

STATE OF WYOMING
WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PROCUREMENT SERVICES OFFICE
5300 BISHOP BLVD., BUILDING NO. 6189
CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82009



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
NATIONAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE
FORMULA PROGRAM

NO. 24-060NG

OPENING DATE AND TIME:

JANUARY 31, 2024 AT 11:00 A.M. (MT)

PROCUREMENT SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE:

Nicholas Gronski
E-Mail Address: nicholas.gronski2@wyo.gov
Telephone No.: 307-777-4106

Table of Contents

SECTION 1 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION 3

- 1. SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION 3
- 2. MODIFICATIONS OR WITHDRAWAL OF INFORMATION 3
- 3. PREPARATION OF INFORMATION 3
- 4. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION WITH WYOMING PUBLIC RECORDS LAWS 4
- 5. COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE 4
- 6. AWARD AND CONTRACT INFORMATION 4

SECTION 2 SPECIAL PROVISIONS 5

- 1. OWNER 5
- 2. WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONTACT 5
- 3. QUESTIONS 5
- 4. PREPARATION COST 5
- 5. REFERENCES 5
- 6. AUTHORIZATION 6

SECTION 3 RFI INTRODUCTION 7

- 1. GENERAL INFORMATION 7
- 2. PURPOSE AND INTENT 7
- 3. OBJECTIVES 8
- 4. PROJECT OVERVIEW 8
- 5. STRATEGIC MISSION, VISION, GOALS 8
- 6. PERSPECTIVE SOLUTIONS 9
- 7. FUNCTIONALITY 9
- 8. REQUIREMENTS 9
- 9. TECHNOLOGY AND STANDARDS **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 10. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 9

SECTION 4 RESPONSE FORMAT AND CONTENT 10

- 1. RESPONSE PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS 10
- 2. TECHNICAL RESPONSE 10
 - 1. GENERAL 10
 - 2. PARTNERSHIPS AND BUSINESS MODELS 10
 - 3. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS 11
 - 4. FUNDING 11
 - 5. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE 12
 - 6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION 12

SECTION 1 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

1. SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION

1. Electronic submissions for the Request for Information (RFI) will be received for the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT), through the Public Purchase online bidding system no later than **January 31, 2024 at 11:00 A.M. MT.**
2. No information will be considered which is not accompanied by the enclosed special provisions form which must be signed by the proper official of the firm.
3. Information must be uploaded into the Public Purchase website on or before the time and date specified. Information received after the time specified may not be considered.
4. Please submit any questions or requests for clarifications about this RFI into the Public Purchase website by the deadline for submission of questions and requests for clarification identified in the RFI Schedule.

2. MODIFICATIONS OR WITHDRAWAL OF INFORMATION

1. This RFI and any related amendment and notices will be posted on the Public Purchase website at: publicpurchase.com
2. Information that is in the possession of Procurement Services may be altered or withdrawn through Public Purchase prior to the time and date of opening.

3. PREPARATION OF INFORMATION

1. Information may or may not be considered which modifies, in any manner, any of the provisions or requirements outlined in this RFI.
2. At this point in time, respondents are requested to submit general price ranges or cost information **to be used for reference only.**
3. Respondents are expected to examine special provisions, specifications, schedules, and instructions included in this request. Failure to do so will be at the respondent's risk.
4. This RFI is issued solely for information and planning purposes only and does not constitute a solicitation for services.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION WITH WYOMING PUBLIC RECORDS LAWS

The State of Wyoming has broad open records laws. All information submitted shall become the property of WYDOT and may be returned only at WYDOT's option. All information is subject to Wyoming's Public Records Laws. Records are closed or confidential only if specifically stated in law.

It is the responsibility of the proposer to clearly identify all information that is considered confidential in accordance with the Wyoming Public Records Act, W.S. 16-4-201 through 16-4-205. Please identify each confidential page with the word "CONFIDENTIAL" in capital, bold letters centered at the bottom of each page. Information not clearly marked may be considered public.

If WYDOT receives a request for public information, the procurement officer, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, shall determine whether the information is an exception to Wyoming's Public Records Laws, and the information shall be processed accordingly.

5. COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE

The company point of contact for this Request for Information:

Name Justin L. Wood
Title Justin L. Wood
Company name Justin L. Wood
Email address justwood307@gmail.com
Phone Number 307.290.2269

6. CONTRACT INFORMATION

The respondent shall comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Wyoming Fair Employment Practices Act (Wyo. Stat. § 27-9-105, *et seq.*), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 U.S.C. § 12101, *et seq.*, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and any properly promulgated rules and regulations thereto and shall not discriminate against any individual on the grounds of age, sex, color, race, religion, national origin, or disability in connection with the performance under this Contract.

WYDOT reserves the right to reject any or all information packets, to waive any informality or technical defect in the responses, if deemed to be in the best interest of the State to do so.

DATED THIS December 1, 2023

WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Darin Westby, P.E.
Director

By: *Nicholas Gronski*
Nicholas Gronski
Procurement Services Manager

SECTION 2 SPECIAL PROVISIONS

1. OWNER

All supporting documentation and manuals submitted with this RFI will become property of the State unless requested otherwise by the respondent at the time of submission.

All information provided will be made available to all members of the evaluation team and others as needed. Use of proprietary information is discouraged.

2. WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONTACT

Nicholas Gronski
Procurement Services Manager
5300 Bishop Blvd.
Cheyenne, WY 82009
(307)777-4106
nicholas.gronski2@wyo.gov

3. QUESTIONS

Written questions regarding RFI material shall be submitted into Public Purchase. **Questions will be received in writing until 11:00 A.M. MT, January 3, 2024.** No telephone calls or E-Mail questions will be accepted.

4. PREPARATION COST

Costs of developing the information package are entirely the responsibility of the respondent and shall not be reimbursed in any manner by the Wyoming Department of Transportation. The Wyoming Department of Transportation is not liable for any cost incurred by the respondent.

5. REFERENCES

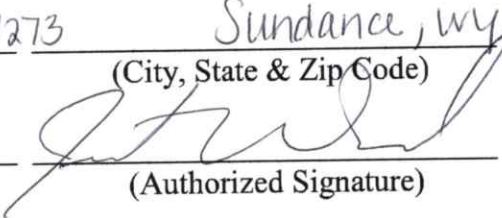
Respondents may provide reference material if it is needed to support the information package. References should reflect similar government projects.

6. AUTHORIZATION

By submission of information, the respondent:

Certifies that no attempt has been made, nor will be made, by the respondent to induce any other person or firm to submit information for the purpose of restricting competition.

Certifies the person signing this response is authorized to represent the company and the information and supporting documentation provided in response to this RFI.

<u>Justin L. Wood</u> (Company Name)	<u>307-290-2269</u> (Telephone Number)
<u>129 E. Cleveland St./Box 1273</u> (Street Address/P.O. Box)	<u>Sundance, WY 82729</u> (City, State & Zip Code)
<u>Justin L. Wood</u> (Name of Authorized Rep.)	 (Authorized Signature)
<u>1/25/2024</u> (Date)	<u>justwood307@gmail.com</u> (E-Mail Address)

THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE WAS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

SECTION 3 RFI INTRODUCTION

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program is designed to fund the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure along designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFC), which in Wyoming are I-25, I-80, and I-90. WYDOT's goal is to use NEVI Program funding to support state tourism to the largest extent possible.

Wyoming's approved NEVI plan identified seven (7) NEVI Program-compliant Direct current fast charging (DCFC) station locations—one each near an interstate interchange in:

- Pine Bluffs
- Laramie
- Wheatland
- Douglas
- Buffalo
- Sheridan
- Sundance

In addition to those above, respondents are encouraged to consider other sites along the Interstates so long as they meet NEVI requirements.

2. PURPOSE AND INTENT

WYDOT is issuing this RFI to solicit feedback and recommendations for the planning, coordination, and development of EV charging infrastructure in Wyoming.

WYDOT prepared, submitted, and is waiting on approval for Year 2 NEVI Deployment Plan (NEVI plan) in November 2023 in response to the NEVI Formula Program Guidance authorized under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The approved NEVI plans and all supporting documents can be viewed at WYDOT's NEVI webpage at:

[https://www.dot.state.wy.us/home/planning_projects/zero-emission-vehicles/national-electric-vehicle-infrastructure-\(nevi\)-program.html](https://www.dot.state.wy.us/home/planning_projects/zero-emission-vehicles/national-electric-vehicle-infrastructure-(nevi)-program.html).

