

ODOT Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Plan

Scope of Services

Overview

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), through DriveOhio, is seeking consultant support to develop a Statewide Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure Plan. The purpose of this project is to establish a unified vision and roadmap to support EV charging investments happening throughout the state.

Background & Strategic Alignment

Over the past several years, ODOT and DriveOhio have taken steady, foundational steps to support the transition toward electric mobility in Ohio. DriveOhio has completed statewide assessments of existing charging assets, advanced planning for both light-duty and freight corridors, and launched major initiatives such as the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program to strategically build out fast-charging along Ohio's interstates. DriveOhio has also coordinated closely with utilities, MPOs, local governments, and private-sector partners to address grid readiness, site feasibility, and equitable network expansion. Early deployments, corridor gap analyses, and ongoing data collection have created a strong foundation that enables this statewide plan to build upon an established understanding of network performance, charging demand, and emerging needs across Ohio's communities.

This project is intended to build on previous efforts, and directly upon ODOT's mission to provide a transportation system that is safe, accessible, well-maintained, and positioned for the future. By focusing on the integration of EVs into Ohio's vehicle fleet, the project aligns with three guiding principles:

- **Future-Ready and Innovative Infrastructure:** The transportation landscape is slowly adopting and integrating electric vehicles. This project plans for the infrastructure needs of light, medium, and heavy-duty electric vehicles, ensuring Ohio's corridors are prepared for the charging requirements of 2026 and beyond. This proactive approach prevents the state's infrastructure from becoming a hinderance as fleet technology evolves.
- **Wise Resource Investment:** To ensure taxpayers and private funds are used efficiently, this project provides the necessary technical vetting and demand forecasting. By projecting where and when charging infrastructure is needed, ODOT aims to avoid redundant or underutilized facilities and safeguard public and private investments from high-risk or inefficient deployments.
- **Collaborative Leadership:** ODOT and DriveOhio serve as the central coordinator for this transition. This project establishes a unified state vision, acting as a bridge between public and

private, statewide and local stakeholders. This collaboration ensures that the safe movement of goods remains efficient and competitive during the adoption of alternative fuels.

Project Objectives

The Statewide EV Charging Infrastructure Plan aims to ensure the state remains a premier logistics hub and a leader in smart mobility. While the project does not include immediate capital for infrastructure deployment, its purpose is to serve as a roadmap for local agencies, regional planning organizations (RPOs), and private industry planning to deploy EV charging infrastructure in Ohio. Below are the anticipated project objectives:

1. **Comprehensive System Assessment & Demand Forecasting:** Establish baseline of Ohio's current network assets and network performance. This objective focuses on projecting localized adoption scenarios and energy demands through 2040 to identify exactly where passenger and commercial fleet infrastructure will be required.
2. **Strategic Investment Priority Framework:** Develop a tiered roadmap that recommends the most impactful locations across the state. This framework will ensure a balanced network that serves both intercity corridors and residents without home-charging options by breaking statewide data into specific regional targets and identifying "access deserts" in high-density areas.
3. **Practical Readiness & Technical Guidance:** Develop recommendations to manage regulatory and technical barriers for local agencies and private site hosts. This includes strategies for navigating Ohio's diverse electrical utility landscape and providing considerations for deploying EV charging infrastructure.
4. **Robust Stakeholder Engagement:** Facilitate an inclusive engagement process with state, regional, local, and private partners to ensure the plan reflects the operational realities of the logistics and utility industries.

Task Outline

TASK 1: PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The Consultant will support activities including:

- Manage plan development in accordance with the defined scope, schedule, and resources.
- Identify roles, communication protocols, and quality assurance methods.
- Conduct bi-weekly progress meetings and project close-out meetings to ensure alignment with strategic goals.

TASK 2: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Consultant will support activities including:

- Develop a stakeholder engagement and outreach plan (SEP) that organizes and implements Task 2. The plan should describe the approach and tools for effective engagement.
- Conduct outreach in accordance with the SEP with MPOs, RPOs, utility providers, local governments, and other relevant stakeholders.
- Develop a summary of outreach activities and describe how that input was considered in the overall strategic planning process.

TASK 3: SYSTEM ASSESSMENT & DEMAND FORECASTING

The Consultant will support activities including:

- Conduct a comprehensive inventory of existing charging infrastructure across levels and locations for light, medium and heavy-duty vehicles.
- Evaluate current and projected EV adoption, travel patterns, and site-specific needs such as urban, rural, workplace, or residential charging.
- Utilize tools and data analysis to estimate forecasted charging demand.
- Plan integration with the electrical grid, including utility coordination, load capacity, and demand management.
- Define key performance indicators and monitoring and reporting framework (utilization rates, miles driven, emissions reductions, charger uptime).

TASK 4: INVESTMENT & READINESS GUIDANCE

The Consultant will support activities including:

- Establish practical frameworks for external partners to lead infrastructure deployment.
- Identify priority locations including high-demand and underserved areas.
- Identify site selection factors that local governments, RPOs and other stakeholders can use to evaluate and select sites.
- Considerations for site layouts and technical specifications for light, medium, and heavy duty.
- Recommendations for a framework for utility coordination.
- Define design and permitting requirements, with example layouts, of typical community-based sites

TASK 5: MULTI-LEVEL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Consultant will support activities including:

- Develop specific policy recommendations tailored to different levels of government.
- Guidance for integrating EV readiness into ODOT's strategic, master, and long-range transportation or operational plans.
- Recommendations for local ordinances, building codes ("make-ready"), and right-of-way usage.

- Identify relevant building codes, parking codes, zoning codes, and permitting processes that could impact EV charging infrastructure development.
 - If applicable, analyze whether these codes and processes support or hinder EV charging infrastructure development.
 - If they hinder infrastructure development, identify what changes need to be made.

TASK 6: FINAL DOCUMENTATION

The Consultant will support activities including:

- Produce iterative working drafts and final technical memorandums for task 3, 4, and 5 documenting approach, research, data, methodology, and findings and conclusions.
- Produce a final plan that is visually engaging and produced for a non-technical audience.
- A concise primary communications asset focusing on implementation recommendations

Deliverables

All data, products, and documents developed throughout this contract are subject to ODOT and DriveOhio review and approval prior to publication. Consultants should anticipate requests for revisions to submitted items/documents and accommodate for multiple reviews by ODOT, DriveOhio, and other stakeholders.

Final deliverables, could include but are not limited to:

- Project Management Plan
- Stakeholder Engagement & Outreach Plan
- Final Plan and Executive Summary
- PowerPoint presentation with stock slides
- Applicable data sets
- Executive summary or infographic highlighting findings and recommendations.