



MEETING MINUTES

Blue-Ribbon Commission on Transportation Infrastructure
Funding and Policy
Commission Meeting | May 28, 2024 | 10:00am – 12:00pm

Commission Members Present	Commission Members Absent
Chair – Secretary Omer Osman	Representative C.D. Davidsmeyer
Commissioner Romaine Brown	Representative Marcus Evans Jr.
Commissioner Laura Calderon	Representative Dave Fowler
Commissioner Eileen Chin	Senator Laura Murphy
Senator Don DeWitte	Commissioner Marc Poulos
Commissioner Jacquelyn Grimshaw	Representative Ryan Spain
Representative Michael Kelly	Senator Ram Villivalam
Commissioner Duana Love	
Commissioner Thomas Kotarac	

Staff Attendees Present	Representing
Holly Bieneman	Illinois Department of Transportation
Esther Darkwah	Illinois Department of Transportation
John Donovan	Illinois Department of Transportation
Elizabeth Irvin	Illinois Department of Transportation
Jeremy LaMarche	Illinois Department of Transportation
Michael Vanderhoof	Illinois Department of Transportation
Janel Veile	Illinois Department of Transportation

Other Attendees Present	Representing
Berenice Alvarez	Morreale Communications
Diane Bustamante	Morreale Communications
Kristen Sproat	Boston Consulting Group
Tejus Kothari	Boston Consulting Group

Overview of Meeting

I. **Introductions**

Commission Chair Omer Osman called the meeting to order. Following Chair Osman's introduction, a roll call was conducted. With 9 Commissioners present, the quorum was met.

II. **Approval of Minutes (Mach 26, 2024)**

Chair Osman introduced the March meeting minutes for approval. Chair Osman motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner Calderon approved the motion, and Commissioner Chin seconded it. All voted in favor, and the motion was passed.

III. **Procurement Update**

Director Bieneman announced that the bid opened on May 6th for the request for proposals, and six proposals were received. The list of bidders was sent to the Commission.

The selection committee is reviewing the request for proposal responses to ensure that all requirements are met. One of the proposers was deemed non-responsive. Therefore, the evaluators are focusing on the remaining five proposals. Once those are reviewed (in about two weeks), the scoring is tallied, the selected firm is posted in BidBuy and contract negotiations begin.

Director Bieneman stated that procurement is on track. The selection committee consists of five reviewers: three from the Department and two from the Commission.

While the procurement review occurs, those on the evaluation team cannot discuss the proposals.

IV. **Vice Chair Elections**

The agenda item for Vice Chair Elections will be discussed in a later meeting.

V. **NEVI Program Update**

Deputy Director Elizabeth Irvin led the discussion on the NEVI program.

As of April, Illinois has over 100,000 electric vehicles registered in the state. The state's goal is to have one million on the road by 2030, and it is making progress on both the vehicle and charger sides.

The National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula (NEVI) Program is part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) federal programs, and it provides money to each state. Illinois gets 149 million dollars to build EV charging infrastructure, starting with major highway corridors and eventually a broader network across the state.

Illinois released its first notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for the NEVI program on March 8th, and it closed on May 7th. The first NOFO was available for 50 million out of 149 million dollars. The goal of the first round is to build alternative fuel corridors, which are the state's interstates.

Information on the NEVI program can be found on IDOT's website at <https://idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/environment/drive-electric.html>.

The website shows a map of NEVI-eligible corridors and charging station locations. The stations are required to be no more than one mile off the corridors, including several other requirements, such as the power levels of these stations.

Senator DeWitte asked if the state is considering rest areas.

Deputy Director Irvin stated that federal law prohibits charging a fee for anything provided at the federal rest areas (not including Tollway rest areas) other than vending machines. There could be charging stations built, but a fee for using them cannot be charged. Due to the federal requirement of having four charging stations simultaneously charging four vehicles at a speed of about a half hour, it's not economical to build it at the highway rest areas. The NOFOs are structured as grants. This would be a grant for a private entity to build, operate, and maintain the stations over five years. The state will not own the land that the charging stations are on but provide funding for the construction and maintenance over the five years with the required 20% match from the private sector. The locations being looked at include gas stations, retail parking lots, and hotels.

Chair Osman asked if there would be an exception to consider rest areas if the rest areas are not federally owned.

Deputy Director Irvin stated that it could be considered once the network is built out. The first phase is focused on building out the corridors, and once that is accomplished, the rest of the funding can focus on the alternative fuel corridors. One of the areas identified as a high priority is scenic byways. When that round occurs, the question of rest areas can be looked into.

Commissioner Love asked if the state would be considering universities and colleges.

Deputy Director Irvin stated that for this round, any location within a mile of the exit is eligible. Last year, the application submitted was for EV charging at community colleges that met the corridor requirements. It was unsuccessful. The application was highly recommended in all of the funding, but it was highly competitive.

The number of applications received for the NOFO was 96, spread across the state. The applications are being reviewed, and the announcement of selected applicants is anticipated sometime in July. Stakeholder engagement regarding the process occurs in the summer. To complete the requirement of building a network every 50 miles, if there are no competitive applications at each site, there will be another NOFO round incorporating lessons learned to fill in the gaps.

The NEVI deployment plan must be updated by the beginning of August. For the discretionary side of the NEVI program, another round of the federal program will be released this summer. There is a call for partners to provide information and engagement to develop that application.

Commissioner Love asked what the state priorities are for the first phase.

Deputy Director Irvin stated that the first round will focus on building the network every 50 miles and identifying sites that are ready to go. In future phases, broader goals, such as community and economic development and Justice40, can be considered.

Commissioner Love stated that she had attended listening sessions in her village.

Commissioner Grimshaw asked how existing charging stations fit into the map.

Deputy Director Irvin stated that, in most cases, the existing charging stations do not have the power level required for the NEVI program. Some existing locations are potentially eligible for upgrades to meet the NEVI standards.

VI. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

VII. Public Comment

The meeting was opened to public comment. No public comments were made.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next Commission meeting is Tuesday, June 18th, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.