The purpose of this RFI is to collect information and input from potential market participants across varying sectors on how WYDOT can best support the implementation of WYDOT's NEVI plan with DCFC electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE).

WYDOT is seeking input from the potential market participants who would provide the following:

- Produce engineering designs and plans for each of the charging sites to be constructed.
- Acquire EVSE for each site complying with all NEVI Program guidelines.
- Install the EVSE hardware and required utility connects at each site.
- Operate and maintain the EVSE for a minimum of five (5) years after installation.
- Provide 24/7/365 customer service support.

- Provide reporting on the charging station and charging ports.
- Promptly respond to outages and other emergency maintenance needs.
- Abide by all NEVI Program requirements as stated by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Joint Office in the proposed rule and any future rule that is finalized.
- Construct all sites within one (1) mile of an AFC exit per the NEVI Program requirements. To comply with NEVI Program requirements, each site must be equipped with a minimum of four (4) DCFC ports capable of providing 150 kilowatts (kW) power each simultaneously (600 kW total).

WYDOT will not select a vendor for DCFC EVSE implementation based on responses to this RFI. No contracts will result from this RFI.

3. OBJECTIVES

The results of the RFI will inform Wyoming strategic and financial assistance planning efforts.

Wyoming is interested in respondents' financial, legal, and equity cost concerns for the proposed function/service/application described in the RFI. The most useful information will *support decision making in selecting various levels of functionality within the state.*

Respondents may provide comparative cost or cost saving analysis to support their proposal. WYDOT would also appreciate input on alternative technologies or innovative approaches that may meet the technical challenges while improving efficiencies, adding value, or improving customer service.

4. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Wyoming currently has very limited zero emission vehicle infrastructure, most of it specified for Tesla products. A holistic strategy to engage with communities, residents, businesses, and technology experts will help ensure an affordable, equitable, and manageable conversion to the increased use of zero emission vehicles. Information gained from respondent input will aid in a successful transition.

5. STRATEGIC MISSION, VISION, GOALS

Current policy indicates Wyoming state agencies will not be involved in the purchase, installation, maintenance, and operation of zero emission infrastructure. Infrastructure development and operation will be a business or local / tribal government solution that supports and enhances the state's overall transportation networks. Development will be facilitated and enabled by the state to modernize and maintain the system.

6. PERSPECTIVE SOLUTIONS

The Wyoming Department of Transportation is requesting information that describes previous experience, technological solutions or specifications, and best practices observed by stakeholders.

7. FUNCTIONALITY

Respondents may be asked to follow up written responses with a presentation or discussion with state agency representatives or directors working on the strategy. Those selected for follow up discussions will be notified by WYDOT’s Procurement Program to schedule a time. Meeting(s) may be virtual to accommodate travel or respondent location considerations.

8. REQUIREMENTS

Please submit responses in written form.

9. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The schedule of events set out below represents WYDOT’s best estimate of the schedule that will be followed for this RFI process. Any changes to the deadline for submitting responses will be publicly posted prior to the deadline. After the deadline, WYDOT reserves the right to adjust these and any future dates as needed, with or without notice.

EVENT	DATE
RFI issued	December 1, 2023
Deadline for Submission of Questions and Requests for Clarification by	January 3, 2024, 11:00 A.M. MT
Amendment with Responses to Questions and Requests for Clarification issued	January 10, 2024, , 5:00 P.M. MT
Deadline for Submission of Responses by	January 31, 2024, 11:00 A.M. MT

SECTION 4 RESPONSE FORMAT AND CONTENT

1. RESPONSE PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Introduction

Please provide:

1. Justin L. Wood, (307) 290-2269, justwood307@gmail.com
2. Justin L. Wood, 129 E. Cleveland Street/Box 1273 Sundance, WY 82729, (307) 290-2269

2. TECHNICAL RESPONSE

Respondents are asked to provide the following information within the following categories:

Respondents may choose to abstain from answering questions that may not be relevant to them.

