



Industry Survey for EV Charging

This industry survey is being issued by the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) to solicit feedback and recommendations for the deployment of electric vehicle charging stations along interstate corridors in Iowa.

Iowa DOT has developed an Iowa [EV Infrastructure Deployment Plan \(EVIDP\)](#) in response to the recent National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program Guidance authorized under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). As such, the purpose of this industry survey is to collect input from potential market participants across varying sectors on how to best support the deployment for direct current fast charging (DCFC) stations through the federal NEVI funding to be administered by the Iowa DOT. Respondents are encouraged to read the [EVIDP](#) before responding to this industry survey.

The requested information must be received by 5 p.m. CST on February 28, 2023.

For questions or clarification, please email iowa.evplan@iowadot.us.

Background

Responses from this industry survey will be used to inform a new grant program for Iowa DOT to distribute NEVI formula funds. Iowa DOT is seeking responses from stakeholders who may be applying for this grant funding, partnering with potential applicants and/or have expertise in developing electric vehicle charging stations. A response to this industry survey does not constitute a request for funding.

According to Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidance for the NEVI Formula Program, Iowa can expect to receive approximately \$51 million in federal funding between 2022-2026. Iowa submitted its EVIDP to the federal Joint Office of Energy and Transportation on August 1, 2022, and it was approved on September 27, 2022. The EVIDP details how the NEVI formula funds will be used in accordance with federal guidance on developing charging networks along designated alternative fuel corridors (AFCs).

Information Requested

Respondents are NOT to provide proposals or marketing material and should instead focus on providing detailed answers to the questions in this industry survey. The purpose of this industry survey is for information-gathering purposes only; Iowa DOT will NOT select a vendor(s) for DCFC infrastructure deployment based on responses to this industry survey. No contracts will result from this industry survey.

Respondents should provide answers for each of the prompts/questions below. Respondents should avoid providing confidential information and the Iowa DOT provides no assurance of confidential treatment or protection from Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.

Please provide the following information:

Organization name _____

Organization type:

- Site host
- Developer
- Owner/operator
- Other: _____

Organization industry:

- Utility
- OEM/Charging infrastructure
- Government
- Fuel retailer
- Other: _____

Mailing address:

Street address _____

Street address line 2 _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Primary contact information:

First name _____ Last name _____

Email address _____

Phone number _____

General Questions:

Please describe your organization’s involvement and experience with DCFC infrastructure.

How many chargers and/or charging stations are you able to build, install and/or maintain on an annual basis?

What are the biggest challenges or barriers that could impact timely implementation of the NEVI program? Please provide any suggestions to overcome these challenges and barriers.

Describe performance requirements that your organization considers to be important. Are these performance requirements adequately covered, or not covered, by the [NEVI Guidance](#) and/or related [Notice of Proposed Rule Making](#)?

What types of funding maximums, if any, should be used in the Iowa DOT grant program to support efficient use of federal funding such as amount per charger, per site or allowable utility upgrade costs?

Site Locations

How many locations along Iowa's interstates would you consider developing DCFC with grant funding support?

- 0
- 1-2
- 3-5
- More than 5

Please describe what you believe makes an ideal DCFC location, including amenities and any risk factors that should be considered.

How would you rank the relative importance of the below factors on a scale of 1-10, 10 being most important?

- ___ Sufficient existing electrical infrastructure capacity
- ___ Demand from a specific target user segment
- ___ Existing site amenities
- ___ Planned site amenities
- ___ Parking locations, configuration, and overflow/expansion capacity
- ___ Economically favorable electricity rates from the utility provider

Please describe your process in determining and developing a DCFC site location, including an estimated timeframe broken down by major milestones, from research prior to funding application through successful operation.

What information about electric service at a proposed site could you provide during the application process? How do you plan to coordinate with utility providers to evaluate electric service at a proposed site in advance of an application?

Is your organization interested in bundling multiple locations into a single application or would you prefer site-by-site applications? Please describe your rationale and any additional details on the preferred approach.

Is your organization interested in the potential to upgrade existing DCFC charging stations to meet NEVI requirements?

Partnerships and Business Models

Please explain or provide any pertinent examples of previous partnerships regarding EV infrastructure your organization has had including what, if any, contracting mechanisms were used. Have disadvantaged or small businesses been included? These should include public and private entities as well as utility coordination.

Where does your organization see the biggest opportunities for the utilization of NEVI funds? This could be in terms of innovative technology solutions, partnerships, and/or targeting geographic locations.

In accordance with Federal regulations, the grant program will be a reimbursement program. Do you anticipate any challenges with the reimbursement model and, if so, how do you plan to address them? Are you able to meet the minimum 20% match requirement?

Operation, Maintenance and Data Sharing

On average, how long has it taken your organization to install a DCFC from start to finish? This includes site determination, design, permitting, site preparation, utilities, and installation.

Describe the typical operations and maintenance (O&M) and associated costs for your organization's DCFC stations. To what extent could NEVI funding be needed for O&M costs for grant funded projects? What do you recommend for O&M requirements of the Iowa DOT grant program, in addition to compliance with federal requirements?

How would your charging station and/or network provider provide data to an Iowa DOT-sponsored central data repository?

How could grant program requirements ensure the end-users of funded charging stations have the most convenient and reliable charging experience? Please include how power outages and site resiliency should be addressed.

Do you believe Iowa has the workforce required to install, operate and maintain DCFC charging sites? Does your organization have experience providing workforce training? If not, please describe what you think is required to develop this expertise.

Strategies for Low Utilization

Iowa DOT is looking to provide grants for DCFC stations in rural and underserved locations that may have a lower return on investment and is interested in how to make these projects more desirable to potential applicants.

What strategies can Iowa DOT use to encourage deployment of DCFC equipment into rural, underserved, or disadvantaged communities along Iowa's interstates? When answering please include information on motivating factors, including a specific number of projects for economies of scale; NEVI funds for capital costs; and NEVI funds for operations and maintenance costs.

Are there any other motivating factors that should be considered?

To increase utilization rates, what considerations or innovative solutions should be considered?

Strategies for Low Utilization

Please provide any additional information you believe would be beneficial for Iowa DOT to consider when developing a grant program for the deployment of NEVI funding. DO NOT INCLUDE MARKETING MATERIAL.

Are you interested in scheduling a one-on-one meeting with Iowa DOT to further discuss your responses to this survey? If yes, Iowa DOT will reach out to the contact provided to schedule a meeting.

- Yes
- No

Are you interested in connecting with stakeholders, potential applicants and local businesses for potential partnering opportunities? If yes, Iowa DOT will follow-up with additional information and details.

- Yes
- No

Please Note:

Responses to this industry survey will be reviewed by the agency for informational purposes and will not be considered as offers to be accepted by the agency to form a binding contract.

The Department may contact respondents that respond to the questions to discuss product information in further detail.

Information obtained in response to and related to this industry survey will be treated as public record pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 22.

Information obtained in response to this industry survey may be used to develop scope and solicitation documents for future procurements at the discretion of the Department. Respondents eligible to respond to this industry survey will remain eligible for any subsequent related contract with the agency.

Stakeholders can sign up for updates by visiting iowadot.gov/iowaevplan