



TOWN OF BROOKLINE

Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SUSTAINABILITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

Erin E. Chute
Commissioner

Alexandra Vecchio
Director

Memorandum

To: School Committee, Select Board
From: Alexandra Vecchio, Director of Sustainability and Natural Resources
Sam Downes, PE, Deputy Director of Engineering
Rebecca Manley, Conservation and Sustainability Assistant
Date: August 11, 2025
Re: **Update on Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at Baker and Driscoll Schools**
Cc: Erin Chute, Commissioner of Public Works
Dan Murphy, Director of Engineering and Transportation
Amy Ingles, Associate Director of Transportation and Mobility
Joe Albuquerque, BPS Director of Operations
Saeed Ola, Baker School Principal

The Department of Public Works (DPW) previously proposed the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at the Baker, Runkle, and Lincoln Schools funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Program. At their meeting on July 14, 2025, members of the School Committee (SC) generally supported the installation of EV charging stations as long as the School Department was not responsible for any utility costs associated with the charging stations.

When new stations are initially installed, it is difficult to predict if the stations will be utilized enough to cover operating costs of the station, especially at school locations which currently have limited EV charging stations for analysis and comparison. Given this unknown, DPW is returning to the SC to request moving forward only with the proposed dual port, Level 2 EV charging stations at the Baker School. By reducing the project to one location, this will ensure the Town's EV Revolving Fund can cover any potential utility overages and allow DPW staff to collect more data and determine the feasibility of installing additional EV charging stations at other Brookline Public Schools.

Baker School EV Charging Stations

DPW applied for and received grant funding through MasseVIP (Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Program) to support the installation of two, Level 2 EV charging stations at Baker School. The project is estimated to cost \$82,980, with MasseVIP providing \$48,493.20 in funding, leaving a balance of \$34,486.80 to fully fund the projects. The remaining project costs will utilize reimbursements from previous MasseVIP-funded EV charging projects and an earmark for EV charging infrastructure through the Executive Office of Energy and

Environmental Affairs to ensure the installation of these stations come at no cost to the School Department.

Operating Costs

Warranty Plans, Cloud Services, and electricity are reoccurring costs that will be paid from the Town's newly formed EV Revolving Fund. Revenues in this fund are generated by the fees collected from the charging stations across Brookline's entire EV station network. The proposed stations at the Baker School will be metered separately and all associated electricity bills will be paid for by the Department of Public Works using the EV Revolving Fund.

Expansion of EV Charging Infrastructure at Brookline Schools

DPW conducted site visits at Baker School, Runkle School, New Lincoln School and Hayes School with each school principal and input from Joe Albuquerque, Director of PSB Operations. After reviewing project budgets, proximity to other EV charging stations, and discussions with the school principals, Town staff have prioritized installation of EV stations at the Baker School. In coordination with the Baker School's principal, it was agreed to follow the Driscoll School's access model and have the stations available for school staff-only from 7:00am to 5:00pm, Monday to Friday. Outside of those days and times, the stations would be available for public use. DPW recommends the charging fee be set at \$0.35/kWh and users will incur a \$5/hour overstay fee 20 minutes after charging is completed. The overstay fee will only apply during the hours available to the public, not during the school day when the stations are reserved for school staff.

Anticipated Construction Schedule

Work can only be conducted when school is not in session and therefore will not begin until Spring 2026. The actual completion date is dependent on when work can start and coordination with Eversource.

Driscoll School Charging Cost Recommendation

To ensure consistent pricing at all BPS charging stations, DPW recommends that the charging cost at Driscoll be increased from \$0.25/kWh to \$0.35/kWh. The fees collected will be deposited into the Town's EV Revolving Fund and used to cover the operational costs of the stations. While the Driscoll School EV stations are not metered separately, the Revolving Fund is being used to pay for warranty plans and cloud service plans at that location.

Recommendation

DPW respectfully requests the School Committee and Select Board accept the MassEVIP grant of \$48,493.20 to support the installation of EV stations at Baker School and establish an EV charging fee of \$0.35/kWh for the Baker and Driscoll Schools.