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NEWS RELEASE

February 18, 2020

**Electric Vehicle Charging Station Listening Session Scheduled**

Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes today announced a listening session to gather input from the public regarding spending \$10 million in Volkswagen Diesel Emissions Environmental Mitigation Trust funds for electric vehicle charging station (EVCS) grants. The listening session will be held:

- **Friday, February 21, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** at the Lubar Entrepreneurship Center & UWM Welcome Center, UW-Milwaukee, 2100 E. Kenwood Blvd, Milwaukee.

Listening sessions will be held in other Wisconsin communities and will be announced at a later date.

During these sessions, the public is invited to provide input on electric vehicle use, charging station locations, grant program design and other matters relevant to the electric vehicle charging station grant program. Please note: these funds cannot be used to purchase electric vehicles.

“Reducing carbon emissions in our state is one of my top priorities, and electric vehicles are a key component to those efforts. But it can be hard to encourage electrical vehicle ownership when there are not enough charging stations in convenient locations for Wisconsinites,” said Lt. Governor Barnes, who will be participating in the Milwaukee listening session.

Volkswagen admitted to violating the federal Clean Air Act by selling diesel engine vehicles that utilized a “defeat device” that resulted in better fuel mileage and driving performance, but also resulted in the release of thousands of tons of NOx emissions in excess of regulated limits. Judicial settlements require Volkswagen to pay more than \$2.9 billion into an Environmental Mitigation Trust Fund. The State of Wisconsin is a designated beneficiary and will receive \$67.1 million over ten years to offset the excess pollution emitted by affected Volkswagen vehicles. Governor Evers’ directed the Department of Administration to spend up to \$10 million in VW Settlement Trust funds for EVCS grants.

In addition to attending a listening session, interested persons may choose to provide feedback by responding to a Request for Information available on the VW Mitigation webpage at <https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/vwsettlementwisconsin.aspx>. Responses are due Friday, February 28.

For more information on the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant Program listening sessions or VW Mitigation Program, contact Ben Vondra, Department of Administration, at 608-261-6262 or [benjaminh.vondra@wisconsin.gov](mailto:benjaminh.vondra@wisconsin.gov).

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