

My name is Ron Posthuma. I am the Assistant Director of the King County Department of Transportation. One of my responsibilities is introduction of electric vehicle(EV) technology. The County intends to purchase EVs for our internal motor pool and vanpool program. We have also received US Department of Energy grants for the installation of vehicle charging stations at County owned park and ride lots and other facilities.

We understand the Commission is beginning a consideration of issues related to electric vehicle charging. We'd like to be kept informed of your proceedings.

We'd also like to share some initial thoughts.

The County already has a start-up, "Plug & Ride" program using 39 Level I (110-120V) at five park and ride lots around the County. We have set this up as a reservation system and have about half a dozen subscribers at any point in time. We do not charge for the use of the parking spaces but have incurred costs related to equipment installation, signage, repair of vandalism, administration/marketing, and parking enforcement. We are also participants in the Idaho National Laboratories Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle demonstration project.

More recently we have secured grants to install about 50 Level II (220-240V) charging stations at park and ride garages and other facilities. These stations would be used by our own EVs and by the general public. Because of the higher costs involved, we do plan to charge the general public a parking fee for the use of electric vehicle charging station stalls. The parking fee would most likely be a flat fee to cover our ongoing operating costs. It would not be based on the amount of electricity consumed during a charging session.

Some of the charging stations would be located in park and ride garages adjacent to multifamily apartment buildings. In these cases, we will be exploring the possibility and night and weekend EV charging by the residents in our park and ride garages, since the park and ride demand is very low at those times and apartment residents by not have an EV parking option in their own building.

Over the longer term, we would like to take advantage of smart metering technology to push electrical consumption to low demand times when rates should be lower. As more people buy EVs, we also hope to see technology that would permit EV battery recharging of the grid at points of peak demand in the local distribution system. We hope the Commission can create a regulatory environment that promotes these ideas.

We look forward to hearing about your considerations. Thank you for allowing us to comment.