJECT: Communication sponsored by Mayor Mason on behalf of the Sustainability and Conservation Coordinator requesting to apply for and accept the Energy Innovation Grant from the PSC Office for Energy Innovation (Grant Control #00355) to install solar plus storage at the Racine Transit Garage at 1900 Kentucky St.

Fiscal Note: Estimated grant in the amount of \$500,000, with \$275,000 City match budgeted in "2021 CIP - Transit Garage - Solar Panels (\$275,000)"

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS: The Energy Innovation Grant Program covers a wide variety of energy related projects that reduce energy consumption and support renewable energy and energy storage, energy efficiency and demand response, electric and renewable natural gas (RNG) vehicles and infrastructure, or comprehensive energy planning. The City of Racine received a first iteration of the Energy Innovation Grant in 2018 to conduct comprehensive energy planning. Among the recommendations of the final report was the installation of solar plus storage at the Racine Transit Garage in anticipation of the electrification of the City's bus fleet. With an initial 9 electric buses scheduled for delivery in November 2021, energy use at the Racine Transit Garage is expected to increase. This is an opportune time to invest in City-owned electricity generation that will allow these new buses to be charged with a carbon-neutral energy source.

BUDGETARY IMPACT: This grant will offset the cost of installing solar at the transit garage, budgeted in the City's 2021 CIP for \$275,000. It will also allow for the inclusion of onsite battery storage, allowing the facility to maximize use of the solar energy generated throughout the day. City-owned solar plus storage will significantly reduce the long-term operational costs associated with the electricity needed to power an electric bus fleet.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That staff be authorized to execute the necessary application form to apply for this grant.

ATTACHMENT(S): EIGP_2020_Application_Instructions