

New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT)

National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Pre-Bid Meeting Questions

Note: questions may be rephrased; answers may include information added after the meeting.

Questions from In-Person Attendees:

Q: The contract will require Combined Charging System (CCS) and North American Charging Standard (NACS) connectors; can NACS adapters be utilized?

UPDATED:

A: The contract will require a permanently attached NACS connector to be provided on each charging port; the requirements of 23 CFR 680 must be met, including that each DCFC charging port has at least one permanently attached Combined Charging System (CCS) Type 1 connector and is capable of charging a CCS-compliant vehicle. The NEVI Program FAQs provides guidance on NACS connectors, and the use of adapters funded under the NEVI Program.

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/alternative_fuel_corridors/resources/nevi_program_faqs.pdf

Q: Which permits are obtained by the contractor?

UPDATED:

A: The Department will facilitate the environmental review; the contractor shall provide documentation to support this. All other permitting will be the responsibility of the contractor in accordance with the locality where the work is being performed.

Q: Will all sites be selected by the contractor?

A: Yes. Note that the contractor will be required to demonstrate that the sites comply with NEVI requirements.

Q: Are you requiring four ports or four chargers?

A: Per NEVI requirements, four ports capable of charging 150KW simultaneously. The contractor may provide more than four ports.

Q: Will Global Information System (GIS) information be provided?

A: The contract will include GIS information for roadway interchanges.

Q: Will the Department provide the chargers?

A: No; the contract will require the contractor to purchase and install chargers.

Q: Will all 19* zones be awarded to one contractor? (*Note: the number of sites has been updated to 19)

A: Yes.

Q: Is development to be on private property?

A: Yes

Q: Are NACS connectors required at each location?

A: Yes

Q: Can stations be constructed with more than 4 ports?

A: Yes; a minimum of four ports are required, but the contractor may provide more than four.

Q: Are sites expected to be Categorical Exclusions?

A: The contractor is to select sites appropriate for effective electric charger station development such as previously disturbed and developed sites; the contractor will provide the Department with documentation to support the environmental review. While each site will be reviewed without pre-determination, it is expected that appropriate site choice will result in a Categorical Exclusion Determination.

Q: Will one contractor be allowed to work with multiple providers?

A: Yes.

Q: What are the data requirements?

A: The contract will specify data collection requirements consistent with NEVI requirements, and Department data collection requirements. The contractor is also to support the Department in NEVI required reporting.

Q: Is there a five-year window for construction?

A: The contract will specify timeframes for site development and design, construction, and five-years operations and maintenance.

Q: Is a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) required for this contract?

A: The Department does not anticipate a PLA on this contract.

Q: What are the details for the revenue opportunity?

A: Details for the revenue opportunity will be included in the contract.

Q: Will you require chargers to be in Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) as part of the Justice40 initiative?

A: The Department anticipates approximately 40% (8 of 19* sites (*note: the number of sites has been updated to 19)) of charger sites are to be in DACs or New Jersey's Overburdened Communities (OBCs); online tools are available to identify DACs and OBCs.

Q: Will the Joint Office data requirements be included, including manufacturers to directly report data?

A: See above answer for data requirements.

Q: Are contractors required to name partners?

A: Contractors are to abide by NJDOT Procurement provisions; the successful low bidder will be required to identify subcontractors, suppliers, and key partners in the project delivery.

Q: Will the contract have equipment specifications?

A: The contract will have equipment specifications consistent with NEVI requirements; the contractor will be responsible for having an engineer certify compliance to NEVI requirements and contract requirements by implementing a Quality Assurance Quality Control Plan.

Q: Can sites be leased?

A: Yes; the contractor will be responsible for providing the Department Site Host Agreement information which covers the duration of the contract.

Q: Is the intent to stay within Sections 100-109 of the NJDOT Standard Specifications?

A: These sections have been modified as necessary in the Special Provisions.

Q: What is the contract duration?

A: The contract will specify timeframes for site development and design, construction, and five-years operations and maintenance.

Q: Six weeks seems very short; can the bidding period be longer?

A: Bidding duration will be re-evaluated and if warranted, the bid date can be extended by addenda.

Q: Will maintenance and operations payment be up front?

A: The contract will specify the payments during the operations and maintenance period. Payment will not be before the performance of work.

Q: Can you get the specification out early for contractor review?

A: The Department will take this into consideration.

