

City of Detroit


CITY COUNCIL

GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 6

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mikel Oglesby, Director
Detroit Department of Transportation

THRU: Council Member Mary Sheffield, Council President

FROM: Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero 

DATE: February 17, 2023

RE: Geothermal Heating for Bus Stations

During public comment, many residents have expressed concern about having to wait long times for the buses in dangerously cold weather. What is being done to address these concerns?

Please investigate the possibility of installing in ground geothermal heat pumps at each bus shelter. Geothermal heat pumps are among the most cost-effective and energy-efficient heating technologies.¹ In Madrid, Spain, geothermal pumps are used to provide heating to one of the largest metro and bus stations.²

The U.S. Department of Energy recently announced a funding opportunity of up to \$74 million for up to seven pilot projects that test the efficacy and scalability of enhanced geothermal systems.³ I urge DDOT to develop a proposal to use enhanced geothermal systems to heat bus shelters citywide and submit a grant application to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions. Thank you.

Cc: Honorable Detroit City Council
Louise Jones, City Clerk's Office
Malik Washington, City Council Liaison

¹ https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/guide_to_geothermal_heat_pumps.pdf

² <https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2022/03/09/hybridising-pv-redox-flow-batteries-and-geothermal-heat-pumps/>

³ <https://www.energy.gov/articles/biden-harris-administration-announces-74-million-advance-enhanced-geothermal-systems>