

Federal Grant Application Request

Oregon Department of Energy

Energy Efficient Infrastructure Integration Grant Proposal

Analyst: Julie Neburka

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, in the amount of \$425,000 for the 2015 State Energy Program Competitive Awards.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Analysis: The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) requests approval to submit a federal grant application to the US Department of Energy for \$425,000. The project to be funded with the grant would develop and catalyze local government implementation of policies and procedures to support building out the charging infrastructure needed for electric vehicles. ODOE would subcontract management of this project to Drive Oregon, a non-profit agency whose mission is to promote, support, and grow the electric mobility industry in Oregon. Other project partners include the States of Utah and California, the cities of Portland, Beaverton, and Hillsboro, and the Metro regional government. The required 20% match will be provided by Drive Oregon (\$50,000), the California Energy Commission (\$100,000), OpConnect, an electric vehicle charging system manufacturer (\$25,000), and the Utah Office of Energy Development (\$20,000). The grant application is due on March 28th, 2015, with awards announced by mid-July, 2015 and contracts executed by October, 2015.

The goal of this project is to help local governments develop policies and programs that incorporate electric vehicle charging infrastructure into buildings and facilities such as streetlights, parking meters, development projects, and public rights of way, thus leveraging increased energy efficiency in both stationary (residential and commercial) infrastructure as well as in the transportation sector. Examples of such policies and programs include building code changes to require additional conduits or electrical panels in new construction that would support vehicle charging stations; parking code changes to allow exclusive parking for electric vehicle charging purposes; or new street lighting poles and circuits to incorporate vehicle charging stations into the streetscape. The grant-funded project intends to develop model language for such documents as building codes and public works contracts, and to identify public infrastructure—such as street lighting or parking meters—that can be leveraged in such a way as to increase the availability of electric vehicle charging locations.

Drive Oregon, the primary subcontractor responsible for this project, is a non-profit agency focused on accelerating the growth of Oregon's electric vehicle industry and supply chain. The agency was launched by the Oregon Innovation Council in 2011, with seed funding provided by the Legislature through the Oregon Business Development Department. The agency's current focus is on leading the implementation of Oregon's electric vehicle deployment strategy, through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Governor's Office and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request. If the grant is awarded, ODOE may return to the Legislature with a future request for additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation.