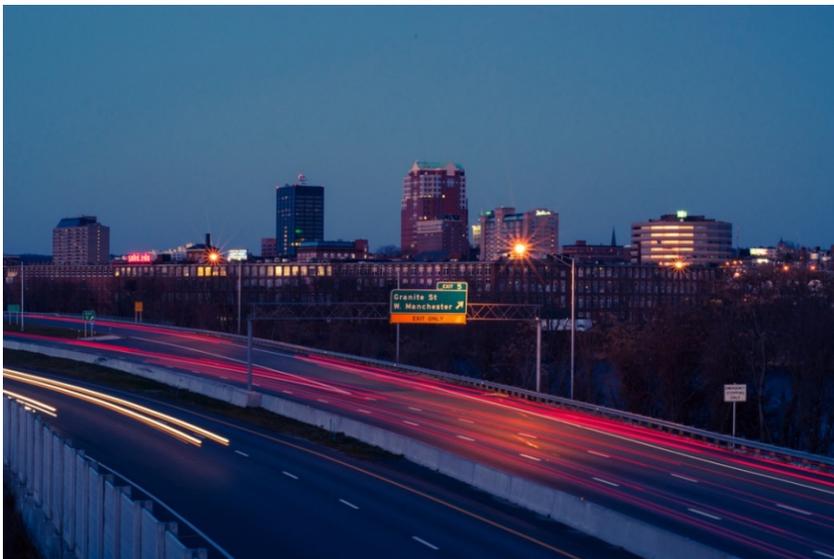




New Hampshire VW Environmental Mitigation Trust Direct Current Fast Charging Infrastructure Request for Information

New Hampshire Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Grant Program
February 28, 2020



DATE: February 28, 2020

SUBJECT: Request for Information (RFI) on the appropriate design of a Request for Proposals to use Volkswagen Environmental Mitigation Trust funds for a limited number of direct current fast chargers (DCFC) on specified New Hampshire corridors.

BACKGROUND: On November 22, 2019, a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the installation and operation of electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE), including both Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) and Level 2 chargers in New Hampshire was released by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) serving as solicitor on behalf of the Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI). Through this solicitation the State of New Hampshire sought a qualified Applicant to provide a strategic network of EVSE and associated operations, maintenance and management services along specified corridors in New Hampshire. NHDES did not receive any qualifying proposals through the RFP.

PURPOSE: During the RFP process, NHDES and OSI received a number of questions and comments related to issues pertaining to the RFP, including items such as the definition of eligible and ineligible costs, standards for equipment operations and maintenance, requirements for charging station point of sale methods and balancing investments for Level 2 and DCFC. This Request for Information (RFI) is being released in an effort to receive feedback on the RFP and receive additional input on the RFP requirements with regards to these and other issues. Respondents are invited to provide information on factors that may influence standards related to the issues listed in the RFP. NHDES and OSI intend to consider input from this RFI for the purpose of developing a subsequent RFP for the installation and operation of EVSE along specified corridors in the state.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: There are two ways to provide a response to the RFI. You may attend a **public session** that will be held on **Tuesday March 10, 2020 from 2:00PM to 4:00PM at the NHDES Auditorium at 29 Hazen Drive, Concord** and verbally provide information. Alternatively, or additionally, you may submit your thoughts in writing as specified at the end of this section. NHDES and OSI are specifically looking for feedback on the following list of questions. Please select from the questions below and respond in-depth to those you see as the most important questions. If there is information you think should be considered, but is not reflected by any of these questions please feel free to include such information in your response.

1. What costs should be eligible? Why?
2. What costs should be in ineligible? Why?
3. What level of cost share/match is recommended? Why?
4. Please provide input on program structure:

- a. Allow for multiple awards or have a winner-take-all approach?
 - b. Assuming both DCFC and Level 2 charging will be required at each location, how many chargers of each type should be required at a minimum? Should the minimum differ by location in the state?
5. How many charging sites should be anticipated with a total budget of approximately \$2 million?
 6. Is the goal of having at least one charger on each of the corridors identified on the attached map realistic?
 7. How can the State design a solicitation that will ensure DCFC locations in the more rural parts of the state are included in project proposals?
 8. What communications protocols should be allowed/required?
 9. What payment methods should be allowed/required?
 10. What operations and maintenance standards should be required of hosts?
 11. The entity named in the Contract must be the owner of the installed EVSE equipment for the duration of the Contract and will have the responsibility for ensuring continued operation of the equipment during the Contract period. Can you suggest potential ownership models for the EVSE funded through the RFP that would meet these criteria?
 12. What do you consider to be an adequate length of time to complete a satisfactory proposal in response to an RFP?
 13. What networking requirements (if any) should be included for EVSE funded using VW Environmental Mitigation Trust funds?
 14. What future-proofing requirements for EVSE at the selected sites should be considered? Please provide information on new charging technologies that should be considered, if appropriate.
 15. Please provide any additional feedback or considerations related to developing voluntary minimum standards for DC fast charging stations.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION RESPONSE GUIDELINES: Responses to this RFI must be submitted electronically to Tim White, Supervisor, Mobile Source Section, NHDES (timothy.white@des.nh.gov), no later than March 16, 2020. Responses to this RFI must be provided as attachments to an email. It is recommended that attachments with file sizes

exceeding 25MB be compressed (i.e., zipped) to ensure message delivery. Responses should be clear and concise, and respondents are strongly encouraged to limit their responses to 5 pages.

This is a Request for Information only. NHDES and OSI will not pay for information provided under this RFI and no project will be supported as a result of this RFI. This RFI is not accepting applications for financial assistance or financial incentives. Please identify your answers by responding to a specific question or topic if possible. Respondents may answer as many or as few questions as they wish.

Responses to this RFI will not be confidential, and may be made publicly available.

A response to this RFI will not be viewed as a binding commitment to develop or pursue the project or ideas discussed.

Respondents are requested to provide the following information at the start of their response to this RFI:

- Company / institution name;
- Company / institution contact;
- Contact's address, phone number, and e-mail address.