

Piper, Alan

To: RATS Tech
Subject: FW: PennDOT I-81/I-78 Alternative Fuels Deployment Plan –Report & Next Steps
Attachments: PennDOT DEP Grant Fact Sheet - I81-I78 Corridor.pdf; PennDOT DEP Grant Fact Sheet - General.pdf

From: Koons-Felion, Jacqueline <JFELION@pa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 3:16 PM
Subject: PennDOT I-81/I-78 Alternative Fuels Deployment Plan –Report & Next Steps

County of Berks Warning: This is an external email. Please exercise caution.

Good Afternoon Noon MPO Ex. Director's and MPO Contacts,

This email provides an update on the status of the [FHWA Alternative Fuels Corridor Deployment Plan](#) for the I-81/I-78 corridor in Pennsylvania (166 miles from the MD/PA border to NJ/PA border).

The major study updates include:

1. The **Deployment Plan report has been made public** and posted on the PennDOT website: <https://www.penndot.gov/ProjectAndPrograms/Planning/Pages/Energy-and-Environment-Initiatives.aspx> . The Plan recommends the deployment of new EV DC fast charging stations at each of the following three priority locations:

Priority Locations for DC-Fast Charge Infrastructure

- I-81 exit 14, 16, or 17 in Chambersburg, PA [*Franklin MPO*]
- I-81 exit 72 or 77 in Harrisburg, PA [*HATS MPO*]
- I-78 exit 29 in Hamburg, PA [*Reading MPO*]

2. To promote the benefits of DC fast charging and existing funding opportunities to businesses (especially along the I-81/I-78 corridor), we have developed the **attached 1-page fact sheets on EV Fast-Charging FAQs and Funding Opportunities**. Two versions are provided: one focusing on the I-81/I-78 corridor and another more generalized brochure applicable to other corridors where fast charging may be needed.

We encourage you to share this 1-pager with businesses as a resource, as you see fit, especially with businesses at our priority locations listed above. The priority locations are focused on addressing key gaps in DC-Fast Charge (DCFC) infrastructure. The current locations are located in the HATS and Reading MPO areas. PennDOT is looking for MPO support in distributing the I-81/I-78 brochure to businesses in these areas through available channels and organizations (e.g. municipalities, chambers of commerce, etc.). Interested businesses can respond to the email provided in the brochure.

3. Finally, we are reaching out now because the **2021 cycle of the DC Fast Charging Grant** (indicated in the 1-pager) **opens this week!** (October 29th, 2021), and is scheduled to remain open through the end of January 2022. Some more details on the grant are provided below:

The DC Fast Charging and Hydrogen Fueling Grant Program will open for applications on 10/29/2021 and close on 1/31/2022. There will only be one application due date this round, and with a higher available funding amount, so we should be able to fund a larger percentage of the applications. Please see below for a summary of the major program changes this year.

- The program will have a new maximum award amount of \$750,000 per organization per funding round. This will ensure that a larger number of organizations receive funding. The funding cap per project remains at \$250,000 for DC fast charging projects.
- The program will offer a maximum of 60% funding.
- Projects that qualify as “corridor expansion” by being located along an interstate highway charging gap of greater than 50 miles will be eligible for the following benefits:
 - Increased maximum funding amount of 65%
 - Lower peak power requirement of 120 kW
 - Scoring advantages
- Project scoring will place a greater emphasis on reducing highway corridor gaps, being located in areas without nearby DC fast charging, and exceeding minimum power output requirements. Other scoring components such as site amenities, future proofing, cost effectiveness, innovative technology, and being located in an Environmental Justice community will remain.
- You are welcome to submit an application to this program and the Alternative Fuel Incentive Grant program (closes December 17th) for the same project. If you apply to both, please indicate which program you would prefer if selected for funding by both.
- As always, the full program guidelines and application instructions will be posted on Driving PA Forward.

Thank you for any support you can provide in sharing the brochure to businesses in our target areas. We will continue to discuss this deployment role and how MPO/RPOs can be involved in electric vehicle planning. The study and materials will be discussed during the November 4th Planning Partners Meeting.

If you have any questions on electrification, please contact Natasha Fackler, PennDOT Policy Director- (nfackler@pa.gov) or me at jfelion@pa.gov.

Thank you,
Jackie

Regards,

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ELECTRIC VEHICLE FAST-CHARGING

FAQS & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



What Businesses Need to Know

What Is DC Fast Charging?

Direct current (DC) fast chargers are game-changers for electric vehicles (EVs). While many EV owners rely on home-charging overnight, **DC fast chargers can charge an EV in only 20 to 30 minutes.** In PA, over 100 locations – most of them businesses – currently have at least one DC fast charger installed in their parking lots.

Why Is Pennsylvania Investing?

One challenge to more rapid adoption of EVs is the lack of public DC fast chargers. By providing funding for fast charge projects in strategic locations – such as along highways and in underserved metro areas – Pennsylvania **aims to increase drivers' confidence in the availability of public EV chargers,** slow down climate change, and improve public health.

Which Businesses Are the Best Locations?

The best **types of businesses** for hosting DC fast chargers are restaurants, gas/convenience stores, truck stops, grocery stores, shopping centers, or any interested business with available parking spaces where an EV driver could shop and use amenities during the 20-30 min of charging time. Businesses that are 24/7 and offer food and restrooms are ideal. The best **locations for businesses** interested in hosting fast chargers are near interstate exits along major travel corridors for commuter and recreational travel needs.

What Are the Benefits to Businesses?

- Attract customers looking to stop at a location that offers fast charging
- Increase customer spending at site amenities
- Minimize costs by choosing from a range of business models offered by EV charging hardware & network companies
- Gain customer recognition as a leader in reducing carbon emissions

Is Your Business Located On I-81/I-78?

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has developed a Deployment Plan for alternative fuel infrastructure, including DC fast charging, along the I-81/I-78 corridor in PA. (plans for other interstates are anticipated in the future). If you are interested in a project consultation on fast-charging options and possible grant funding for a property located along the I-81/I-78 corridor, please contact:

RA-PDEVCorridors@pa.gov

DRIVING PA FORWARD

YOUR BUSINESS MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

DC Fast Charging Grant Program

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection *Driving PA Forward* initiative includes reimbursements for the acquisition, installation, operation and maintenance of DC fast charging equipment. Program funding and eligibility details include:

- More than 1/2 of costs reimbursed for DC fast charging projects, or \$250,000 maximum per award
- Projects must be in PA, publicly accessible, 24/7 operational, networked, and include both CCS and CHAdeMO connector types
- Preferred locations include projects off interstate exits (<5 miles) or in metro areas

Application Open: 10/29/21 - 1/31/22

Web Link:

[Driving PA Forward Homepage](#)

Scroll down to DC Fast Charging Grant Program to see Guidelines and Instructions

Pennsylvania is Committed to Supporting Growth in EV Vehicles. See the Pennsylvania EV Roadmap: [Web Link to Road Map](#)