



Ev charging stations construction projects

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The fast-charging stations by EVgo are one option for building out EV charging networks.

As part of the Biden administration's push to boost the use of electric vehicles, the U.S. Dept. of Transportation has awarded \$622.6 million to 47 projects that aim to spur construction of several thousand more electric vehicle charging and hydrogen fueling stations around the country.

The grant-winning projects, which DOT's Federal Highway Administration announced on Jan. 11, are in 22 states and Puerto Rico. They are the first awards from the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure program.

In all, the discretionary-grant program will total \$2.5 billion over five years. The new awards draw from fiscal year 2022 and 2023 funds.

DOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg said in a Jan. 10 media briefing to preview the announcement that the group of grants should support 7,500 new charging ports. That represents a modest 4% gain over the total number of stations in place by the end of 2023.

But Buttigieg said the new projects will make it "easier, more affordable and more convenient for people to charge EVs where we live, where we work and where we shop--wherever we need to charge."

Zaidi said that as of the end of 2023, the number of chargers in place had risen to 168,426 nationwide, from 96,243 stations in 2020, an increase of 75%.

The increase in building charging stations is one aspect of major changes in engineering and construction flowing from the rising use of electric vehicles.

The new FHWA grant awards fall under two categories, with \$311 million going to 36 "community" projects in urban and rural locales. They will include what FHWA called "high-use" sites, such as schools, parks, libraries and multi-family housing.

The other \$312 million is for 11 projects on roads DOT has designated as alternative fuel corridors. The grants aim to close gaps in the core national network for EVs and hydrogen fuel, according to DOT.

Grant recipients include state, city, county and regional agencies, two universities and two Indian tribes.

Buttigieg said that 70% of the \$623 million will go to projects located in disadvantaged communities.



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The emphasis on such areas has been a Biden administration priority.

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