

# **South Carolina**

## **Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Deployment Plan**

September 2025



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# Introduction

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) is responsible for the adoption and implementation of the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program.

SCDOT's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment Plan (EVIDIP) was developed in accordance with the NEVI Formula Program Interim Final Guidance issued by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on August 11, 2025. The new guidance made several changes to the previously released NEVI guidance from June 11, 2024, including:

- ✦ Minimizing the content required in State plans to statutory and regulatory requirements
- ✦ Simplifying the plan approval process
- ✦ Providing States with the flexibility to determine the appropriate distance between stations along alternative fuel corridors (AFC) to allow for reasonable travel.
- ✦ Minimizing requirements for States to consider electric grid integration, renewable energy, and alignment with electric distribution interconnection processes, except where required by regulation.
- ✦ Encouraging selection of charging locations where the charging station owners are also the site host to accelerate project delivery.
- ✦ Eliminating requirements for States to address consumer protections, emergency evacuation plans, environmental siting, resilience and terrain considerations.
- ✦ Providing States with more flexibility in determining when their system is built out, allowing NEVI funds to be used on public roads statewide.

The South Carolina EVIDIP includes the following plan content as requested by the Interim Final Guidance:

- ✦ **NEVI Program Funding Allocation Plan:** A description of how South Carolina intends to use NEVI Program funds for each fiscal year (FY). The plan includes all unobligated funding for FYs 2022 – 2026. Updates from the FY 2025 Plan Update include:
  - Estimated NEVI Funding Available
  - Estimated NEVI Funding Obligated
  - Estimated NEVI Funding Remaining to be Obligated
- ✦ **Community Engagement Outcomes Report:** As per the 23 CFR 680.112(d), a description of the community engagement activities conducted as part of the development of this State EV Infrastructure Deployment Plan include:
  - Community Outreach and Engagement Efforts (Virtual and In-Person)
  - Industry Outreach and Engagement Efforts (Virtual and In-Person)
  - Industry Networking Opportunities and Request for Proposals (RFP) Review (Virtual)
- ✦ **Physical and Cyber Security Plans:** A description of physical and cybersecurity strategies, per 23 CFR. 680.106(h). Since the previous plan updates, no changes have been made to these plans.

SCDOT submits this state EVIDIP consistent with FHWA's Interim Final NEVI Guidance released August 11, 2025.



# NEVI Program Funding

## Allocation Plan

Over the course of the NEVI Program, South Carolina is anticipated to receive approximately \$70 million in formula funding over a five-year period to assist with the expansion of electric vehicle charging across the state. SCDOT completed and received funding for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plans submitted in the summers of 2022, 2023 and 2024. South Carolina has been allocated approximately \$55 million to build a network of EV chargers across the state to date.

SCDOT is anticipating releasing a Request for Proposals (RFP) in 2026. Initial RFP documents were prepared, but the procurement process was paused when the federal government paused the NEVI program in early 2025. SCDOT will review the initial RFP materials to explore opportunities to align with the Interim Final NEVI Guidance.

As indicated in **Table 1**, SCDOT has obligated approximately \$1.7 million in NEVI funding to date. SCDOT will continue to plan for the development of additional EV chargers on and off the AFCs. In addition to allocating funds to EV charging stations on and off the AFC, SCDOT will investigate the distribution of funding between Direct Current Fast Charging (DCFC) and Level 2 charging, as well as potential support of training certification and training efforts across the state. SCDOT will continue to engage communities across the state throughout the EV charging development process, which will inform program funding.

**Table 1** | South Carolina NEVI Program Funding

	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	Total
<b>Estimated NEVI Funding Available</b>	10,360,855	14,909,387	14,909,490	14,909,503	14,909,534 <sup>1</sup>	69,998,769
<b>Estimated NEVI Funding Obligated</b>	1,760,000	-	-	-	-	1,760,000
<b>Estimated NEVI Funding Remaining to be Obligated</b>	8,600,855	14,909,387	14,909,490	14,909,503	14,909,534 <sup>1</sup>	68,238,769

<sup>1</sup> FY26 funds are anticipated, but not yet received



# Community Engagement Outcomes Report

## State Agency Coordination

### Coordination with Other State Agencies

SCDOT is the lead agency in the administration of the NEVI Program in South Carolina. As such, SCDOT received funding from the federal government and will administer and implement the program, facilitate robust public engagement, and ensure compliance with federal and state requirements. This role requires frequent communication and interaction with several other state agencies, including, but not limited to, the State Energy Office, the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services, the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, and the Office of State Fiscal Authority.

