

# CHARGING FORWARD 2023

## EV CHARGING SYMPOSIUM

On July 12, 2023, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation hosted our second-ever electric vehicle (EV) charging symposium at DOT headquarters in Washington, D.C. Bringing together nearly 300 stakeholders from across the private, nonprofit academic, and government sectors, the symposium included opening remarks from Carlos Monje, Under Secretary for DOT; Shailen Bhatt, Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); Lynda Tran, Senior Advisor to the Secretary and Director of Public Engagement at DOT; Jeff Marootian, Senior Advisor to the Secretary at the Department of Energy (DOE); and Gabe Klein, Executive Director of the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation (Joint Office). The event incorporated static displays of vehicles from more than 20 manufacturers and charging stations and technology from a dozen charging companies, as well as facilitated stakeholder workshop discussions focused on technical assistance and implementation planning for the nationwide expansion of EVs and EV charging infrastructure using National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) formula dollars.



### Plenary Session Key Points:

**Standards Compliance: FAQs and Myth-Busting** Speakers: Andrew Rogers, Deputy Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration (DOT), Alex Schroeder, Chief Technology Officer (Joint Office), Lynda Tran, Senior Advisor to the Secretary and Director of Public Engagement (DOT)

- Clarification on when and where EV charging standards apply, and considerations around ports, power levels, connectors, and payments and pricing.
- Emphasis on interoperability, set via the standards, is the key to a seamless electric vehicle charging network.

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### Breakout Session Key Points:

#### **Getting Chargers Built with Federal Dollars: Permitting and Other Federal Requirements**

Speakers: Stephanie Pollack (DOT), Ann Shikany (DOT), Fernando Salcedo (DOE), Hari Kalla (DOT)

- Federal funding goes from FHWA to State DOTs, who administer the NEVI program in their States.
- State DOTs are responsible for ensuring EV chargers comply with federal regulations.
- FHWA and the Joint Office are resources for State DOTs and can help determine which regulations and processes must be followed.

#### **Planning and Funding Urban Electric Mobility Infrastructure**

Speakers: Kelsey Owens (DOT), Debs Schrimmer (Joint Office), Alex Epstein (DOT)

- Curbside charging presents challenges and new opportunities.
- For example, parking meter franchise agreements complicate implementation, and permitting can present a major challenge.
- Streetlamps that have been converted to LED bulbs can also be an opportunity for EV charger siting, given the reduction in energy use by the streetlamp itself.

#### **EV Charging Infrastructure Reliability**

Speakers: Sarah Hipel and Jacob Matthews (Joint Office)

- The Joint Office's ChargeX is a collaborative venue where industry, academia, the national labs, and others can work together to solve complex problems.

#### **Planning and Funding Rural and Tribal Electric Mobility Infrastructure**

Speakers: Alex Clegg (DOT); Shelbi Small and Rob Hyman (Joint Office)

- Tribal participants shared that they seek more flexibility planning and building EV infrastructure.
- Participants are looking for peer exchange opportunities and case studies to highlight and promote effective practices and success stories.
- Rural areas currently lack strong broadband coverage, which could limit the ability to implement EV charging networks.

#### **EV Battery Safety**

Speakers: Eddie Murphy (DOT), Debbie Sweet (DOT), Michael O'Brian (Brighton Area Fire Authority), Tony Thampan (DOT)

- More education is needed for the public and the fire protection community.
- Collaboration among all players will be needed to tackle this challenge.
- EV safety considerations go beyond the vehicle and include battery transport, storage, and recycling.
- Batteries are not just found in cars but bikes, scooters, and other vehicles.
- EV technology is evolving so fast that related research can struggle to keep up with new products.
- Due to the fast pace of technology advances and slow response to it, building/facility safety codes need to be updated. More research producing quicker results and faster research will be needed.