

# Electric Vehicle Council

## Meeting Summary

July 9th, 2012

### 1. Welcome & Announcements –

Chairman Mobley opened the meeting by introducing the newest member, Gary Anderson from PHH.

### 2. Public Comments & Discussion

Mr. Bob Bruninga described Congressman Bartlett's "Go Green" event that he had attended. He mentioned that the vulnerability of the power grid had been raised as an issue in light of the recent storm and its subsequent power outages. This brought up the topic of using an electric vehicle for house power in such an event. Mr. Bruninga pointed out that maker of the Nissan Leaf has developed a new vehicle-to-home power system that will distribute the power from a Leaf's battery to a house. (These will soon be available in Japan.)

Mr. Bruninga also submitted material for the final report.

### 3. Action Plan Discussion: Recommendations

There was discussion of a recommendation to convert the state fleet to EVs. Councilmember Quinn proposed a recommendation that the Governor issue an executive order directing state agencies to purchase EVs, citing the Governor of California's EO requiring that a percentage of that state's fleet purchases be EVs. There was a discussion of how this fit in with current state procurement practices and whether life-cycle and operating costs could be weighed against the purchase price. Mr. Sklar suggested that as the Council was supposed to be looking to the State's future there should be less emphasis on the current economics of vehicle purchase. It was noted that the Chevy Volt and the Nissan Leaf are already on the state purchase list and available to government agencies. Since public agencies do not currently consider life-cycle costs in justifications of vehicle selection, it was suggested that a calculator for this purpose be developed that would also include health and environmental benefits.

The next topic was on insurance companies that offer discounts or other incentives to EV owners and how this might be encouraged through the outreach plan. Mr. Sklar suggested a concept similar to the Energy Star program for appliances, identifying beneficial options for consumers, like insurance companies that offer EV discounts.

The next topic was the potential for vehicle-to-grid charging. Many sources postulate consumer savings from v-to-g and possibly greater savings for fleets, as well as support for grid reliability. There was discussion of including this in the “future technologies” part of the final report, or alternatively as recommendations to the PSC as a utility issue.

The necessary first step of transition to a smart grid is already underway with a goal of transition by 2014. It was suggested that Maryland might sponsor a workshop on v-to-g, or that the Legislature could direct the PSC to hold workshops, similar to one held in California, to encourage this aspect of EV technology. Some consumer protection issues were also noted, such as the degradation of battery life and informed consent for participation. Another proposal was to recommend that the PSC study ways to remove barriers to EV adoption.

There was also a discussion of ways to reorganize the recommendations in the report into different categories. The working categories are now:

1. Education
2. Incentivizing
3. Promotion of Infrastructure
4. Connection to Renewable Energy
5. Emerging Technology

A draft of a matrix of initiatives in other 49 states produced by PB was handed out to Council members for their reference.

Chairman Mobley asked that Council members and task groups submit recommendations and comments, organized by new categories, **no later than July 30<sup>th</sup>**.

#### **4. Summer Study Report & Legislative Timeline**

Kristen Weiss asked that Council members provide their reactions and recommendations on the summer study bills so that the Council could be polled for a consensus. If legislation is needed to support those recommendations or others in the final report, we should have placeholders in a package for the Governor by September 4<sup>th</sup> and final proposals by mid-October.

#### **5. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for August 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:30.