### Interagency EV Working Group

Under Executive Order 2022-31, Governor Henry McMaster authorized SCDOT to establish an Interagency EV Working Group. The group's first meeting was January 4, 2023, and the Interagency EV Working Group has been meeting consistently since.

Members of the Working Group were selected to ensure representation by all key state agencies involved in the planning and implementation of EV charging across South Carolina. The Working Group may add other state agencies as appropriate. Membership of the Working Group remains the same and is listed below:

- ✦ Office of the South Carolina Governor
- ✦ South Carolina Department of Transportation
- ✦ South Carolina Department of Commerce
- ✦ South Carolina Department of Environmental Services
- ✦ South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
- ✦ State Fiscal Accountability Authority
- ✦ South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce
- ✦ South Carolina Technical College System
- ✦ South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles

The Working Group regularly discusses the opportunities and challenges associated with establishing a statewide EV charging network and welcomes industry experts to discuss perspectives on the matter. The Working Group receives regular updates on the state's SC+EV Initiative, its development, and its implementation. Meeting agendas and video recordings of the meetings are available online at <https://southcarolina-ev.com/>.



## Public Engagement

Intentional and robust public and industry engagement is an integral component to South Carolina's NEVI Program. The purpose of this section is to share information about the engagement efforts that took place over the last year and to share SCDOT's vision for future public and industry engagement for the Program.

SCDOT has implemented and will continue to pursue intentional, comprehensive engagement in two key categories: public engagement and industry engagement. These two categories are defined below; however, the two categories of engagement may have overlap in instances where content is relevant to both groups of participants.



**Public engagement** focuses on communicating with and listening to communities throughout South Carolina, including residents, community leaders, government staff and elected officials, and tribal communities.

**Industry engagement** focuses on industry stakeholders who could potentially have a role in the construction, operations, maintenance, and ownership of Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE), as well as investor-owned, municipal, and co-op utilities.

## Future Public and Industry Engagement

SCDOT will continue its engagement efforts over the next year and beyond. The intention of the public and industry engagement is to receive meaningful input from statewide communities, relevant organizations, partner agencies, and industry stakeholders to inform South Carolina's NEVI Program.

Future public engagement activities will include but are not limited to:

- ✦ Regular Website Updates
- ✦ Virtual Public Meetings
- ✦ In-Person Pop-Up Events or Open Houses
- ✦ Community Stakeholder Engagement or Working Groups
- ✦ Regular E-Newsletter Updates
- ✦ Interagency EV Working Group
- ✦ Direct Outreach with Community Leaders and Key Organizations
- ✦ Social Media Updates

Public engagement activities will work to communicate progress and receive meaningful feedback that will directly inform the project, including but not limited to strategies for siting, infrastructure requirements, scoring criteria, and workforce development efforts.

Future industry engagement activities will include but are not limited to:

- ✦ Industry Networking Opportunities
- ✦ Virtual Industry Webinars and Forums





- ✦ In-Person Roundtable Meetings or Open Houses
- ✦ Regular Website Updates
- ✦ Regular E-Newsletter Updates
- ✦ Interagency EV Working Group
- ✦ Direct Outreach with Utilities, Key Industry Organizations, and Potential Site Hosts
- ✦ Open Office Hours for Contractors after Notice of Award

Industry engagement will focus on education and feedback regarding the technical aspects of the Program, including federal compliance, technical specifications and configurations for EVSE, siting considerations, and anything related to the implementation of NEVI-funded EVSE chargers that require state input. It is also intended as an opportunity to solicit feedback and better understand the continuously evolving market for EVSE.

### Community Engagement Outcomes Report (2025 Update)

Over the past year, SCDOT has deployed an intentional and robust public and industry engagement effort to inform South Carolina's NEVI Program. These efforts, supporting both public engagement and industry engagement, are expanded on below.

#### Program Website

A dedicated program website and brand was developed in support of South Carolina's NEVI Program, the SC+EV Initiative. The program website, found at [southcarolina-ev.com](https://southcarolina-ev.com), is a comprehensive resource for both public and industry engagement. On the website, visitors can find general information about the SC+EV Initiative and the NEVI Program, how to get involved, industry resources, Interagency EV Working Group materials, FAQs and resources, and a comment form to contact the project team.

#### In-Person Public Engagement

SCDOT implemented a robust, in-person engagement strategy in April and May 2024 to engage with residents, community leaders, government staff and elected officials and Tribal communities across the state. This engagement included 20 in-person public meetings in various locations to inform, engage, and garner feedback from varying perspectives across South Carolina.

