



PennDOT NEVI Technical Questions and Responses for Community Charging Round 1 – Southeastern Region

Updated April 6, 2026

Eligibility Questions:

Question: Are local governments and public school districts eligible to apply for Community Charging NEVI funding?

Response: Yes, so long as the local government or public school district does not have a state or federal restriction that would prevent PennDOT from awarding federal funds to the local government. See Sections 3.A. and 6.A. of the [NEVI Community Charging Funding Opportunity Round 1 – Southeastern Region](#) for more information.

Question: Are charge point operators (i.e., EV charging companies) eligible to apply for Community Charging NEVI funding?

Response: Yes, so long as the business is [registered with the Pennsylvania Secretary of State](#) and they do not have a state or federal restriction that would prevent PennDOT from awarding federal funds to the business. See Sections 3.A. and 6.A. of the [NEVI Community Charging Funding Opportunity Round 1 – Southeastern Region](#) for more information.

Question: Can NEVI funds be used to install a Charging Station at a facility that has gated access?

Response: Yes, so long as anyone is allowed to use the facility. Please see Section 3.B. of the [NEVI Community Charging Funding Opportunity Round 1 – Southeastern Region](#) for more information on what types of availability and access restrictions are allowed.

Question: Can NEVI funds be used to install a Charging Station at a pay-to-park public parking lot or facility?

Response: Yes. There may be a fee to park at the Charging Station, either included in the charging session fees or paid separately, so long as the fee is typical for the geographic location. See Section 3.B. of the [NEVI Community Charging Funding Opportunity Round 1 – Southeastern Region](#) for more information on what types of availability and access restrictions are allowed.

Question: Can a Charging Station be proposed at a parking garage or facility that has a height limit (such as 6'7") and/or a weight limit (such as 6,000 lbs.)?

Response: Yes. Such restrictions should be described in the response to Proposal *Question 2.1 Candidate Site Information* for PennDOT's consideration during scoring and selection. See Appendix III of the [NEVI Community Charging Funding Opportunity Round 1 – Southeastern Region](#) for the Proposal questionnaire.

Eligible Cost Question:

Question: Is a canopy that exclusively covers the EV Charging Station an eligible cost?

Response: Yes. Amenities that are directly related to the Charging Station and installed during the Charging Station construction are eligible expenses.

Eligible Matching Funds Questions:

Question: Are in-kind contributions (e.g. land value, administrative staff time) eligible sources of matching funds?

Response: No. When PennDOT provides NEVI project reimbursement, the NEVI funding recipient must provide documentation that they incurred eligible costs and paid for those eligible costs. PennDOT then provides reimbursement for up to 80% of the eligible costs. The NEVI funding recipient may use any funding source for the remaining non-reimbursed expenditures, so long as the funding source is not expressly prohibited, such as other federal funds.

Question: Are electric utility make-ready programs an allowable source of matching funds?

Response: It depends. When PennDOT provides NEVI project reimbursement, the NEVI funding recipient must provide documentation that they incurred eligible costs and paid for those eligible costs. PennDOT then provides reimbursement for up to 80% of the eligible costs. The NEVI funding recipient may use any funding source for the remaining non-reimbursed expenditures, so long as the funding source is not expressly prohibited, such as other federal funds. Therefore, if the electric utility does not bill the NEVI funding recipient for some costs, then they do not have an expense to seek partial reimbursement and the utility contribution cannot be used as match. If the electric utility gives the NEVI funding recipient a rebate for installing the charging station, then that would be an allowed contribution to the matching funds.

Buy America Questions:

Question: If FHWA increases the domestic content requirement for EV chargers to comply with the Buy America waiver from the current 55% to higher threshold, will Projects selected from the NEVI Community Charging Funding Opportunity Round 1 – Southeastern Region be subject to the higher threshold?

Response: PennDOT's current understanding is that no, a higher domestic content requirement would not apply. FHWA's [Notice of Proposed Modification of the Waiver of Buy America Requirements for Electric Vehicle Chargers](#) includes the following, "If finalized, this proposed modification of the February 21, 2023 waiver would be immediately applicable to projects for EV Charger acquisition or installation that are obligated after publication of a final notice." The NEVI funds associated with the PennDOT [NEVI Community Charging Funding Opportunity Round 1 – Southeastern Region](#) were obligated prior to its publication, so if the higher domestic content requirement only applies to funds obligated after a final notice of the increase, then the new threshold will not apply to funds awarded through this NEVI Community Charging Funding Opportunity.

Question: Can a Prospective Contractor propose charging equipment that is not yet Buy America certified as part of its Proposal?

Response: Yes. Buy America certification is not required at the time of Proposal submission. PennDOT requires documentation of Buy America certification for NEVI Project equipment prior to construction mobilization.

Question: Are there any resources to identify Buy America compliant Level 2 charging equipment?

Response: PennDOT is not aware of any. You may contact EVSE manufacturers to inquire if their products comply with Buy America.

Community Charging Survey Questions:

Question: Are Prospective Contractors required to complete the NEVI Interested Organizations Survey prior to submitting a Proposal? Does completing the survey make a Prospective Contractor's Proposal more likely to be selected for funding?

Response: No. The NEVI Interested Organizations Survey is a resource to assist any organizations wishing to make connections with other relevant organizations. Completing the survey is not a requirement and has no bearing on a Prospective Contractor's eligibility nor on Project selections.

Question: How do I contact other organizations that have completed the NEVI Interested Organizations Survey so we can work together on NEVI proposals?

Response: On pa.gov/evcommunity, click the link to download the "NEVI Interested Organizations Directory". The file is a table of the submitted survey responses, including contact information. PennDOT updates the file weekly with newly submitted survey responses.

Minimum Requirements Questions:

Question: Are DCFCs located within 1 mile of an AFC required to provide at least 150 kW charging power simultaneously from each Charging Port?

Response: Not always. In accordance with 23 CFR 680(d)(1), Section 3.B. of the NEVI Community Charging Funding Opportunity Round 1 – Southeastern Region states that "DCFCs located along and designed to serve users of designated AFCs must... have a continuous power delivery rating of at least 150 kW and supply power according to an EV's power delivery request up to 150 kW, simultaneously from each Charging Port at a Charging Station". Therefore, only DCFCs located along an AFC **and** designed to serve users of the AFC must meet the 150-kW minimum power requirement. Lower DCFC power levels are allowed in all other scenarios.

Question: Do the required ADA accessible parking spaces have to be reserved for ADA tagged vehicles only, or can other vehicles use them as well?

Response: PennDOT Publication 13, Chapter 19.5 (December 2025) details ADA requirements for EV charging stations. ADA parking spaces shall include "Use Last" signage so the ADA parking spaces can be utilized by any vehicle if the non-ADA parking spaces are in use.

EVITP Question:

Question: Can an out-of-state electrician company with EVITP certified employee(s) perform NEVI installation work in Pennsylvania or is a separate certification for Pennsylvania required?

Response: EVITP certifications are issued by the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program. Certifications are not state specific, so no separate Pennsylvania certification is required. See <https://evitp.org/> for more information about EVITP.

Utility Form Question:

Question: What happens when the *Utility Form* is submitted to the electric utility? Does the electric utility process the application to move forward with construction regardless of whether NEVI funding is approved?

Response: No, the *Utility Form* does not serve as a utility interconnection request. PennDOT has worked with the electric utilities in Pennsylvania to create a standalone process for speculative EV charging projects at the time they are submitting proposals for NEVI funding. After the *Utility Form* is submitted to the electric utility, they will return the form with basic information about the estimated cost and timeline to provide the utility interconnection if the project is selected for funding and proceeds to construction.

Proposal Questions:

Question: Can a single proposal include multiple site addresses?

Response: No. A proposal may only include one proposed site address, referred to as a “candidate site.” See Section 1.D. of the [NEVI Community Charging Funding Opportunity Round 1 – Southeastern Region](#) for more information.

Question: Can the detailed project budget be based on estimates?

Response: Yes. The Prospective Contractor may use any available means to develop their detailed project budget, including estimates.

Scoring Questions:

Question: Can a Proposal receive scoring points for being located near a Priority Location and/or a census tract with a Community Needs Score greater than 0, but not within either area?

Response: No. See Appendix IV of the [NEVI Community Charging Funding Opportunity Round 1 – Southeastern Region](#) for the Scoring Rubric. The scoring for questions 2.1i and 2.1ii do not include any scoring points for project proposals not located within a Priority Location or a census tract with a Community Needs Score greater than 0.

Question: Does on-site renewable energy production and/or an on-site battery storage system contribute to a proposal’s scoring points?

Response: There are no proposal questions that directly ask or score a proposal based on on-site renewable energy production or an on-site battery storage system. A Prospective Contractor may

include this information within their response to Question 2.5 Amenities, Features, and Destinations, as well as their response to Question 3.4 Future Proofing, for PennDOT's consideration.

Question: Will the scoring rubric and priority use cases be different for each regional Community Charging Funding Opportunity?

Response: The scoring rubric will be the same for all four regional Community Charging Funding Opportunities. The priority use cases will vary as they are based on input from regional Planning Partners.

Agreement Questions:

Question: The draft Agreement found in Appendix XII of the [NEVI Community Charging Funding Opportunity Round 1 – Southeastern Region](#) states that, "Contractors shall report decreases in costs greater than 10 percent and increases in revenues greater than 10 percent, as compared to forecasted costs and revenues, during the Period of Performance to PennDOT for review and confirmation." How frequently does PennDOT expect to receive such updates? Are they part of annual reporting?

Response: During the required 5 years of operations and maintenance, Contractors are to report decreases in costs greater than 10 percent and increases in revenues greater than 10 percent to PennDOT as they occur, not as part of annual reporting. This is so PennDOT can ensure the project continues to comply with program income requirements as specified in [23 CFR 680.106\(m\)](#) and section 10(h) of the Community Charging NEVI Program Agreement.

Question: How long do Contractors have to install the EV charging station after signing the Agreement?

Response: The draft Agreement found in Appendix XII of the [NEVI Community Charging Funding Opportunity Round 1 – Southeastern Region](#) states that that the charging station must be operational within 2 years after the Agreement is fully executed.

Award Selection Question:

Question: Will proposals from private businesses and local governments be evaluated together using the same criteria and compete for the same available funding?

Response: Yes. Proposals from all organization types will be scored and evaluated using the same process, and available funding will not be allocated or segregated by organization type.

Site Host Question:

Question: Will site hosts receive any ongoing revenue or reimbursement after the completion of an awarded project?

Response: Any financial relationship between the NEVI funding recipient and the site host (if they are different entities) is at the discretion of those entities and their site host agreement. PennDOT does not provide reimbursement or payments during the required 5 years of operations and maintenance, aside from the annual retainage payments.