

ARKANSAS ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

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ARKANSAS SUBMITS STATE NEVI FORMULA FUNDING PLAN

The National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program is a \$5 billion program to build a cohesive national network of 500,000 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations by 2030 along federally designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs). Through this program, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will provide funding, allocated by the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, to states to strategically deploy this charging infrastructure and facilitate data collection. The NEVI Formula Program allocates money to each state according to a formula, proportionate to existing federal-aid highway funding. Funds cannot be made available until the FHWA has approved that state's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan.

The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) and the Department of Energy & Environment (E&E) submitted Arkansas's NEVI plan to build EV charging infrastructure along Arkansas's Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs). ARDOT and E&E collaborated to create the plan over the past three months. Arkansas will receive over \$54 million in federal funding to install DC Fast Charging stations over the next five years. These stations will be publicly available and be part of a national charging network for travelers on the nation's interstate highways. Arkansas's plan will focus on Designated AFC Interstates 40, 30, and 49.

In subsequent years, the plan will address remaining interstates, remaining AFCs, and other high-traffic roadways. The plan employs a competitive procurement process in which EV charging site hosts will ultimately identify and apply for station locations. ARDOT will award funding based on objective criteria outlined in the program guidance. The proposed plan can be viewed on ARDOT's website at www.ardot.gov/evplan.

However, the plan might not be implemented quickly. In June, the FHWA announced a **Notice of Proposed Rulemaking** for minimum standards and requirements for projects funded by the NEVI Formula Program.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

highways.dot.gov/newsroom/biden-harris-administration-takes-key-step-forward-building-national-network-user-friendly

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING:

www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/06/22/2022-12704/national-electric-vehicle-infrastructure-formula-program

These rules will govern the requirements of each station and how states will be able to use the funding. These rules are currently under the public comment period. After this period ends on August 19, the FHWA will evaluate public feedback before issuing a final set of rules. This process may not be finalized before 2023, at which time ARDOT and E&E will finalize the procurement process and prepare to release a request for proposals. While the NEVI program focuses on long-distance drivers, future competitive funding will likely address local and commuter charging, as America moves toward a more electrified transportation sector.

NEWS & EVENTS



DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK NWA ROGERS, AR | SEPTEMBER 24, 2022

A collection of businesses, nonprofits and government entities will be on-site to answer questions about electric cars, electric bikes, retrofitting garages for charging at home, and public charging stations. They will be able to compare the cost of car charging with filling up a gas tank. A statewide electric vehicle club with more than 900 members will have some of their electric cars on site and provide testimonials about their experiences. For more information, visit: www.driveelectricweek.org/event?eventid=3414