These meetings were facilitated in a drop-in, open house style format with project team members available to discuss the Program and encourage feedback from attendees. No formal presentation was given at any of the public open house meetings.

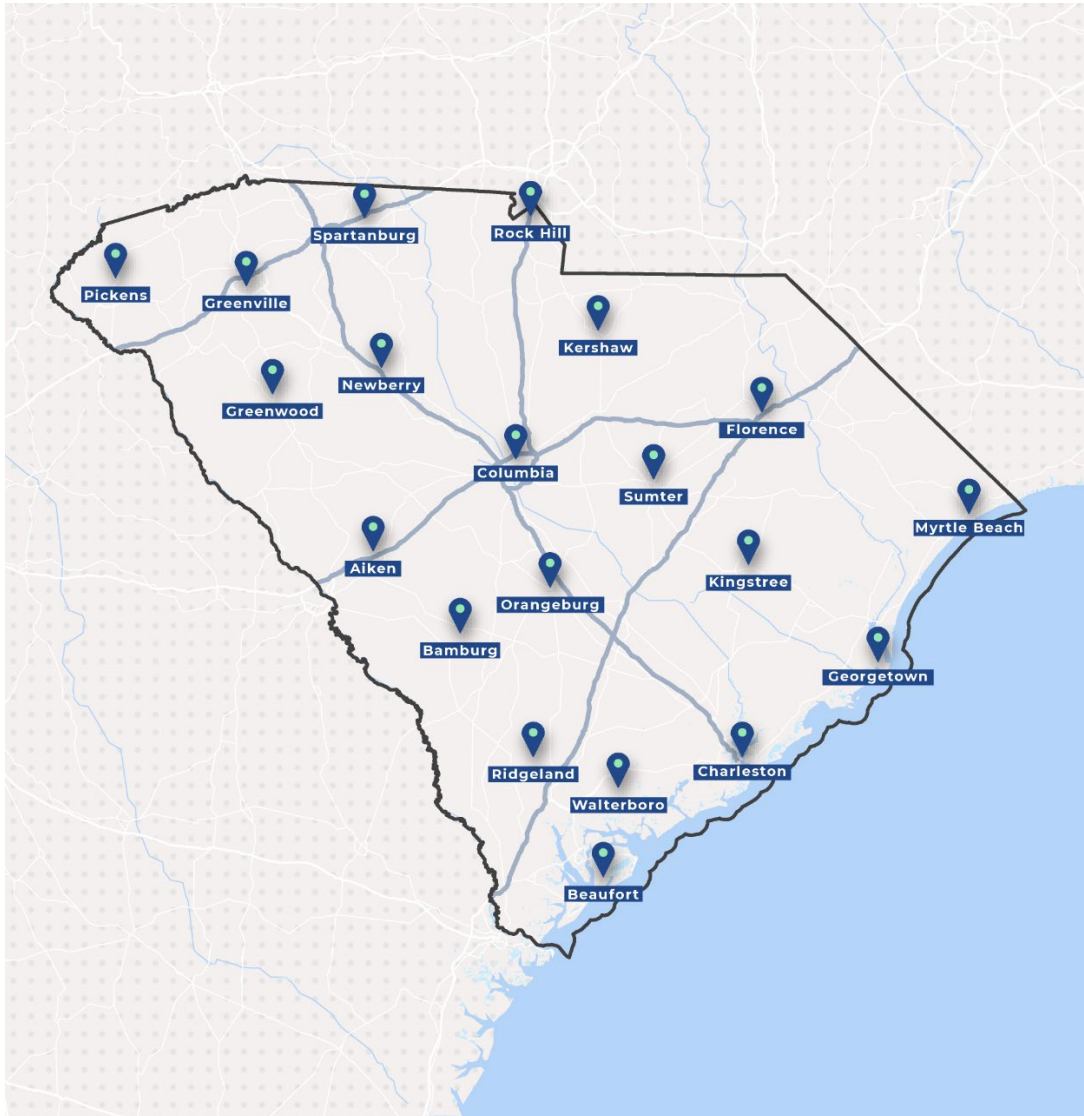
A total of 112 members of the public attended these open houses.

**Figure 1** outlines the meeting locations by city.



Public outreach regarding in-person engagement efforts included advertisements in The State and The Post and Courier newspapers, press releases disseminated to media outlets, social

media posts on SCDOT channels, targeted phone calls to local government entities, and nearly 4,500 email and physical mail invitations and reminders distributed.



