

## 2019/2020 Local Technical Assistance and Community Planning Programs

**Application Number:** 36

**Project Title:** Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Metra Station Parking Plan

**Applicant:** Metropolitan Mayors Caucus



### Project Description:

We seek technical assistance to analyze Metra communities and to prioritize commuter parking lots for future investment in public EV infrastructure. We have a secondary interest in solar parking canopies that could both provide covered parking and generate clean energy. Our idea aligns with the CMAP's ON TO 2050 recommendations to plan for charging stations and promote EV infrastructure. It also aligns with Invest in Transit's objective to adapt to the future by piloting new technology and mobility solutions.

The project will help establish priorities and areas of focus for potential future funding requests from sources such as CMAQ, Rebuild Illinois and the VW Beneficiary Mitigation Plan (BMP). We think it is essential to plan now to guide where and how future funds should be invested to best support municipalities and regional electrification.

While planning for public charging infrastructure (EVSE or EV Supply Equipment) across public and private properties is needed, focusing on Metra is a good place to start. Metra and the Caucus jointly pose the below questions and seek assistance to help answer them.

1. What factors make for a good location for EVSE?
2. Which Metra stations would be good locations for public EVSE?
3. What infrastructure and resources are needed to provide EVSE?
4. How do Metra lot owners manage competing needs for parking spaces?
5. Would investment in EVSE help Metra adapt to the future and stay competitive?
6. Should current EV ownership be a consideration in locating EVSE?
7. Would adding EVSE both add amenities for riders and enhance downtown business districts?
8. For communities with TOD, are Metra lots a viable way to support multi-family charging?
9. What models of parking lot ownership and management are needed to support EVSE?
10. How can EVSE be distributed in a way that meets the goals of regional equity and environmental justice?

Solar parking/charging canopies are more expensive and complex though planning and policy questions are similar. Planning now would ready communities for future investment when additional solar funds become available (through CEJA). The Caucus has experience with solar projects, and consulting expertise is available.

Currently 127 Caucus member communities support the consensus sustainability goals of the Greenest Region Compact. Accomplishing the GRC clean energy and mobility goals to expand EV adoption will require collaboration. Metra is a natural partner who can help strategically address these goals in communities where transit stations are key features. Metra lots are often publicly owned and usually operated by municipalities, but regional planning and system-wide prioritization is needed. This project will leverage benefits for multiple communities as well as the transit system.

The desired outcome would be key considerations for installing public EV charging infrastructure in Metra lots. These would include strategic regional connectivity for EV deployment, economic development, transit enhancement, and technical, operational and financial considerations. A prioritized list or map of Metra parking lots is needed. This planning work is needed quickly to guide investment in electrification that is anticipated in the coming year or two.

**Project Location:** Our project location is Metra commuter parking lots in the Chicago region. The location of Metra train lines reach as far north as the Illinois/Wisconsin border, as far west as Harvard in the northwest and Elburn in the west, and as far south as Manhattan and University Park, Illinois.

<https://www.metrarail.com/maps-schedules/system-map> . We wish to equitably serve communities throughout the region jointly served by CMAP and the Caucus.