**Downtown West Jefferson Charging Station**

**DAQ Site Visit August 24, 2021**

**NCDEQ, Division of Air Quality**

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**Site Overview**

The Town of West Jefferson was developed around the Virginia-Carolina Railroad depot in the early 1900s and is located between Mount Jefferson to the east and Paddy Mountain to the west. The Town is a Main Street America Affiliate and part of a national network of more than 1,200 neighborhoods and communities. The Downtown West Jefferson Charging Station project was one of 77 Level 2 infrastructure projects selected for funding in Phase 1 of the NC Volkswagen (VW) Settlement Program. This project received a Phase 1 VW rebate of $10,000 for the installation of one Level 2 dual-port charger. It is the second Level 2 charger in the West Jefferson, located in a downtown public parking lot, and available for public use 24 hours per day 7 days a week without restriction.

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**Level 2 Charging Infrastructure Program Information**

In Phase 1 of the NC VW Settlement program there was $1.1 million was available for Level 2 charging infrastructure projects. Along with the other Phase 1 VW DEQ funded ZEV infrastructure projects to be installed, these projects will help create ZEV routes from the mountains to the coast in North Carolina. The primary goal is to increase use of ZEVs in place of gas-powered cars to mitigate nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, and greenhouse gas emissions in the state.

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**Executive Order 80**

North Carolina has committed to allocate the full fifteen percent allowed by the Volkswagen consent decree to light duty vehicle charging infrastructure projects and this will help to fulfill one of Governor Roy Cooper’s goals of Executive Order 80 (increasing the number of registered, zero-emission vehicles to at least 80,000 by 2025). Increasing the availability of electric vehicle charging infrastructure helps to alleviate range anxiety for drivers of electric vehicles and influence more ZEV sales in the state.
The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality administers the $92 million allocation of Volkswagen Mitigation Settlement funds for North Carolina. This project was funded in Phase 1 of the program. Phase 2 of the program will combine the originally planned phases two and three into one final phase with the full fifteen percent allowed allocated to ZEV infrastructure projects. The primary goal of the Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Infrastructure Program is to increase use of ZEVs in place of gas-powered cars to mitigate nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, and greenhouse gas emissions in the state. To achieve that goal, the program will emphasize adding new ZEV charging infrastructure in underserved areas, extend the existing light-duty ZEV infrastructure across the state, encourage intrastate and interstate ZEV vehicle usage at North Carolina’s diverse geographic, historic and tourist attractions and highlight the environmental benefits of ZEVs.