**Figure 1 | In-Person Engagement Locations**

### Live Virtual Town Hall Public Meeting

Following the conclusion of in-person public engagement, SCDOT hosted a virtual town hall meeting to provide an additional virtual opportunity for members of the public to attend, receive more information about the initiative, and provide feedback. The same information was presented during this meeting as the in-person public meetings. The live virtual meeting garnered 37 attendees.



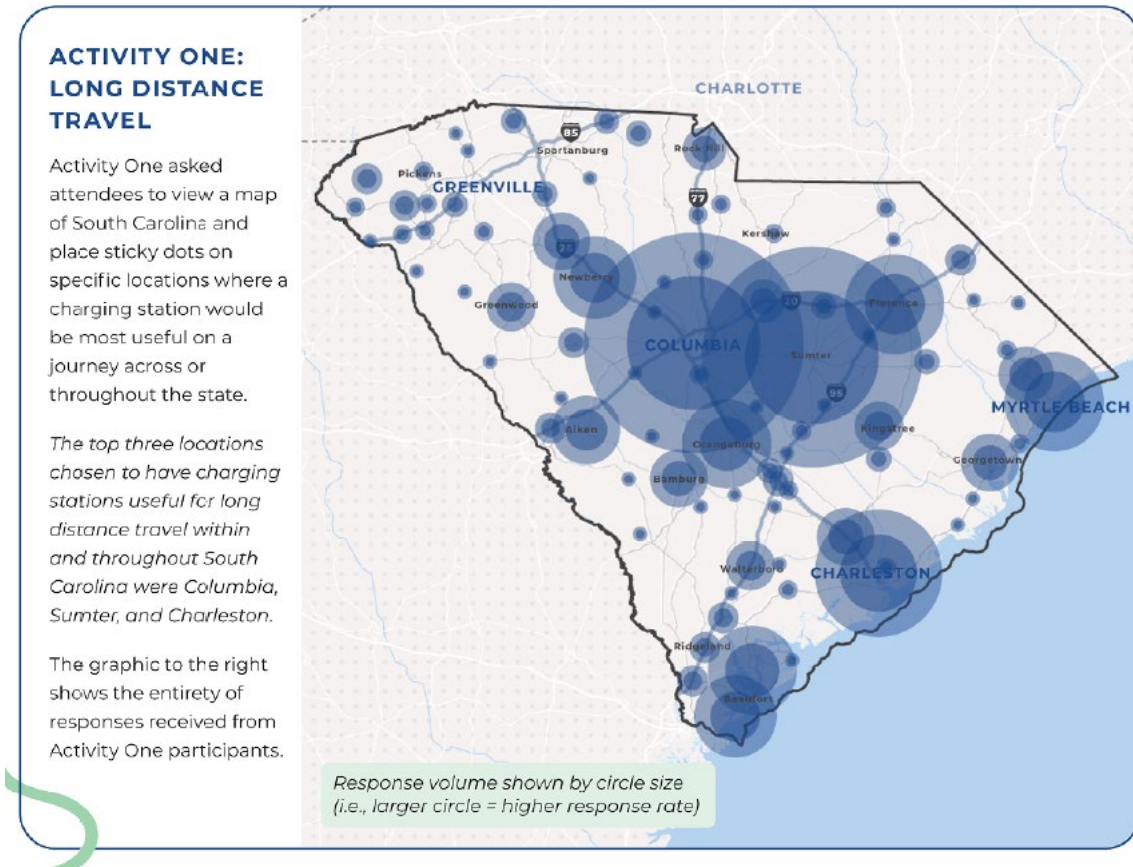
### On-Demand Virtual Public Meeting

An on-demand virtual public meeting was held in tandem with the in-person open house meetings and was made available on the SC+EV website April 22, 2024. This virtual meeting presented the same information that was provided at the in-person open houses. As of August 25, 2025, the on-demand virtual meeting has received 426 visits.

### Interactive Activities During Public Engagement

At the in-person public open houses and during the live virtual public meeting, SCDOT requested feedback via three interactive activities, in addition to offering open comment forms for submission. The activities were aimed at collecting feedback regarding station location preferences, station amenity preferences, and station establishment type preferences. The results of these interactive activities are shown in **Figure 2** through **Figure 4**.

Results from these interactive activities will directly inform the program, including distribution, prioritization, and type of charging infrastructure that is targeted for communities.



**Figure 2 | Activity 1 Results**

## ACTIVITY TWO: STATION AMENITIES

Activity Two asked attendees to rank the charging station amenities most important to them using green, yellow, and red sticky dots. Attendees could also write in additional responses in an 'Other' section.

*Restrooms, adequate lighting and safety measures, and access to nearby experiences were ranked the top three most important charging station amenities among in-person and virtual attendees.*

The graphic below shows the entirety of responses received from Activity Two participants.

