

THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

Investments in Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

The Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA), enacted on November 15, 2021, brings new opportunities for states and local government units to invest in electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The new \$5 billion National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program was established. The program provides funding to States to help with the strategic deployment of a national network of 500,000 EV charging stations by 2030. Funds are being distributed to the States on a formula basis. The law also establishes a discretionary grant program for Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Program) to deploy publicly accessible EV infrastructure throughout the country, including rural and underserved communities, at locations that are accessible to all. There will be a high interest in using these funding opportunities to promote equity via these programs.

Funding Falls into Two Major Programs

1. The National Electric Vehicle Formula Program (\$5 billion), State DOTs are required to develop a statewide implementation plan to begin using these formula funds. Work is underway to develop these plans across the country. The FHWA has released program guidance for the NEVI Formula Program, available at https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/alternative_fuel_corridors/nominations/90d_nevi_formula_program_guidance.pdf. FHWA has also issued a notice of proposed rulemaking to establish regulations setting minimum standards and requirements for projects funded under the NEVI formula program, including projects for the construction of publicly accessible EV chargers. The BIL specifically required that minimum standards and requirements be developed related to six areas:
 - Installation, operation, and maintenance by qualified technicians of EV infrastructure.
 - Interoperability of EV charging infrastructure.
 - Traffic control devices and on-premise signs acquired, installed, or operated.
 - Data requested related to a project funded under the NEVI Formula Program, including the format and schedule for submitting such data.
 - Network connectivity of EV charging infrastructure.
 - Information on publicly available EV charging infrastructure locations, pricing, real-time availability, and accessibility through mapping applications.
2. The Charging and Fuel Infrastructure Program (\$2.5 billion) will deploy EV charging and hydrogen/propane/natural gas fueling infrastructure along alternative fuel corridors and in communities. There is a requirement to redesignate alternative fuel corridors and establish a process to designate these corridors regularly. There is also a set-aside of 50% to install EV charging and alternative fueling infrastructure on public roads or in other publicly accessible locations, such as parking facilities at public buildings, schools, and parks. While guidance still needs to be issued for the discretionary grant program opportunities, it can be expected to follow the guidance given for the NEVI formula program. This program will focus on charger deployment reaching rural, disadvantaged, and other hard-to-reach communities



“We are modernizing America’s national highway system for drivers in cities large and small, towns and rural communities, to take advantage of the benefits of driving electric,” said U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm. “The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is helping states to make electric vehicle charging more accessible by building the necessary infrastructure for drivers across America to save money and go the distance, from coast-to-coast.”

OTHER EV RELATED PROGRAMS

Clean School Bus Program (\$5 billion), Low and No-Emission Transit Bus Program (\$5.6 billion), and Electric or Low Emission Emitting Ferry Program (\$250 million)

These programs are all intended to support transitioning buses and ferries to zero-emission alternatives. They support innovation in new types of vehicles that reduce pollution in communities for passengers and children. They provide capital funding for buses/ferries, equipment, facilities, and related projects.

Eligible Projects

EV Charging Infrastructure programs funds can be used to acquire and install EV charging or alternative fueling infrastructure. Operating assistance (for the first five years) and procuring and installing traffic control devices are also eligible activities. Eligible entities include states, MPOs, local government, special purpose districts or public authority with a transportation function, Indian Tribes, or Territory.

Utilizing Funds

The Minnesota DOT is administering the NEVI formula funds, and all entities considering utilizing that program must work closely with MnDOT as they develop their statewide plan. It is still uncertain how the discretionary funding will be administered; however, it will be important that local government units work closely with MnDOT to assure that the appropriate fiscal agent responsibilities can be identified within their grant applications and that letters of support can be obtained. Responsible local government units will have to assure the federal agencies that they are willing and capable of administering any discretionary grant money they might receive.

NEXT STEPS

We are excited to collaborate with National Car Charging to provide Electric Vehicle (EV) solutions for our local clients. National Car Charging is an EV charging infrastructure expert and one of the nation’s largest independent EV charging resellers. Opportunities for communities to seek EV discretionary funding are plentiful with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Our team can help clients navigate the Federal requirements related to the IIJA funding, find opportunities to add additional resources to support existing or new programs/projects and work with state and local governments to help gain access to the new funding available. We can also provide grant writing services to assure that clients have a credible chance of securing the grant monies that are available to them.

Whether you are just starting to explore the dynamic world of EV charging or are an early adopter and are just adding to your current EV charging infrastructure; the collaborative team of Sambatek and National Car Charging is here to meet your needs for all aspects of EV infrastructure funding, grant writing, planning, engineering, and implementation.

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