Q: Is prevailing wage applicable since this will be on private property?

A: Prevailing wage provisions will be in effect.

Q: Who identifies the 19* sites? (*Note: the number of sites has been updated to 19)

A: The 19 sites are selected by the contractor. Information including site host agreement documentation, utility readiness and environmental documentation will be required from the contractor for each site.

Q: Will NJDOT consider more than 4 ports?

A: Yes

Q: When does a contractor need to be prequalified?

A: Prequalification must be established 15 days prior to bid opening.

Q: Can the site host be the installer?

A: The contractor is responsible for delivering the contract; all contract provisions must be met related to installer qualifications and site host provisions.

Q: Will the low bidder be made public?

A: Yes

Q: Is contract for all 19 sites or one site only?

A: The contract is for all sites.

Q: Is there a connection between the gas tax and revenue opportunity?

A: No

Q: Is the pre-qualified contractors list publicly available?

A: A list of prequalified contractors is available on the NJDOT Procurement site:

[https://www.nj.gov/transportation/contribute/business/procurement/ConstrServ/documents/PrequalifiedVendors NR 20231003.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/transportation/contribute/business/procurement/ConstrServ/documents/PrequalifiedVendors_NR_20231003.pdf)

Q: What installer certifications are required?

A: In compliance with 23 CFR 680.106(j) the contractor shall ensure that the installation and maintenance of chargers is performed safely by a qualified and increasingly diverse workforce of licensed technicians and other laborers. For electricians installing, operating, or maintaining Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment provide certifications from the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program (EVITP) or documentation of graduation or a continuing education certificate from a registered apprenticeship program for electricians that includes charger-specific training and is developed as a part of a national

guideline standard approved by the US Department of Labor in consultation with the US Department of Transportation. See [23 CFR 680.106\(j\)](#) for additional details.

Q: What are the initial financial responsibilities?

A: Payment provisions will be specified in the contract. Bidders will not be required to demonstrate a 20% match.

Q: How is contract compliance verified by NJDOT?

A: The contractor will be required to have an independent engineer implement a Quality Assurance Quality Control plan and certify compliance with NEVI and contract requirements. The Department will have a representative assigned to review the contract.

Q: Is NEPA compliance required for each site?

A: Yes

Questions posed in Meeting Chat:

Q: Is NJDOT requiring 4 ports per location or 4 chargers per location?

A: 4 ports (min 150kW per port) per location

Q: Are the 19 zones available in a GIS file format?

A: The contract will include GIS information for roadway interchanges.

Q: Will the contractor be required to absorb the initial cost of installing the Charging stations. Meaning, the contractor will install, own, maintain, and then charge per kilowatt-hour (kWh)?

A: The contract will include payment provisions for planning and design, construction and operations and maintenance.

Q: Will all 19 zones will be awarded to only one contractor?

A: Yes

Q: Can you please repeat the requirements for the connectors (e.g. CCS/NACS)? Is NACS required on each port in addition to CCS?

A: Each port is required to have a CCS connector and a NACS connector

Q: Will there be 4 stations per zone?

A: The contract will require one station per zone; each station shall have 4 ports with Combined Charging System (CCS) and North American Charging Standard (NACS) connectors

Q: Will the one awarded contractor have flexibility to work with multiple charging network providers?

A: The contract does not restrict multiple charging network providers. All NEVI requirements, including interoperability, apply.

Q: Will the one awarded contractor have flexibility to work with multiple Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) equipment manufacturers (OEM)?

A: The contract does not restrict multiple charger manufacturers. All NEVI requirements, including interoperability, apply.

Q: If the one awarded contractor partners with a site host and the site hosts subs to a developer, will that site hosts' developer have to be prequalified to perform work?

A: Prequalification criteria is on the NJDOT Procurement site for Work Types 5, 7 or 44 at:

<https://www.nj.gov/transportation/business/procurement/>

Additional questions related to prequalification may be sent to CSPD@dot.nj.gov.

Q: Can you please clarify the revenue opportunity you mentioned?

A: Details for the revenue opportunity will be included in the contract documents.

Q: Is the selected contractor required to choose both the network provider and EVSE provider simultaneously during the bidding process, or is there flexibility to change these providers at a later stage, given that only one contractor will be awarded the bid?

A: The contractor will be required to identify the network provider and EVSE provider following award. Timing for submitting this information will be included in the contract documents.

