

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY RESPONSE

Q: How will Arkansas ensure the state has built out EV Chargers for all geographic areas and motorists?

A: Arkansas' initial National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program funds are directed by the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) rules for use in building Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) charging stations along Arkansas' portions of the Federal Interstate Highway system and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFC). Once Arkansas Interstates and AFCs are fully built out to NEVI compliant standards and certified by USDOT, ARDOT may use funds provided under the NEVI Formula Program for EVSE charging infrastructure on any other publicly accessible sites to support statewide electric vehicle (EV) travel, tourism, and economic activities.

Future annual updates to the Arkansas NEVI Plan will describe the state's strategies and methodologies for deploying EVSE charging stations to Arkansas Routes of Significance and additional statewide EVSE priorities. While Arkansas' five NEVI goals will remain consistent throughout the NEVI program, different strategies and methods may be needed to ensure charging solutions are tailored for local needs. Arkansas has many US and State Highways that are significant travel corridors, which connect key regions of the state to Interstates for longer-distance travel or to other state destinations for recreation and commerce. By considering input from residents and factors such as average annual daily traffic volumes, utility power availability, regional EV registration numbers, and other variables, ARDOT will work with stakeholders and ultimately design a third phase of competitive procurements. This third phase of NEVI competitive procurements will be designed to deploy EV charging stations throughout the state on key routes of significance to enable distance and regional travel to serve the greatest number of travelers.

In addition, ARDOT will utilize any remaining NEVI funding to serve additional Arkansas EVSE priorities. Based on feedback from a wide variety of public stakeholders throughout the program, including equity, freight, and public transportation stakeholders, ARDOT will identify additional regional and local needs and create a fourth phase of competitive procurements to fund EVSE deployment solutions. More detailed information on these phases will be provided in annual Arkansas NEVI Plan updates. Please visit our website, www.ardot.gov/evplan, and subscribe to the NEVI Formula Program email list to stay informed on public involvement opportunities.

Q: Will the US and Arkansas Power grids have enough power generation to supply electricity to the growing demand caused by EVs?

A: The US Department of Energy, Vehicle Technologies Office Grid Integration Tech Team (GITT) has produced a report examining a range of EV market penetration scenarios (low, medium, and high) and associated changes to the U.S. electric power system in terms of energy generation and generation capacity. The Summary Report on "EVs at Scale and the U.S. Electric Power System," compares historical trends in the US Electric power grid to those future potential changes in energy generation and generation capacity, including explicit quantifications for the year 2030, as it roughly corresponds to the period of highest annual EV market growth in the high EV market penetration scenario considered by the report.

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- The overall conclusion of this US Department of Energy report is that the US is expected to have sufficient energy generation capacity to support current projected commercial and residential demand as well as a growing EV fleet, even in the high EV market growth scenarios considered by the analysis.

The number of electric vehicles now registered in Arkansas has increased by 43% during the first five months of 2022 as compared to the end of 2021, according to the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration (DFA). As of June 1, 2022, Arkansas has 2,997 EVs registered, including plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) and dedicated battery electric vehicles (BEVs). While growing rapidly, EVs still represent only ~0.3% of all passenger vehicles in the state.

Q: What are the details on the RFP / competitive procurement process for Arkansas' NEVI funds?

A: ARDOT will build on the agencies' federal grant process experience and the Arkansas Department of Energy & Environment's VW DC Fast Charge Funding Assistance program experience to create a competitive grant program and request applications. Selection criteria will be based on minimum NEVI Formula program requirements and will likely include other ranking criteria such as site ability to provide maximum gap coverage, site readiness, available utility power, available amenities nearby, and cost. ARDOT is still developing this program and will provide updates and full details once available. Please visit our website, www.ardot.gov/evplan, and subscribe to the NEVI Formula Program email list to stay informed on updates regarding the competitive grant program and other announcements.

Q: Why should Arkansas spend tax dollars on EV charging infrastructure?

A: The National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program is a \$5 billion federal government program established by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to build a national network of 500,000 EV charging stations by 2030 along federally designated AFCs. NEVI will provide funding to states over the next five years to strategically deploy EVSE charging station infrastructure and increase access to charging stations for Americans to travel across states and nationwide in EVs.

ARDOT does not intend to utilize state revenue for the future deployment of EV charging stations through NEVI, but rather utilize its portion of federal funding which by law can only be spent on EVSE charging infrastructure. If ARDOT chooses to decline this funding, FHWA "may withhold or withdraw, as applicable, funds made available under the Program for the fiscal year from the State and award such funds on a competitive basis to local jurisdictions within the State for use on projects that meet the eligibility requirements" of the NEVI program. Therefore, ARDOT will comply with federal laws and administer these funds to best meet the needs of Arkansas.

Q: Will ARDOT be restricting the potential interchanges/exits for NEVI funds solely to those described in the July Arkansas NEVI plan?

A: ARDOT does not intend to restrict the final number of NEVI compliant locations to only those interchanges identified in the July Draft Arkansas NEVI Plan. ARDOT intends to release a competitive procurement process

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in which EVSE site hosts will ultimately be identifying and applying for final locations, which ARDOT will select to award funding based on objective criteria, ensuring sites meet all federal requirements and state goals.

ARDOT intends to continue public engagement and receive public input and feedback over the five-year NEVI Formula program period. ARDOT will seek additional public input on potential interchange locations for EVSE charging stations, as well as seek feedback on its competitive procurement and RFP process that will be developed after the Arkansas NEVI plan is approved by USDOT. Please visit our website, www.ardot.gov/evplan, and subscribe to the NEVI Formula Program email list to stay informed on public involvement opportunities.

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