



ARKANSAS' ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE DEPLOYMENT

February 2025

ARDOT'S EV INFRASTRUCTURE DEPLOYMENT (EVID) FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Q: What is "NEVI"?

A: The [National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure \(NEVI\) Formula Program](#) is a \$5 billion program established by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to build a national network of 500,000 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations by 2030 along federally designated [EV Alternative Fuel Corridors \(AFC\)](#). The NEVI Formula Program will provide funding to states from 2022 to 2026 to strategically deploy Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) charging station infrastructure, increasing access to EV charging stations for Americans to travel across states and nationwide in EVs.

Q: How much NEVI Formula Program funding will Arkansas receive?

A: Arkansas will receive \$54.1 million in NEVI program funding over five years with \$42.5 million allocated as of the federal approval of the Arkansas FY25 EVID Plan.

Q: What are the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Standards and Requirements?

A: On February 28, 2023, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released the final rule establishing the [NEVI Standards and Requirements](#). The NEVI Standards and Requirements establish EVSE regulations, setting minimum standards and requirements for projects funded under the NEVI Formula Program.

Q: How will Arkansas' NEVI Formula Program funds be spent?

A: Arkansas' initial allocation of NEVI Formula Program funds are directed by IIJA and USDOT rules for use in first building EVSE charging stations along Arkansas portions of the [FHWA designated EV AFCs](#).

Once Arkansas' EV AFCs are "fully built out" to NEVI Formula Program standards and the system is certified by the USDOT, Arkansas may use remaining NEVI Formula Program funding allocations for EVSE charging infrastructure on any other publicly accessible sites to support statewide EV travel, tourism, and economic activities.

Q: What are Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs)?

A: In July 2016 USDOT and FHWA created the [Alternative Fuel Corridor Program](#), establishing specific criteria for nominating portions of the National Highway System and calling on states to nominate EV, hydrogen, propane, and natural gas fueling corridors along major national highways. The specific fuels were designated by Congress in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.

Q: What do you mean EV AFCs must be "fully built out" to NEVI Program Standards Requirements?

A: To be considered "fully built out," the [NEVI Standards and Requirements](#) require EV AFCs be equipped with:

- » Publicly accessibly DC Fast Charging Stations every 50 miles and within 1 travel mile of the interchange, equipped with:
 - At least Four 150kW DC Fast Chargers
 - Ports must be Combined Charging System (CCS1)
 - Capability to simultaneously DC fast charge four EVs at 150kW





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Q: What are ARDOT's NEVI plans to achieve "fully built out" status?

A: ARDOT has developed a competitive procurement process to solicit proposals for EV charging station locations that meet all NEVI program and state requirements to provide EV charging stations along the state's EV AFCs. ARDOT anticipates that at least two Requests for Proposal (RFP) rounds will be needed in order to award the federally required number of EV charging station sites along the state's EV AFCs to achieve the NEVI program's required "fully built out" status.

Q: What is "right-sizing" EV charging stations?

A: The NEVI Program currently requires four charging stations capable of 600kW continuous power per site. In some locations throughout rural areas of Arkansas, that level of utility power service may not be available, be cost prohibitive to bring to rural locations, or the level of EV charging demand may not be sufficient to support the business model for the sustainable operation of such high-power charging. After being certified "fully built out" by USDOT, ARDOT will have the flexibility to allow local market conditions to help inform and ultimately "right size" the level of power and number of ports of EV charging stations throughout the rest of Arkansas' roadway system.

Q: How many charging stations will be deployed by NEVI?

A: Based on current information from EV charging station vendors, ARDOT's working assumption is that the cost to develop a single NEVI-compliant charging site (4 x 150kW EVSE) is approximately \$1 million. The NEVI program funding can provide up to 80% of the eligible costs at each Project site. Depending on the proposed Projects and request for Program funding, Arkansas could build between 45 and 65 NEVI-compliant EVSE sites throughout the state.

Q: How will ARDOT choose EV charging station sites?

A: ARDOT has developed a competitive procurement process in which eligible applicants will ultimately be identifying and proposing for EV charging site locations. ARDOT will select projects and award funding based on the applicant's responsiveness to evaluation criteria.

ARDOT has successfully conducted the first round of ARDOT's EVID Competitive Procurement Program, including releasing an RFP structured as a "Design Build" contract type; receiving 120 proposals; evaluating proposals; and announcing awards in April 2024 totaling \$14.9M for 19 NEVI compliant EV charging stations on Arkansas' EV AFCs.

ARDOT released its second NEVI RFP on December 20, 2024, with a deadline for proposals of March 19, 2025. For more details on ARDOT's NEVI RFPs, please visit: ardot.gov/NEVI.

Q: What are features of the competitive procurement?

A: ARDOT goal for the NEVI Formula Program is to spur market investments in EV charging stations in Arkansas through a competitive procurement program that awards NEVI funds to third-party owner-operators that best meet Arkansas and NEVI Formula Program goals. ARDOT's 2023 and 2024 EVID Competitive Procurement Programs were designed to be market friendly and effectively deploy EV infrastructure along Arkansas EV AFCs, with evaluation criteria developed to review and award proposers that provide best value for the public. For more details, please see Chapter 5 in the [Arkansas FY25 EVID Plan](#).





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Q: What about rural areas not near EV AFCs?

A: Once Arkansas' EV AFCs are "fully built out" to NEVI-compliant standards and certified by USDOT, Arkansas may use funds provided under the NEVI Formula Program for EVSE charging infrastructure on other publicly accessible sites. ARDOT cannot focus on rural sites beyond EV AFCs until later years of the Program, following EV AFCs being certified "fully built out." ARDOT suggests proposers identify federal, state, and local grants and incentives that may provide funding for such locations until ARDOT has been certified "fully built out" under NEVI standards. More information on other grants and incentives can be found on ARDOT's NEVI website: www.ardot.gov/evplan

Q: How can prospective proposers prepare for NEVI RFPs?

A: Any prospective applicant looking to procure NEVI Formula Program funds can begin to prepare in the following ways:

1. **Read [NEVI Standards and Requirements](#) to ensure potential site and intended project comply.**
2. **Review [US Department of Energy Guidance on EVSE Station Procurement and Installation](#).**
3. **Coordinate with your electric utility provider.** Begin site assessments to ensure your specific parking spaces have access to enough utility service to provide 600kW of continuous power to EVSE charging stations. Begin gathering information on required site upgrades needed, power service upgrades, possible utility peak and demand charges, and cost assessments for the full utility service upgrades required by your specific site and utility.
4. **Coordinate with your preferred EVSE vendor(s).** Ensure software, hardware, and networking services provided by the vendor(s) conforms to NEVI program requirements. Begin assembling cost quotes for the full design, hardware purchase, installation, networking fees, and annual costs associated with site operation and maintenance.
5. **Visit ardot.gov/NEVI and download the 2024 NEVI RFP**, including the submission package and informational materials to read all the program requirements and understand the details needed for a complete submission package. For more information, recorded webinars on the ARDOT NEVI RFPs are available for viewing, as well as RFP program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

