

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA



Agenda Date:	May 5, 2025
Action Required:	Resolution Adoption
Presenter:	Tray Biasioli, Climate Program Specialist
Staff Contacts:	Kristel Riddervold, Director of the Office of Sustainability Garland Williams, Director of Transit
Title:	Public Hearing and Resolution Authorizing a Right-of-Way Agreement with Dominion Energy for 1505 Avon Street Extended

Background

Virginia Electric and Power Company ("Dominion Energy") has requested the City to grant a fifteen (15) foot easement across City-owned parcel 077E1-00-00-00100 (1505 Avon Street Extended) for the purpose of transmitting and distributing electrical power to electric charging infrastructure designated to be used by City-owned electric school buses ("ESBs").

Discussion

In May 2024, the City of Charlottesville, Virginia ("City"), was notified that its Application to the EPA Clean School Bus Rebate Program had been successful. The two (2) awarded rebates will be used to support the purchase of two (2) ESBs by Charlottesville Area Transit ("CAT"). Operating ESBs requires specific electric charging infrastructure.

Dominion Energy offers a no-cost solution to help school districts that receive EPA funding. The offering includes utility coordination, grid upgrades, construction, and charger installation.

Office of Sustainability (OOS) Staff and CAT Staff have coordinated with Dominion Energy on the logistics of the electric charging infrastructure that will be designed, installed, owned, and operated by Dominion Energy. A Right of Way Agreement ("Agreement") to support this infrastructure is needed. OOS and Pupil Transportation Staff have worked with Dominion Energy to verify the location, effectiveness, and practicality of the proposed easement. The details of the agreement are defined in attached instrument 81-25-0003.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan

The Project supports City Council's Strategic Plan Framework, Outcome Area of *Climate Action*, as this Project is an initial step in electrifying the City's school bus fleet. Additionally, this bus acquisition is supported by the City's 2023 Climate Action Plan ("CAP"). A Key Action in Chapter 6 of the Plan calls for the City to "*evaluate and begin integrating EV School Buses into the City's pupil transportation fleet*" (CAP, pg. 68).

Community Engagement

During recent community engagement related to the transition of the City's transit fleet transition to zero-emissions buses, there was extensive public support expressed for bus electrification. Broad support for ESBs has previously been expressed within the community, during the development of the CAP, as well.

The required Public Hearing allows for community engagement on this matter (notice attached).

Budgetary Impact

This has no impact on the City's General Fund.

Recommendation

City Staff recommends adoption of the attached Resolution granting the requested easement.

Alternatives

City Council can select not to execute the proposed Agreement.

Attachments

1. Dominion ROW Agreement - Avon St
2. Legal Notice - Easment to Dominion
3. RES - Resolution Dominion Easement Avon St 5.5.25