1. GENERAL

a. Which site(s) along the Interstates would your organization be interested in developing? These can be identified in the NEVI plan or other sites along the interstates. **I currently am an owner of properties in the Sundance area that could be used as great possible sites.**

- If there are any additional sites throughout the state that your organization would be interested in developing please state where those locations would be. **Not at this time, currently I am asking for the Sundance area only.**

b. What do you perceive as the biggest challenges or barriers to implementing NEVI sites in Wyoming? **The complicated application process, and how the Wyoming weather may impact the vehicles.**

c. Do you have experience in deploying charging infrastructure in rural, remote, and underserved regions and communities? If yes, please summarize any current or planned experience. **No experience.**

d. How does your organization identify optimal locations for charging? Please provide all factors used for consideration and how your organization evaluates these factors for considered locations. **I have property that is easily accessible to motorists in the Sundance area in locations that are close to the amenities of town.**

e. If you are an existing EVSE operator along an AFC, would your organization be interested in the potential to upgrade existing DCFC charging stations to meet NEVI requirements? **N/A**

- If yes, please tell us the location your organization would be interested in upgrading. **N/A**

2. PARTNERSHIPS AND BUSINESS MODELS

f. Is there a business model or procurement contracting method that would prevent you from participating in the WYDOT NEVI plan? If so, what is it? **Not that I am aware of at this time.**

g. Please provide your organization's viewpoints on contracting methods for DCFC infrastructure, including leasing and/or revenue sharing agreements. Have you implemented any cost/revenue sharing models for the operation of DCFC EVSE? If yes, please share what you can about the terms of those partnerships. **No, I have not contracted for this infrastructure before.**

h. WYDOT may require validation that the charging station operator has site control, such as a lease, option to lease, letter of intent, or other similar agreement between the operator and the property owner (if different entities) that confirms the charging station operator has permission to locate the charging infrastructure on the property for at least five (5) years. Provide an overview of your organization's approach to installing and operating EVSE on private land. Will you be leasing land or owning? **I own any land I would be placing charging stations/infrastructure.**

i. What information about electrical service at a proposed site can you provide during the application process? How do you plan to coordinate with utility providers to evaluate electrical service at a proposed site in advance of an application? **I have already touched base with the utility company with my intentions on this project. I have worked closely with them on other projects.**

3. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

j. Please describe the EV charging equipment you would propose to deploy in Wyoming. **I have been studying different charging stations and believe at the time the best choice will be evident as they change rapidly.**

k. Are there any facets of the NEVI guidelines that your EVSE cannot meet? **The most challenging part will be working through government specifications in a small common sense community.**

l. What functional site design elements (beyond those required by the NEVI Program rules) should WYDOT consider in developing its minimum technical requirements and evaluation criteria for sites? **The most important should be the location to the amenities to the towns it serves, and to be able to serve all makes of EV's.**

Examples would be the capacity per site, installing more than (four) 4 chargers per site, views on spacing of chargers, traveler amenities, technology solutions, ability to expand locations, etc.

4. FUNDING

m. What financial structure is most feasible for your organization, and will you provide the non-federal match required by NEVI Program of 20% or possibly more? **I am willing to match the 20% for the improvements, I already own the land.**

• Please describe the percentage of participation in construction costs would you desire or expect from public, federal, or private partners? **Self and government funded.**

n. How do you believe the implementation approach could be structured to maximize private sector funding as the match required by FHWA for use of NEVI funds and to reduce the amount needed for a federal subsidy? Insight is welcomed on whether this could vary based on specific site conditions or locations. **I know this is vague, but I think this would depend on location and usage of the sites.**

5. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

o. Would the lack of Operations and Maintenance funding be a barrier to your participation? **It could be depending on the costs.**

p. How will your organization support continued operation of the EV network deployed beyond the five (5)-year agreement under the NEVI Program? **Hopefully the program is viable to continue in the process.**

q. Please offer thoughts on the level and types of effort related to staffing requirements, monitoring systems, partnership arrangements, etc., to meet the 97% uptime requirement in the NEVI Program rules. *What factors will influence the cost of meeting that 97% uptime requirement, and is there anything you view as within WYDOT's discretion or influence that can aid in achieving 97% uptime?* **I have been self- employed since 2004, and I am a hard worker. Staff shortages and skilled labor is a challenge to find in Wyoming.**

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

r. Please provide any additional information that would be beneficial for WYDOT to consider when developing a Request for Proposal for the deployment of its NEVI plan. Respondents are requested to not provide proposals or marketing material and should instead provide detailed answers to the RFI questions. WYDOT may invite respondents to meet and discuss the information provided in more detail. **The process of how to procure this project is challenging and a face to face meeting would be more conducive for these type of projects. I appreciate this request of information being reviewed.**