Q: Is the intent for the 19 sites to be owned by the DOT or leased from someone else. If the land is leased, will the Contractor be responsible for securing the 5-year lease first and will they need to include that in their price. What happens if the DOT does not approve the original 19 Contractor sites proposed and the DOT prefers 19 more expensive sites. How will the Contractor be compensated for the difference? Or does the Contractor have the ultimate say to meet their estimate.

A: The development sites will not be on NJDOT property and will not be owned by NJDOT. The contractor will be responsible for providing site host agreement documentation for the duration of the contract. If a proposed site does not meet NEVI or other contract requirements, the contractor is responsible for selecting a different suitable site at no change in contract price.

Q: Will NJDOT consider sites that intend to install more than 4 ports per site?

A: Yes

Q: When do prime contractors need to be pre-qualified by?

A: Prequalification must be established 15 days prior to bid opening.

Q: Can an installer be the same as the site host?

A: This relationship is not prohibited by the contract documents; contract provisions for the site host and the installer must be met.

Q: Is the 35M budget covers site assessment, power upgrade, all necessary equipment (transformers, chargers etc) and 5years O&M? What else can be considered? Solar panel and energy storage?

A: The estimated amount includes all scope under the contract; all scope must meet the criteria for NEVI project eligibility criteria as noted in the NEVI Formula Program guidance. Solar panels and energy storage that is directly related to electric vehicle charging infrastructure may be included.

Q: Will this be a P3 type of contract?

A: This is a low bid contract.

Q: Will the awarded contractor be publicly disclosed to enable network providers or EV charger manufacturers to reach out and offer high-standard solutions?

A: Yes, the awarded contractor will be publicly disclosed.

Q: Will the cost of the initial installation be covered by the awarded bid amount? Or will the contractor have to cover that cost, and then recover the expense through charging per kilowatt?

A: The contract will include payment provisions for planning and design, construction, and operations and maintenance.

Q: Does an applicant have to fulfill all sites, or can they apply for only one site?

A: The contractor will be responsible for developing charger stations at all 19 sites.

Q: Will DOT disclose the list of prequalified contractors?

A: A list of prequalified contractors is available on the NJDOT Procurement site:

https://www.nj.gov/transportation/contribute/business/procurement/ConstrServ/documents/PrequalifiedVendors_NR_20231003.pdf

Q: What certification is needed other than EVITP?

A: In compliance with 23 CFR 680.106(j) the contractor shall ensure that the installation and maintenance of chargers is performed safely by a qualified and increasingly diverse workforce of licensed technicians and other laborers. For electricians installing, operating, or maintaining Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment provide certifications from the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program (EVITP) or documentation of graduation or a continuing education certificate from a registered apprenticeship program for electricians that includes charger-specific training and is developed as a part of a national guideline standard approved by the US Department of Labor in consultation with the US Department of Transportation. See 23 CFR 680.106(j) for additional details. The contract will include other certifications such as environmental documentation, site host agreement documentation, quality assurance quality control certification and other certification to assure the quality of the work and conformance with NEVI requirements and contract requirements.

Q: Will the presentation slides be posted online?

A: Yes. The slides may be found at:

<https://www.nj.gov/transportation/contribute/business/procurement/ConstrServ/documents/NJDOTNEVIPreBidMeetingOct172023PresentationRev.10-20-23.pdf>

Q: We are still not clear on how the award will be allocated. What are the initial financial responsibilities of the contractor?

A: Payment provisions will be specified in the contract. Bidders will not be required to demonstrate a 20% match.

Q: Did I hear right that subcontractors do not need to be pre-qualified? The answer was a bit quiet online.

A: Subcontractors do not need to be pre-qualified.

Q: How does NJDOT intend to verify the contractor and all site hosts for all sites are compliant with all specifications of the NEVI program and NJDOT specific requirements?

A: The contractor is to submit, as per the contract documents, certifications of compliance. The contractor is responsible for hiring an independent engineer who shall implement a quality assurance quality control plan and certify compliance to NEVI requirements and contract requirements.

Q: Will each site need to be NEPA cleared before NTP?

A: Immediately following the Notice to Proceed for this contract, the contractor will be required to submit documents to support the environmental review for each site. NEPA compliance is required for each site. Prior to NEPA compliance, final design and commencement of construction will not be permitted.