

To: The Ohio Manufacturers' Association
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DriveOhio's Federally Funded National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program: \$100 Million for Highway Corridors

Summary

As a part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), enacted as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the federal government is supplying states with substantial investments to establish a nationwide network of electric vehicle (EV) chargers. In Ohio, this funding will be organized under the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). Over the next five years, Ohio will receive \$20.7 million annually to build out Ohio's EV charging infrastructure along designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs) on the state's highway system, shown in Figure 1.¹ The \$20.7 million in annual funding is determined by a formula and is called a formula grant.

The funds can be used for acquiring and installing EV charging infrastructure along AFCs, operation and maintenance assistance including electricity costs, and other pre-planning costs. Once Ohio's AFCs are determined to be "fully built out" to NEVI compliant standards, Ohio can use the remaining NEVI Formula funds for publicly available Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) Charging Stations.² ODOT is interested in using the remaining NEVI funds to support public transportation and freight electrification.³

ODOT has announced a request for proposal (RFP) for companies who are interested in installing and operating EV charging stations along AFC highways. The NEVI federal funding will cover up to 80% of the program funding and site hosts will be required to provide a 20% match. Proposals are due by December 21, 2022 and expected proposal selection will be early February 2023.

Key Points

- Ohio will receive \$100 million over 5 years to develop EV charging stations along the highway system.
- Once the highway system is "fully built out" for EV charging, NEVI funding may be used on any public road or in other publicly accessible locations.
- ODOT's priorities are highway alternative fuel corridors, then "to expand to regional and local routes of significance, equity-based destination charging, and freight charging locations."

¹ Ohio Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan. (2022). In Ohio NEVI Plan. Ohio Department of Transportation & DriveOhio. <https://drive.ohio.gov/programs/electric/nevi/nevi-plan>

² Ibid. Pg. 2.

³ Ibid Pg. 47.

Figure 1: Ohio's Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs)⁴



Impact on Manufacturers Seeking to Expand EV Options

Funding from the NEVI Formula Program must be used directly for projects related to EV charging infrastructure that is "open to the general public or to authorized commercial motor vehicle operators from more than one company."⁵ Under this specification, "renewable energy generation and storage, such as on-site solar panels, would be considered directly related if it leads to lower overall construction and operating costs, and therefore would be eligible."⁶

While the NEVI Formula Program will not currently allot funding for private EV charging infrastructure, there may be fund availability for this in the future. If Ohio and the FHWA certify that the AFCs are "fully built out" for EV charging infrastructure, then Ohio will be allowed to use NEVI funds for "EV charging infrastructure on any public road or in other publicly accessible locations that are open to the general public or to authorized commercial motor vehicle operators from more than one company."⁷ Publicly accessible locations can include: public parking facilities and private parking facilities that are available for public use, as well as public transportation stations.

⁴ Ohio Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan. (2022). In Ohio NEVI Plan. Ohio Department of Transportation & DriveOhio. Pg. 1. <https://drive.ohio.gov/programs/electric/nevi/nevi-plan>

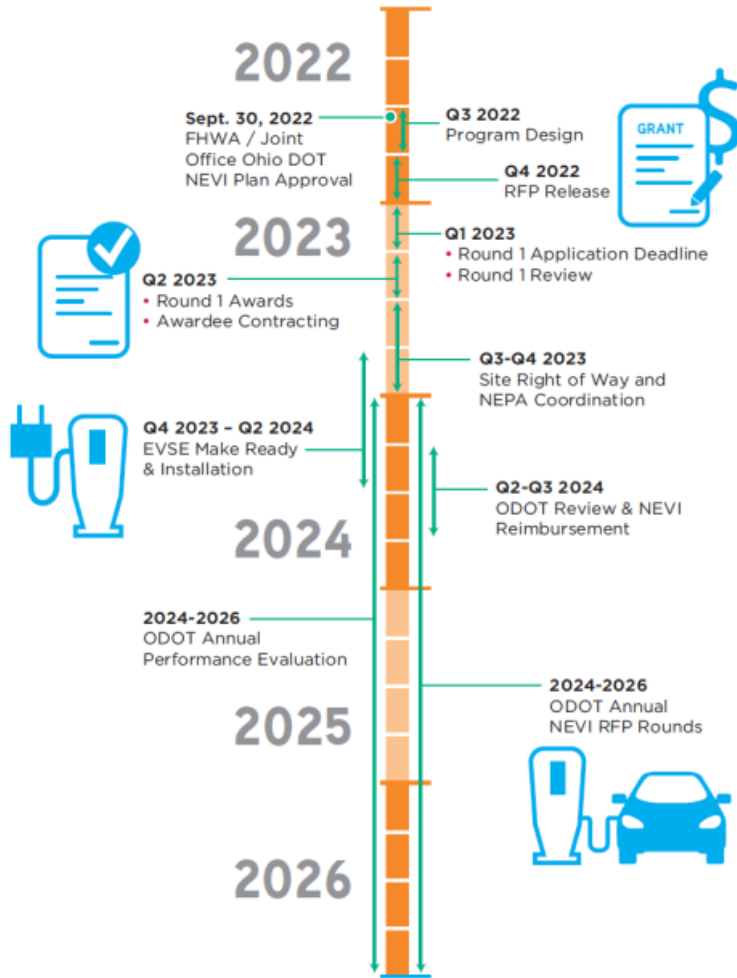
⁵ National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program. (2022). U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration. Pg. 12. https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/alternative_fuel_corridors/nominations/90d_nevi_formula_program_guidance.pdf

⁶ Ibid. Pg. 12.

⁷ Ibid. Pg. 11.

Additionally, ODOT is considering using the remaining NEVI funds on EVSE projects that will support freight electrification. In 2021, DriveOhio released a Freight Electrification Study that outlined the future of commercial electrification, determining the best practices to facilitate the transition to EVs for freight and logistics industries.⁸ DriveOhio anticipates that these additional funds will become available in 2024, after the AFCs have been built out (see figure below).⁹

Figure 2: DriveOhio's Anticipated NEVI Milestones¹⁰



⁸ Zehnder, K., Lowry, S., Evans, R., Spofforth, S., Conley, A., Marshall, M., & Shetty, N. (2021). Ohio Freight Electrification Report: Last Mile, Medium-Duty, Heavy-Duty. Ohio Department of Transportation & DriveOhio. Retrieved from <https://drive.ohio.gov/programs/electric/freight-electrification>

⁹ Ohio Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan. (2022). In Ohio NEVI Plan. Ohio Department of Transportation & DriveOhio. <https://drive.ohio.gov/programs/electric/nevi/nevi-plan>

¹⁰ Ibid. Pg. 4.