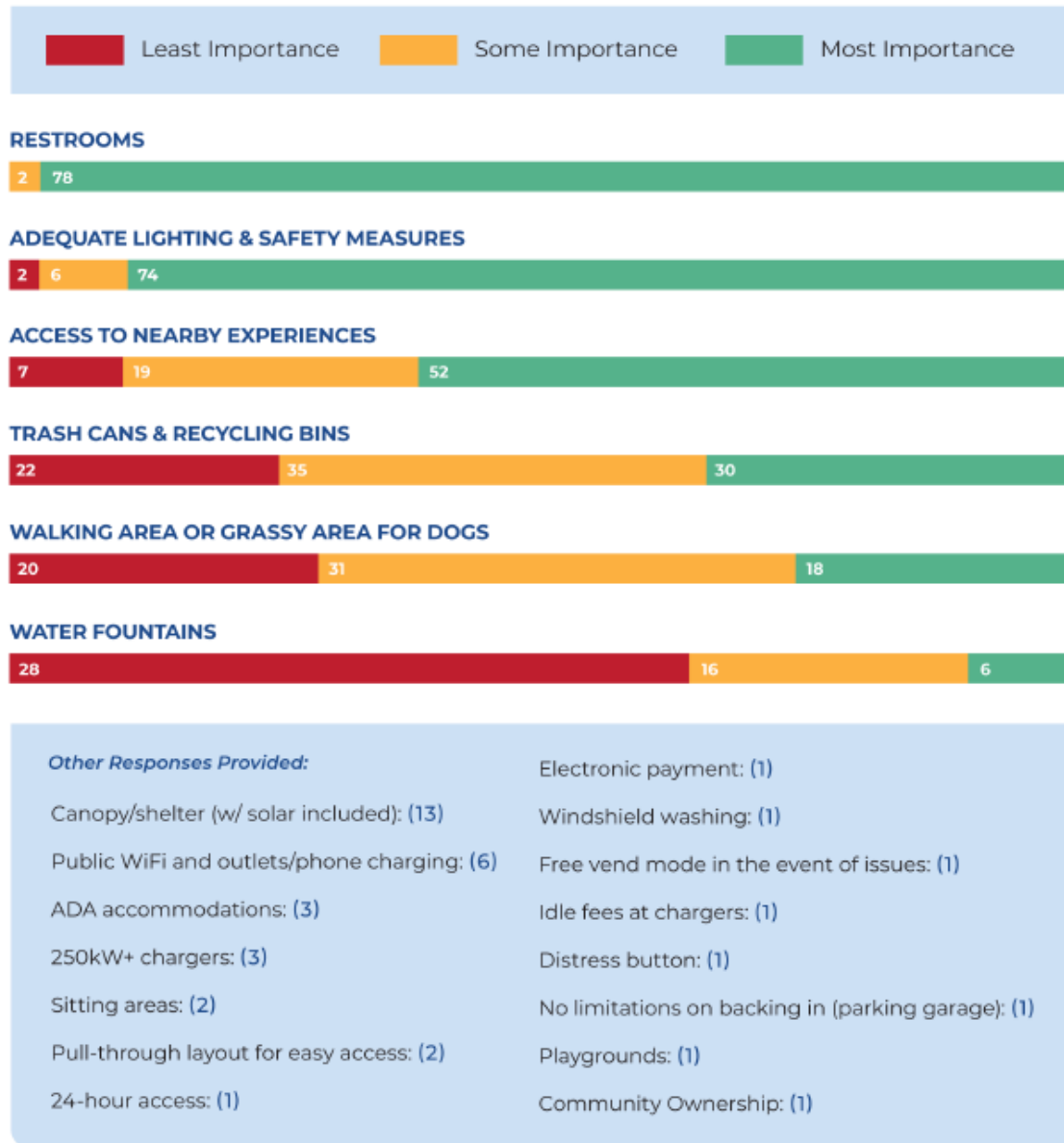


Figure 3 | Activity 2 Results

### ACTIVITY THREE: ESTABLISHMENTS

Activity Three asked attendees to list, using sticky notes, what types of everyday establishments (gas station, library, etc.) would be a useful location for a charging station.

*The top three most useful establishments for a charging station identified by attendees were restaurants/fast food locations, shopping centers, and gas stations.*

The graphic below shows the entirety of responses received from Activity Three participants.

