



**CITY OF BOULDER  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**

**MEETING DATE: September 15, 2020**

**AGENDA TITLE**

Consideration of a Motion to Approve a Resolution Declaring Boulder a GoEV City and Pledging to Electrify the Transportation Sector

**PRESENTERS**

Jane S. Brautigam, City Manager  
Erika Vandenbrande, Director of Transportation & Mobility  
Bill Cowern, Deputy Director of Transportation & Mobility  
Natalie Stiffler, Deputy Director of Transportation and Mobility  
Joanna Crean, Director of Facilities & Fleet  
Jonathan Koehn, Chief Sustainability and Resilience Officer  
Carl Castillo, Chief Policy Advisor  
Chris Hagelin, Acting Go Boulder Manager  
Tristano Greco, Fleet Manager  
Matt Lehrman, Energy Strategy Advisor

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET) invited the City of Boulder to make the “GoEV City” commitment – a pledge to transition the transportation system to 100 percent electric vehicles. In Boulder’s case, it involves pledging to develop policies and strategies to set EV targets for fleets, buses (transit and school), taxis/TNCs, and all personally-owned vehicles in the community to go 100% electric (or in the cases of buses and trucks, zero-emission). Local governments like Denver and Boulder County passed a similar “GoEV Resolution” to establish 100% EV targets, which sets the foundation for EV-supportive policies like EV-ready building codes, fleet electrification, more EV charging stations, and other programs to advance vehicle electrification.

Transportation is now the #1 source of greenhouse gas emissions in Colorado and one of the two leading sources of harmful ozone pollution. Passage of such a resolution by the Boulder City Council will support Boulder's objectives of addressing harmful emissions from transportation and would be consistent with the city's overarching climate and emissions goals. The purpose of this memo is to allow the City Council to consider adopting this resolution.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Suggested Motion Language:**

Staff requests council consideration of this matter and action in the form of the following motion:

Consideration of a motion to adopt Resolution 1282, declaring Boulder a GoEV City and pledging to electrify the transportation sector

### **ATTACHMENT**

Attachment A- Resolution 1282

**RESOLUTION 1282**

A RESOLUTION DECLARING BOULDER A GoEV CITY AND PLEDGING TO ELECTRIFY THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR; AND SETTING FORTH RELATED DETAILS.

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOULDER, COLORADO, HEREBY FINDS AND RECITES THAT:**

- A. The petroleum-fueled transportation sector is now one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the nation and is a contributing factor to air pollution and climate change, threatening the health of our citizens and the sustainability of our planet.
- B. The Denver metropolitan area, including Boulder, is classified as a serious non-attainment area for federal health-based standards for ozone pollution and the primary sources are oil drilling and motor vehicles fueled by oil.
- C. The transportation sector needs support to move toward adoption of clean energy technology, including electric vehicles (EVs), that reduces our dependence on foreign fuels and supports a healthy environment and economy. The term “electric vehicles” includes Battery Electric Vehicles, Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles, and Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicles.
- D. Electrification of cars, trucks, buses and supporting the availability of electric bicycles where travelers would otherwise use a gas-powered vehicle is needed to achieve deep reductions in carbon pollution, and the benefits grow over time as utilities transition to higher levels of renewable energy.
- E. Boulder adopted climate goals to cut community GHG emissions 80% by 2050 and reduce GHG emissions from city operations and facilities 80% by 2030. Electrifying the transportation sector is a necessary component for the City to meet these goals.
- F. Boulder is dedicated to leading the use of clean energy, establishing policies and programs that conserve energy, promoting sustainability, and supporting Colorado’s goal of nearly one million EVs on its roads by 2030.
- G. The residents of Boulder have demonstrated their support for reducing GHG emissions through overwhelming support for the Climate Action Plan tax to reduce local GHG emissions and mitigate climate change.

- H. Boulder has demonstrated leadership and a commitment to transportation electrification by installing 46 public EV charging stations, completing a Fleet Electrification Assessment and purchasing 23 electric fleet vehicles, installing solar panels and charging stations at city facilities to charge EVs with clean energy, and working with Via Mobility, Boulder Valley School District and the University of Colorado to electrify their bus fleets.

**BASED ON THE FINDINGS MADE IN THIS RESOLUTION, ABOVE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BOULDER, COLORADO, THAT:**

The Boulder City Council pledges to develop policies and strategies to meet the following transportation electrification objectives:

1. Improve transportation and social equity and extend the benefits of transportation electrification to low-income households and communities disproportionately affected by the harmful effects of air pollution.
2. Ensure that new light duty vehicles purchased by the city are electric vehicles when the technology accommodates the needs of the vehicle use and departmental budgets can accommodate both vehicle acquisition and the associated charging infrastructure. The City will include the total cost of vehicle ownership, including fuel and maintenance costs, and the social cost of carbon in its vehicle procurement calculations.
3. Support the electric vehicle charging station infrastructure needed to accommodate the transition to electric vehicles considering the availability and sustainability of resources, council priorities and budget constraints.
4. Transition to medium and heavy duty zero emission vehicles and off-road equipment as these vehicles become available in Colorado if they can fully support the needs of the departments operations and departmental budgets can accommodate both vehicle acquisition and the associated charging infrastructure.
5. Work with Via Mobility Services, Boulder Valley School District, and the University of Colorado to develop a roadmap to zero-emissions electrification of all new transit and school buses by 2030.
6. Advocate for having the Regional Transportation District transition all bus routes within the city to zero-emission by 2030.
7. Work with municipal partners and with shared fleets such as taxis, rideshare, and carshare companies to transition these shared fleet vehicles to full electric fleets by 2030.

8. Work with the community on programs, policies, incentives and regulatory approaches to transition 30% of all vehicles within the city to zero emissions by 2030, and 100% of all vehicles by 2050.
9. Develop partnerships with micro-mobility companies to promote the use of electric assisted bicycles.

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sam Weaver,  
Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pamela Davis,  
Acting City Clerk