



Texas EV Infrastructure Deployment Plan

Transportation Planning & Programming Division

Public Involvement Plan

This public involvement plan is a living document. The plan may be updated to add or remove objectives, stakeholders, strategies or methods as needed to adapt to new and changing circumstances as project development progresses.

Project Description and Background

As part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the new National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program intends to make historic investments in the electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure that will put the United States on a path to a nationwide network of 500,000 EV chargers by 2030 and ensure a convenient, reliable, affordable, and equitable charging experience for all users. Under this program, each state is required to submit an EV Infrastructure Deployment Plan (Plan) by Aug. 1st that describes how the State intends to use its apportioned NEVI Formula Program funds in accordance with guidance from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Texas expects to receive \$407 million over the next five years to create an EV charging network across the state. Funds will initially be used to create EV charging stations on the Alternative Fuel Corridors and then on the roads, excluding corridors. FHWA will decide when the corridors are complete but will not declare any corridors complete in the first year of the program.

In Feb. 10, 2022, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) took the opportunity to update the Alternative Fuel Corridors when Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) opened the network for new nominations. By May 13, 2022, TxDOT intends to submit nominations to extend all missing segments of the interstate to the Alternative Fuel Corridors.

Resources to visualize the Alternative Fuel Corridors, existing charging stations, EV driving tips, and EV charging study areas are currently available through TxDOT.gov.

- [Statewide Planning Map](#) (Selecting Alt Fuels - Electric overlay)
- [TxDOT Open Data Portal](#) (Data available in multiple formats)
- [Public NEVI Planning Map](#) (Includes transmission lines and EV study areas)
- [EV Dashboard](#)
- [Tips for EV Drivers](#)

The Texas EV Infrastructure Deployment Plan will be the building blocks that facilitate this national EV charging network creating EV charging corridor stations across the state to address driving range needs, promote economic development, increase tourism, and reduce harmful air pollution.

Project Goal

The goal of the project is to develop a comprehensive framework to enable passenger EV travel across the state and spur economic development. The network will give drivers initial confidence and flexibility when traveling for work, recreation, or exploration regardless of distance travelled or weather conditions. In accordance with guidance, the Plan will focus on interstate routes in the first year then transition to other routes in following years.

Public Involvement Objectives

The objectives will support TxDOT’s Public Involvement core principles and include a public engagement strategy to satisfy the NEVI Formula Program requirements.

- Identify and involve particular FHWA-mandated stakeholder groups in the plan’s development to include the general public, governmental entities, federally recognized tribes, labor organizations, private sector/industry representatives, representatives of the transportation and freight logistics industries, state public transportation agencies, and urban, rural, and underrepresented or disadvantaged communities
- Engage the public and obtain feedback on preferred charging locations, charging preferences, and costs
- Obtain feedback on the future use of EVs in one to three years
- Engage stakeholders and communities to ensure the development of EV charging infrastructure achieves equitable and fair distribution
- Establish early and continuous public participation opportunities that provide timely information about the Plan to all interested parties
- Provide reasonable public access to educational, technical, and policy information to enhance the public’s knowledge and ability to participate in the development of the Plan
- Provide adequate public notice of participation opportunities during the development of the Plan, and time for public review and comment on the planning and design process
- Ensure public participation opportunities are held in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
- Include measures for seeking input from and considering the needs of those traditionally underrepresented by existing transportation systems as defined in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), such as low-income, minority, and non-English speaking households who may face challenges accessing employment and other services
- Provide for the periodic review of the public engagement process to ensure the effectiveness of TxDOT’s public engagement efforts and revise the process as appropriate
- Provide a contact to listen, acknowledge, and respond promptly to public questions and issues
- Build upon TxDOT’s reputation as a transparent, credible agency and a good partner to the community

Stakeholders

Public involvement must encompass particular stakeholder groups below in the Plan’s development, per FHWA. A preliminary list of stakeholder groups are listed below and will be continuously updated. A more detailed list including names, addresses and emails will be developed separately.

Stakeholder List

General Public
Governmental Entities
Federally Recognized Tribes
Labor Organizations

Private Sector/Industry Representatives
Urban and Rural Communities
Underserved or Disadvantaged Communities
Responsible emergency/disaster preparedness functions in the State

In addition to stakeholders mandated by FHWA, additional stakeholders have been identified for engagement:

- Privately owned electric utilities
- Municipally owned electric utilities
- Electric cooperatives
- State and local transportation and transit agencies
- Port authorities
- Electric vehicle charging infrastructure companies
- Environmental groups
- Consumer advocates
- Non-profit organizations developing electric vehicle policy
- Non-profit organizations representing food or motor fuel providers
- Non-profit organizations that represent utilities, electric vehicle manufacturers, and charging companies

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The public involvement process will incorporate strategies that allow for in-depth electronic communication, media relations and other strategies to inform and involve stakeholders and interested parties. All outreach opportunities will be conducted virtually.

Virtual/Online Public Involvement and Comment Methods

Program Webpage on www.txdot.gov–A program-specific webpage will be maintained on TXDOT.gov to keep stakeholders and other interested parties informed and offer an opportunity to provide feedback and input. Fact sheet, presentation, and other materials along with contact information will also be provided on the web page as needed.

Virtual Public Meeting on www.txdot.gov–A virtual public meeting may be posted on TXDOT.gov to keep stakeholders and other interested parties informed and offer an opportunity to provide feedback and input. Fact sheet, presentation, and other materials along with contact information will also be provided on the web page as needed.

Online Survey– The project team will use an online survey tool – Social Pinpoint – to gather direct feedback.

Project Informational Materials and Notification Methods

Fact Sheet–A fact sheet will include project-specific information and point of contact information for the public to submit questions and comments. The fact sheet can be updated as the project progresses. Fact sheets are translated reflective of community demographics.

Email Blast – The project team may use GovDelivery to develop an email blast to inform and update stakeholders on the project’s progress or request input on strategies to inform and involve the public.

Other Communication Methods – The project team may use social media, new releases, or media interviews to communicate the project’s progress or updates.

Timeline

This public involvement plan will be a coordinated effort between TxDOT TPP, the PI section of TPP, Creative Services, Web Services, Public Information Officers (PIOs) and the Project Team.

- First draft of EV Deployment Plan: mid-April
- Public Involvement engagement: From April to May 15, 2022 (Update: Extended to June 15, 2022)
- Alternative Fuel Corridor nominations to FHWA: May 13, 2022 (Update: Submitted to FHWA on Apr. 27, 2022)
- Final draft of EV Deployment Plan for TxDOT, SECO, TCEQ: End of May 2022
- Virtual Public Meeting: June 2022
- EV Plan due to FHWA: Aug. 1, 2022
- FHWA Approval: Sept. 30, 2022

Note that like this public involvement plan, this timeline is subject to updates.

Evaluation

To determine the effectiveness of public involvement for this project, the following items will be evaluated:

- Number of unique visitors accessing project information on TxDOT.gov
- Number of responses received through the online engagement tools
- Evaluation of how public comments were used in the decision-making process
- Evaluation of how survey responses were used in the decision-making process
- Number of public recommendations used throughout project development
- How many different types of stakeholders participated

Project Team

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