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City Launches Neighbourhood Electric Vehicle Fast Chargers

VICTORIA, BC — The City of Victoria has opened its first neighbourhood electric vehicle (EV) fast charging station in Victoria West as part of a program to expand EV infrastructure across the city.

Two 50 kilowatt Direct Current Fast Chargers have opened in the Bay Street parking lot at Vic West Park and are the first of many fast charging stations coming to Victoria neighbourhoods.

“The City has set aggressive targets for electric vehicles, but not everyone has access to at-home charging,” said Mayor Lisa Helps. “By installing EV charging in neighbourhood centres close to where people live and spend time, we’re giving people confidence that they can make the switch to an EV knowing there will be convenient places to charge close to home.”

To support the transition to electric and make EV charging more accessible for everyone, the City will install 30 EV fast chargers in neighbourhoods near multi-family housing, such as apartments, over the next five years as part of the City’s Electric Vehicle and Electric Mobility Strategy.

A \$1.5 million investment in EV infrastructure is part of the City’s 2022 budget with additional funding from the Province of British Columbia and the Federal Government.

“The Victoria West Community Association is very pleased that Vic West has been selected as the first neighbourhood to host a City of Victoria community charging station,” said VWCA President Justine Semmens. “As we work together to develop solutions and strategies to cope and adapt with the climate emergency and emerging transportation technologies, this hub will provide community members who own or drive EVs with new opportunities to charge the low-emission vehicles that they drive without needing to have access to costly or difficult-to-access private infrastructure.”

Direct Current Fast Chargers provide a significantly faster charge than Level 2 EV chargers as they can provide an 80 per cent charge in about an hour depending on the make, model and battery of the EV.

The City gratefully acknowledges the financial support for this project from the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation through the CleanBC Go Electric Public Charger Program.

“British Columbians are eager to switch to cleaner forms of transportation, and we’re providing them with the tools they need to make this transition through our CleanBC GoElectric programs,” said Bruce Ralston, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation. “With the highest reported uptake rates of EVs in North America, B.C. is a leader in the movement to end our reliance on fossil fuels.”

The City celebrated the opening of the Victoria West EV chargers on Saturday with a community event showcasing EV charging and information on making the switch to electric. Representatives from the Capital Regional District were also at the event to promote the Charge Your Ride regional EV and E-bike awareness program. The installation of the Victoria West chargers will help expand the network of EV charging infrastructure throughout the region. British Columbia is leading Canada in EV adoption with 17 per cent of new car sales being electric; the Canadian average is 8.5 per cent.

The City’s Climate Leadership Plan sets a target for 30 per cent of passenger vehicles in Victoria to be renewably powered by the end of this decade, reaching 100 per cent by 2050. As of October 1, 2020, all residential properties must be EV charging ready and all new commercial developments must include at least 5 per cent of parking stalls that are energized and ready for EV chargers.

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For More Information:

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Attachment: Acting Mayor Marianne Alto plugs in Victoria’s first neighbourhood electric vehicle fast charger in Victoria West on Saturday.

