

## \$22 Million is now available from PennDOT in Round 1A of National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Funding

By Renardo (Rick) L. Hicks

The Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), provides states with \$7.5 billion to help make EV charging more accessible to all Americans. This \$7.5 billion comprises the \$5 billion National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program and the \$2.5 billion Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Program.

Over the five years of the NEVI Formula Program, Pennsylvania will receive \$171.5 million in funding. The initial focus of this funding is for states to strategically deploy Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) stations along designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs), to help build out the national EV AFC network. PennDOT has designated corridors over 7 rounds of funding, including I-78, I-81, and portions of US 30, US 15, Route 1 and Route 422, for over 1,800 miles of roadway.

Once a state's Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFC) network is "fully built out," — NEVI-compliant DCFC stations that are both: a) no more than 50 miles apart along each AFC; and b) no more than 1 mile from the nearest AFC exit — then that state may use NEVI Formula Program funds for EV charging infrastructure on any public road or other publicly accessible location.

Round one awards in Pennsylvania, in the amount of \$34.8 million, have already resulted in the approval of 56 projects in 37 counties. Typically, according to PennDOT, projects take approximately 18-24 months to complete at an average cost of \$650,000.

**PennDOT's Round 1A NEVI Funding Opportunity is now available! \$22 million of Round 1A funding is being provided to close gaps along Pennsylvania's 1,800 miles of previously designated Alternative Fuel Corridors. Round 1A will begin accepting online proposals on December 11, 2023 and close on January 26, 2024 at 5:00 PM EST. Applicants for grant funding may include local governments, local businesses, utilities, EV charging station companies, and a variety of other vendors and contractors. Prospective Contractors may apply for up to 80 percent federal cost share of the eligible costs, with a minimum required match of 20 percent from non-federal sources.**

The Round 1A online submission deadlines and process requires significant attention to details such as priority locations, coordination with public utilities, minimum equipment requirements, a detailed scoring rubric and execution of a NEVI legal agreement.

A PennDOT NEVI Round 1A Informational Webinar is [available here](#).

For more information and assistance with participation in this significant funding opportunity, please contact Renardo (Rick) Hicks at [rhicks@eckertseamans.com](mailto:rhicks@eckertseamans.com) or 717-237-6081. Eckert Seamans attorneys have practical experience across a broad range of practices, such as energy, utilities, and public transit, and work with a diverse group of clients, including government entities and private businesses. In our most successful relationships, we have become a part of our clients' risk and project management teams, helping design the

strategies necessary to achieve their objectives and implement their strategic plans successfully and cost-effectively. We are a full-service law firm that can assist with: EV charging grant research and writing, RFP writing, introduction and relationship management with EV charging manufacturers and service providers, contract negotiations and review.