#### RESPONSES



- GROCERY STORES (11)
- LIBRARIES (9)
- MAIN ST. DISTRICTS/DOWNTOWNS (9)
- HIGHWAYS/TRAVEL ROUTES (8)
- REST AREAS (6)
- GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS (6)
- CONFERENCE/EVENT CENTERS (5)
- EMPLOYMENT CENTERS (4)
- TOURIST ATTRACTIONS (3)
- MEDICAL CENTERS (3)
- PARKING GARAGES (3)
- RURAL POST OFFICES/AREAS (2)
- APARTMENTS/TOWNHOMES (2)
- UNIVERSITIES (2)
- MOVIE THEATERS (2)
- CAR WASHES (1)
- LAUNDROMATS (1)

*\*Some community members expressed interest in rest areas as useful charging station locations. Federal law prohibits commercial services, including EV charging stations, at rest stops.*

Figure 4 | Activity 3 Results



Other key feedback received via comment forms and in-person discussion included the following:

- **Workforce Development:** Various community members expressed a specific need for the SC+EV Initiative to address workforce development in efforts to support economic development objectives in the state.
- **Charging Speed:** Community members emphasized that 150kW charging may not be sufficient and suggested that SCDOT consider utilizing charging infrastructure that is 250kW+ for faster and easier consumer charging.
- **Community-Based Charging:** Members of the public expressed a desire for the program to address travel to, from, and within communities on state roadways or highways that are common routes of travel and not designated AFCs.

### Industry Kickoff Webinar

SCDOT initiated industry engagement with a virtual industry kickoff webinar. This webinar was held April 9, 2024, to inform industry members about the NEVI Program and SC+EV Initiative, upcoming in-person engagement opportunities, and next steps for the development and implementation of South Carolina's NEVI Program. A total of 38 industry stakeholders attended the kickoff webinar.

### Industry In-Person Roundtable Meetings and Open Houses

SCDOT deployed a robust in-person industry engagement effort by hosting a total of 16 roundtable meetings and open houses across the state in major urban areas and in more rural areas along South Carolina's AFCs. These meetings were all held in April 2024. The meetings and open houses aimed to collect important feedback related to the technical development and deployment of South Carolina's NEVI Program.

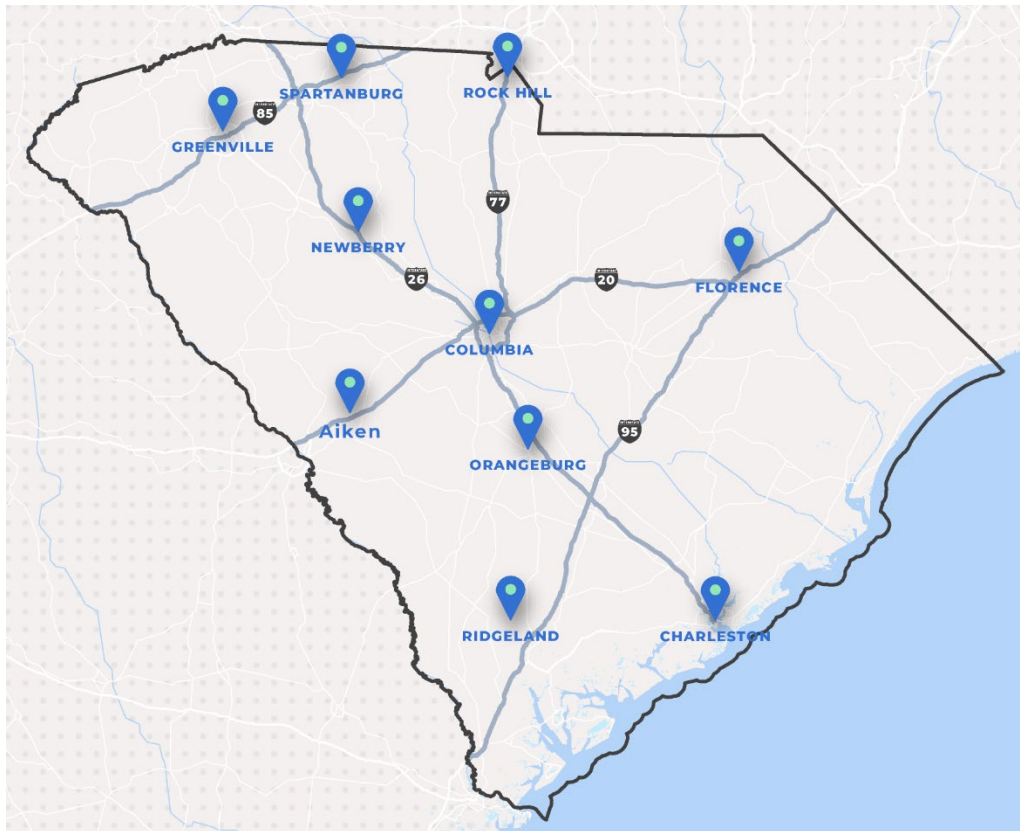
A total of 78 industry stakeholders attended the roundtable meetings and open houses. **Figure 5** outlines the meeting locations by city. Outreach included a total of 1,972 email and physical mail invitations and reminders distributed.



