



June 8, 2023

Department of Transportation's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Opportunity

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

ACTION: Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Number 693JJ323NF00004

CFI Grant Program Reviewers,

Please accept this letter in support of using CFI Grant Program funds to install electric vehicle (EV) chargers in the City of Roswell. Many historic burdens of transportation systems have been shouldered by disadvantaged communities while benefits have not been equally distributed. The City of Roswell is a rural and disadvantaged community. To be granted this funding would enable the City to provide safe mobility options for residents and visitors while promoting economic development and preserving the environment. Climate change is a serious issue facing the City of Roswell. Climate change is expected to exacerbate the city's extreme weather challenges with unprecedented warming and more intense drought conditions. Utilizing EV chargers would allow for vehicles to take advantage of the renewable energy sources in the area and reduce the City's dependency on fossil fuels.

It is important to provide electric vehicles with access to charging in rural areas such as Roswell so that those with electric vehicles can feel comfortable to visit. It is critical to expand the network of EV chargers in New Mexico so that EV chargers can also be used for those traveling through Roswell on their way to another destination such as Albuquerque, Carlsbad, or Las Cruces.

The proposed deployment sites for the EV chargers are strategically located and will increase mobility and lower transportation costs for residents and visitors and will increase economic opportunity for the city. Firstly, the EV chargers proposed for the City's public parking lot downtown would allow the vehicle owners to visit a municipal building or shop downtown. The EV chargers proposed for the public parking lot on S Garden Ave will allow for electric vehicles to be charging while individuals and families use Hondo Park and the Hondo River Walking and Biking Trail. The two deployment sites just identified are within one mile of the Alternative Fuel Corridor (AFC). The EV chargers proposed for Eastern New Mexico University will allow for electric vehicles to be charging while students, faculty and staff work and attend class. Finally, the EV chargers proposed for the Roswell Air Center will allow for electric vehicles to be charging while people are traveling. The last two deployment sites just identified are within 1.73 miles of the AFC.

The CFI Program funding would facilitate public access to charging in a rural and disadvantaged community and contribute to the EV charging network in New Mexico. As Director of Engineering & Infrastructure I understand and commit to alternative energy updates within the City of Roswell, NM.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Louis Najar'.

Louis Najar, P.E.
Director of Engineering & Infrastructure