

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

<b>TO:</b> Shane Bourke, City Manager	<b>DATE:</b> July 8, 2025
<b>FROM:</b> Brian Glavin, Chief Operating Officer	<b>MEETING:</b> Operational Services Committee
<b>REPORT WRITER:</b> Mick Phillips, Director – Corporate Facility Management	
<b>SUBJECT:</b> SureCharge EV Charging Station Lease Term Extension	

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Operational Services Committee recommend Council approve an option to lease agreement term extension from four (4) years to ten (10) years, between the City of Grande Prairie and SureCharge Corp.

### PREVIOUS COUNCIL / COMMITTEE DIRECTIONS

There are no previous Council or Committee directions.

### BACKGROUND

In 2019 the Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station project was initiated in partnership with the Community Energy Association (CEA). The CEA approached the City to facilitate the development of a regional electric vehicle charging station strategy and to assist in the development of funding proposals.

December of 2020, the City of Grande Prairie, Municipal District of Greenview, Town of Hinton, Town of Edson, Town of Drayton Valley, Town of Whitecourt, and Town of Rocky Mountain House signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the CEA to support the project and pursue a corporate partner to head the project

After review of multiple local sites, in May 2023, Centre 2000 was determined to be the most appropriate location, and the Centre 2000 Board passed a motion in support of the project.

September 2024, at the request of the CEA, the City provided a letter of support to Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program (ZEVIP) in support of ATCO's application, which was subsequently approved in December. The letter of support also identified the City's intent to sign a 10-year lease agreement with Atco.

February 2025, the City was informed that Atco was withdrawing from the project and corporately from the electric vehicle charging industry, requiring the CEA to find a new corporate partner.

May 2025, facilitated by the CEA, City Administration executed an agreement with SureCharge Corp. of Calgary, AB, for the installation of two (2) EV charging stations on the Centre 2000 site.

## **ANALYSIS**

SureCharge has previously approved funding from NRCan's ZEVIP program to support the delivery of expanding their existing EV charging network. The current application will increase the funding required to include the locations impacted by ATCO's departure from the project. The revised project will deliver a total of 48 DC fast chargers across 24 locations in Alberta and British Columbia. A requirement of the NRCan funding application is a minimum site lease term of ten (10) years with partnering municipalities. To meet NRCan's grant application deadline, Administration executed the four-year agreement and included a Letter of Intent that would recommend Council extend the lease to the required ten (10) years.

### **Relationship to City Council's Areas of Focus / Strategic Priorities**

#### **Innovative Efficiencies & Economic Readiness**

Extending the lease term enables SureCharge to access NRCan funding for the project, which aligns and supports innovation in infrastructure development and energy efficiency, contributing to a resilient local economy.

#### **Quality of Life**

The provision of EV charging infrastructure encourages sustainable transportation options, contributing to environmental health and public satisfaction with community amenities.

#### **Engaging Relationships**

Facilitating partnership opportunities through this project supports proactive engagement with other levels of government and key stakeholders, including the CEA.

#### **Environmental Impact**

The installation and availability of additional EV infrastructure supports environmental sustainability by encouraging the adoption of electric vehicles and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

#### **Economic Impact**

Supporting SureCharge's ability to access NRCan funding eliminates the financial burden on the City. The availability of EV charging stations may also contribute to increased commercial activity and tourism to the Centre 2000 site, and City at large.

#### **Social Impact**

The increased availability of EV charging stations signals a forward-thinking, sustainable community and may influence residential and business relocation decisions positively.

#### **Relevant Statutes / Master Plans / City Documents**

There are no relevant statutes, master plans or City documents that are specific to this report.

## **Risk**

Under the conditions of the lease agreement, SureCharge will act as the designer, installer, owner, and operator of the EV charging infrastructure, significantly limiting risk to the City. However, failure to approve the lease term extension would require SureCharge to cancel the current four-year agreement to remain eligible for NRCan funding, hindering the City's progress on infrastructure sustainability and innovation.

## **Alternatives (Optional)**

1. Refuse the extension, foregoing the opportunity and potential benefits of the EV station.

## **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

- The project has been coordinated in partnership with the CEA.
- The Centre 2000 Board passed a motion in support of the project in 2023.
- SureCharge have confirmed that NRCan requires a minimum 10-year lease to proceed with funding. No public engagement has occurred specific to this lease extension.

## **BUDGET / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications to the City for extending the lease term. The extension enables potential funding to an external partner that will support the projects implementation.

## **SUMMARY / CONCLUSION**

Administration recommends that Council approve a 10-year site lease extension with SureCharge to enable the Centre 2000 EV charging station project to meet NRCan funding eligibility. This project, initiated in 2019 in partnership with the Community Energy Association, aligns with multiple Council Strategic Priorities, supports sustainable infrastructure, and leverages federal funding opportunities via a City partner, with no additional cost to the City.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- Attachment 1 - ATCO Letter of Support
- Attachment 2 - SureCharge Letter of Intent