SCDOT hosted roundtable meetings targeted to key industry stakeholder groups over the course of three days in major urban centers across the state: Columbia, Charleston, and Greenville. Each day had a total of three 1.5-hour roundtable meetings (nine total meetings). The roundtable discussions were broken out into EVSE Suppliers and Providers, Utilities, and Potential Site Hosts. SCDOT led facilitated discussions surrounding key technical topics including charging infrastructure locations, operations and maintenance, workforce development, and procurement process needs.

In addition to the roundtable meetings, SCDOT hosted seven additional industry open houses in more rural areas along South Carolina's AFCs. These meetings were held in a drop-in style

open house format where attendees had the opportunity to discuss key topics directly with project team members.



**Figure 5** | In-Person Roundtable and Open House Meetings

Feedback from industry stakeholders was collected through thorough discussion notes, in-person comment forms, and digital comment submissions via the program website and email. Key findings from this feedback are shown in **Figure 6**.





**Figure 6 | Key Feedback Findings**

### Industry Live Virtual Meeting

Following the conclusion of in-person industry engagement, SCDOT hosted a live virtual meeting to provide an additional opportunity for industry stakeholders to attend, receive more information about South Carolina's NEVI Program, and provide feedback. Information presented at this meeting mirrored the in-person roundtable and open house content while also including additional information about best practices for the implementation of charging infrastructure. The live virtual meeting was held June 4, 2024, and garnered 56 attendees.





### Industry Networking Database

SCDOT launched an electronic industry networking database in May 2024 in preparation for procurement. Industry organizations can sign up to be included in the networking database via a link on the project website. SCDOT updates the database regularly to incorporate new submissions. The networking database's intent is to introduce and connect stakeholders who may want to develop deployment teams for EV chargings. SCDOT does not vet, review, or recommend the entities providing information to be included in the database.

The database provides general organization information, point of contact information, capabilities in relation to NEVI deployment, and information regarding what the organization was seeking from teaming with partners.

### Industry Networking Event

SCDOT hosted a virtual Industry Networking Event on January 22, 2025, via Microsoft Teams. During the event, participants had the opportunity to introduce themselves, their business and what they were looking for in team partnerships. The intent of the event was to introduce and connect stakeholders who may want to develop deployment teams for EV charging stations. A total of 38 individuals participated in the networking event.

### Formal Industry Review of Draft Procurement Documents

SCDOT released a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Formal Industry Review in December and January of 2025. This information was shared via email distribution to the program's industry mailing list and the files were available for review electronically via the project website. Input collected was used to inform updates for the final RFP for program procurement.

### Industry One-on-One Conversations

SCDOT conducted one-on-one meetings with a variety of industry organizations to gather information on industry trends and gain valuable feedback on industry preferences related to siting and procurement. These meetings were hosted virtually via Microsoft Teams and were held with utilities, tribal representatives, industry organizations, vehicle manufacturers, EVSE providers, and site hosts. Information from these meetings was collected to support and inform the program's technical details and procurement process. A total of nine one-on-one meetings were hosted.

### Potential Site Host Outreach

SCDOT conducted outreach to potential NEVI site hosts along the AFCs throughout the state. This outreach consisted of targeted postcard mailers to potential businesses within areas that met previous NEVI program guidelines for site host location and requirements. The postcard mailers shared information on the SC NEVI Program, site host opportunity, and upcoming industry networking event. In areas with lower quantities of potential site hosts, direct phone calls were made to businesses to answer program questions and encourage participation in the industry networking event. This outreach occurred in December of 2024.



### Industry E-Newsletter Outreach

SCDOT conducted outreach via e-newsletter to the industry mailing list at key project milestones. This included information regarding industry networking opportunities, procurement document review, and siting strategy updates.

