For Immediate Release: 4/20/2015

Leggett Demonstrates Use of Electric Vehicle Charging Station in Public Parking Garage, the First to be Installed in 24 Garages and Lots

Today at the Bethesda Capital Crescent (Garage 31) public parking garage, Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett unveiled three new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations with the capacity to charge six vehicles. Garage 31 is the first to be completed in the Montgomery County Department of Transportation's (MCDOT) program to install additional EV stations, capable of charging 26 vehicles, in 11 County parking garages and lots over the next few months. MCDOT will monitor usage and may then expand the EV program to a total of 24 facilities with the capacity to charge more than 50 vehicles.

"Putting charging stations in County parking facilities is our way of reinforcing the idea that electric cars are becoming an integral part of our transportation network and a vital part of our environmental philosophy," said Leggett.

The EV charging stations operate like gas pumps. Drivers pay $0.13 per kilowatt hour to charge their vehicles, in addition to paying the same parking fee as other vehicles in the garage. The stations will be installed in County parking facilities in Bethesda, Silver Spring, Wheaton and Montgomery Hills.

"We are creating a sustainable transportation system that encourages healthier and greener options, including the use of electric and alternative-fueled vehicles that reduce our environmental footprint," said Acting MCDOT Director Al Roshdieh. "I believe the expanded use of technology is essential to helping us realize a better future. Our infrastructure must be ready to accommodate the use of these cleaner, smarter vehicles. MCDOT is meeting the demand for EV charging stations and will expand their number as electric vehicles become more widely used."

The charging station parking spaces are clearly marked and limited to four hours, which should provide enough time to fully charge a vehicle. The public EV charging stations are connected to the nationwide ChargePoint Network of searchable charging stations and motorists can pay for energy used through a ChargePoint Network card or RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) enabled credit card.

MCDOT will install the electrical infrastructure needed to support the EV stations in two phases in the following garages and lots: Phase 1: Bethesda garages 11, 36 and 47; Silver Spring garages 5, 7, 9 and 61 and Lot 29; Wheaton Garage 45; and Montgomery Hills Lot 12. Phase 2: Bethesda garages 35, 40, 42, 49 and 57; and lots 24 ad 25; Silver Spring garages 2, 16, 58 and 60; and Wheaton lots 14 and 13 (under redevelopment). As the EV stations are installed, MCDOT will closely monitor their usage to determine if additional stations are needed in a garage or lot to meet demand. Check online for information about the location of each numbered garage and lot.

The EV charging stations are part of a larger County initiative to reduce the use of fossil fuels. Under the Montgomery County Department of General Services (DGS) "Drive Green Initiative" to reduce petroleum use by 20% over the next five years, DGS has begun introducing electric vehicles to its fleet. Currently, DGS manages five battery electric and 10 plug-in hybrid vehicles, and plans that all new sedans purchased will be plug-in hybrids. County vehicle EV stations are located at the Executive Office Building, Council Office Building, Equipment Maintenance and Transit Operations Center, Mid-County Department of Health and Human Services, Automotive Equipment Center and Public Safety Headquarters.

The new EV charging stations in County parking garages and lots will supplement those already located in Montgomery County and across Maryland.

There about 250 EV stations across Maryland, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

# # #

Release ID: 15-146
Media Contact: Lorraine Driscoll 240-777-6507 or Esther Bowring240-777-7155

Return to News Releases