

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENDORSING) RESOLUTION NO. 06-3717
REGIONAL SUPPORT OF THE "PLUG-IN") Introduced by Councilor Burkholder
PARTNERS NATIONAL CAMPAIGN.)

WHEREAS, the over-reliance of the United States on foreign oil has become a serious and growing threat to the economic vitality and national security interests our country; and

WHEREAS, automobile emissions are a major contributing factor to global warming and smog, which threaten the health of our citizens and the sustainability of our planet; and

WHEREAS, the imbalance between oil resources and worldwide demand is creating increasing volatility in gasoline prices, which stands to overburden commerce, hurt economic growth and cause serious hardship to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the technology exists today to build flexible-fuel "plug-in" hybrid electric automobiles, which could help reduce oil imports, fuel costs and automobile emissions by dramatic margins if they replaced conventional automobiles in large numbers; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the Metro Council that Metro joins the Plug-in Partners National Campaign; and

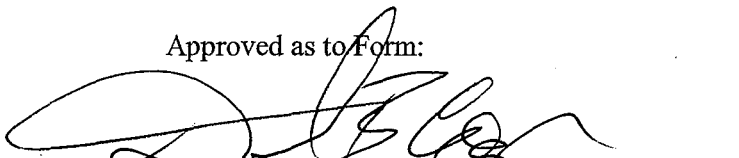
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Metro Council that Metro makes a commitment to support local, state and federal policies that will promote flexible-fuel plug-in electric hybrid vehicles; and

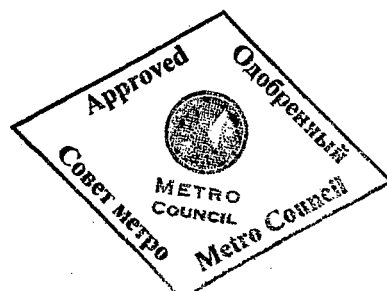
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Metro Council that Metro will work with the local government, education, business and environmental communities to advocate for the purchase of flexible-fuel plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 17th day of August, 2006.


David Bragdon, Council President

Approved as to Form:


Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney



STAFF REPORT

IN CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 06-3717, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENDORSING REGIONAL SUPPORT OF THE “PLUG-IN” PARTNERS NATIONAL CAMPAIGN.

Date: May 4, 2006

Prepared by: Kathryn Sofich

BACKGROUND

“Plug-In Partners,” begun in Austin, Texas, is a national grass-roots initiative to demonstrate to automakers that a market for flexible-fuel Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs) exists. The goal of this initiative is to encourage local and state governments to work with utilities and environmental, consumer and business organizations to demonstrate the viability of a market for PHEVs through the development of rebates and incentives, “soft” fleet orders, petitions, and endorsements.

There are currently no commercially available PHEVs, but prototypes are in operation. In addition, traditional hybrid vehicles have been converted to plug-ins. Work at the Hybrid Center at the University of California at Davis has demonstrated that plug-in technology works. Despite this, the cost of the batteries needed to power a PHEV a sufficient distance is considered to be the stumbling block.

The Plug-In Partners campaign, which kicked off January 24, 2006 at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, is forming coalitions with local and state governments, utilities, businesses and non-profit organizations. To date, Plug-In Partners have received 676 “soft orders,” and 19 cities, 6 counties and local governments, 20 non-profits, 18 national/local environmental groups, and 123 public power utilities have signed on as partners.

In becoming a partner, Metro will pass a resolution of support, sign a letter of commitment, and make a “soft” fleet order. Making a “soft” fleet order says that we will “seriously consider” purchasing a certain amount of vehicles if they are produced by automakers. In addition, Metro will make a commitment to support local, state and federal policies that will promote flexible-fuel plug-in hybrid vehicles and work with the local government, education, business and environmental community to advocate for the purchase of flexible-fuel plug-in hybrid vehicles. This campaign supports the Metro Council’s goals of conserving resources and protecting the environment. In addition, this campaign compliments Metro’s Regional Travel Options program, which works to provide alternatives and awareness of alternatives to driving alone. Both programs provide options that reduce pollution and decrease dependency on and consumption of fossil fuels.

ANALYSIS/INFORMATION

1. Known Opposition: none
2. Legal Antecedents: none

3. Anticipated Effects:
 - A. Provides consistency with Metro's institutional goals of conserving resources and protecting the environment.
 - B. Provides the Council and Metro employees and staff the opportunity to speak publicly, on behalf of Metro, in favor of promoting the development of a market for flexible-fuel Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs).

4. Budget impacts: None

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Councilor Burkholder recommends adoption of Resolution No. 05-3717.