### Industry Request for Information Survey

In April 2024, SCDOT launched a Request for Information Survey to receive feedback from industry stakeholders. Questions aimed to understand industry preferences and experience to help guide the technical development and deployment of South Carolina's NEVI Program. The Survey garnered 33 submissions from industry stakeholders. A summary of key feedback submitted follows:

- **Stakeholder Diversity and Engagement:** The Request for Information Survey collected responses from a diverse range of stakeholders (33 responses), including EVSE operators, owners, site hosts, utility representatives, and other entities, showcasing a broad spectrum of interests and expertise in the EV infrastructure domain. Respondents expressed varying levels of experience and engagement with Direct Current Fast Charger (DCFC) infrastructure. Thirty-two respondents have interest in continuing to be a part of the email list, and 26 would be interested in joining a networking list to pair partners.
- **Challenges and Strategies for Implementation:** Respondents identified key challenges to NEVI Program implementation, such as supply chain constraints, finding partners, and regulatory hurdles such as permitting and zoning. Suggestions for overcoming these challenges included close collaboration with local utilities, NEVI-focused educational initiatives by SCDOT, flexible funding with no limits tailored to competitive proposals, and a best value scoring approach that balances quality with cost. Fifty-nine percent of respondents stated 150kW per port is appropriate.
- **Operational Considerations and Sustainability:** Strategies for enhancing station utilization and futureproofing, such as integrating charging stations with other amenities, offering operations and maintenance funds, and deploying infrastructure alongside renewable energy sources, reflect a broader emphasis on sustainability and community engagement.
- **Workforce Development and Inclusivity:** Insights into workforce readiness and training programs revealed a mixed landscape, with both confidence in existing capabilities and recognition of areas needing improvement, particularly regarding EVTIP certification and minority business participation. Sixty-nine percent of respondents said South Carolina has the required workforce to implement NEVI. Recommendations for SCDOT included facilitating education, providing clear guidance, and fostering partnerships with community-based organizations to ensure inclusivity and diversity in program implementation.



# Physical Security and Cybersecurity

SCDOT is committed to public security, including physical security and cybersecurity for all services and systems that SCDOT helps develop to support the communities they serve.

As the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) has allocated funds for the deployment of EVSE, and as SCDOT intends to deploy these systems to support EV travel across the state, the following section addresses physical and cybersecurity details. These sections provide guidelines and best practices for SCDOT and EVSE deployers and meet the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Standards and Requirements, Final Rule, Code of Federal Regulations Section 23, Part 680 (23 CFR 680) issued on February 15, 2023 (collectively, NEVI Requirements).

## Physical Security

The physical safety and security of those utilizing DCFC charging stations is of significant importance to SCDOT. To maintain user safety and security, it is critical that stations be well designed and in accordance with local, state, and federal requirements. Proposal evaluations will consider on-site safety features such as lighting, 24/7 facility access, on-site staff, and public emergency phones. Physical protection of the EVSE is also a consideration during proposal evaluations. Bollards, tamperproof hardware, locks, and fire extinguishers are all factors that are evaluated for their impact on security. Any RFPs issued for the NEVI program will include physical security requirements that are appropriate for the circumstances of those deployments.

## Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity is a critical and rapidly evolving area of concern for electric vehicle charging station operations. SCDOT's approach to cybersecurity for the NEVI program is to ensure it is addressed properly at every station. While implementation details are left to site operators and network providers, each site must have a written Cybersecurity and Data Management Plan that is aligned with the NIST Cybersecurity Framework (CSF).

The approach to cybersecurity for individual charging stations will be evaluated during the proposal evaluation process. SCDOT will consider three key aspects of cybersecurity:

### Third-party audits and third-party cybersecurity certification

The charging station operator must have their cybersecurity practices audited by a third-party and maintain a third-party cybersecurity certification. ISO 27001, SOC 2 Type II, FedRAMP, and GovRAMP are examples of the types of third-party certifications that are acceptable to demonstrate adequate cybersecurity policies are in place. Compliance with these requirements will be verified annually to ensure cybersecurity is addressed throughout the entire operational period of each charging station.



### **Cybersecurity incident response**

In addition to the cybersecurity plan and certifications, SCDOT also requires station operators to take certain steps related to how they will respond in the event of a cybersecurity incident.

These requirements include:

- ✦ Establishment of a Cybersecurity Event Management Team (CEMT) responsible for incident response.
- ✦ Development of a Cybersecurity Event Management Plan detailing notification and mitigation procedures.
- ✦ Immediate notification to SCDOT within 24 hours of discovery of any cybersecurity incident requiring legal notification.

### **Data privacy**

Charging station operators must ensure compliance with Payment Card Industry (PCI) standards and must supply PCI attestations of compliance annually. They must also ensure that their payment terminals are EVMCo certified. These requirements ensure that customer payment information is secure. Charging stations operators are also limited to only collect, process, and retain personal information that is strictly necessary to complete the charging transaction.