REV (6/2024)

2024

Call for Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicle Charging and Hydrogen Fueling Project Concepts Guide

Table of Contents

I. Introduction and Overview

A. Purpose of Call for Project Concepts

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Director's Office of Sustainability invites interested providers of medium- and heavy-duty (MHD) zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) charging and hydrogen fueling services to submit project concepts for consideration by Caltrans for nomination to the California Transportation Commission's (CTC) Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP).[1] Projects should align with the state's goals for equitably advancing the adoption of zero-emission vehicles. Caltrans is searching for ZEV infrastructure projects to nominate to TCEP that would otherwise be unavailable to parties without the support and nomination from a public agency.

Submission of a project concept is the initial step for entities that wish to engage with Caltrans for potential nomination to the CTC's competitive grant funding opportunity for MHD charging and hydrogen fueling projects through TCEP.

Outside of this call for project concepts, Caltrans encourages charging and hydrogen fueling providers to engage with the Department on ideas to advance transportation electrification.

B. Transportation Electrification at Caltrans

Caltrans' Director's Office of Sustainability works across the Department to align sustainability and equity initiatives, targets, and activities between the Director's Office, Headquarter Divisions, the 12 Caltrans Districts, tribal governments, and external partners. The office's mission is to, "*Accelerate the transition to a healthy, dignified, and just transportation system that supports thriving communities.*"

Transportation electrification work at Caltrans supports the state's world-leading targets for ZEV adoption. These efforts span passenger vehicles, commercial vehicles, the Caltrans fleet, passenger rail, and transit buses. In each of those five areas, California has set regulatory requirements to transition to zero-emission vehicles. Caltrans' scope of actions represent one piece of a collaborative effort among partner agencies to electrify transportation. The Director's Office of Sustainability plays a lead role within the Department for securing and administering funding for MHD ZEV projects.

[1] Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP) | CTC (ca.gov)

C. Required Information

Responses to this call for project concepts should be made online to this submission form:

https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/1e709c024fa545a3aa69b6647bf477aa

Submissions include contact information and responses to Attachment A, "Project Concept Questions." Responses to the Project Concept Questions must be submitted in PDF format.

Responses must be submitted no later than **July 10, 2024, 11:59 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time**. Caltrans assumes no responsibility if the response is not received prior to the submission deadline.

D. Key Actions and Dates

Table 1 lists key actions and dates for submitting project concepts.

Table 1: Key Actions and Dates

Action	Date
Release of call for project concepts	06/20/2024
Deadline to submit questions for FAQ	06/26/2024
Anticipated posting of FAQ	07/03/2024
Project concepts due	07/10/2024 by 11:59 p.m. PDT

E. Disclaimer

A response to this call for project concepts is not an offer, bid, or commitment, and cannot be accepted by Caltrans to form a binding contract. Responses to this call for project concepts will not be returned. Respondents are solely responsible for all expenses associated with responding to this call for project concepts. The submission of a response does not constitute any commitment on the part of the respondent except that the submitted information is correct to the best of the respondent's knowledge.

Caltrans and the respondent agree to keep the response to the Project Concept Questions confidential and not to disclose the response to the Project Concept Questions to third parties, subject to the following:

- If a California Public Records Act ("CPRA") request is received by Caltrans and Caltrans determines the response to Project Concept Questions is responsive to a CPRA request, Caltrans will make reasonable efforts to notify the respondent of the CPRA request. The respondent can determine if it will pursue its own motion to prevent

disclosure of the response to the Project Concept Questions to the CPRA requestor.

- If Caltrans determines the response to Project Concept Questions is responsive to a CPRA request, Caltrans has the sole right to determine whether there are any exemptions under state or federal law that would not require Caltrans to disclose the response to Project Concept Questions. If Caltrans determines there is not an available exemption from disclosure of the response to Project Concept Questions to the CPRA requestor, the response to Project Concept Questions will be disclosed unless the respondent obtains a protective order preventing disclosure of the response to Project Concept Questions.

Respondents should not include confidential or trade secret information in their response.

F. Submittal of Questions for FAQ

Interested respondents requiring clarification of the intent, content, or procedural matters may submit questions by email with the subject line marked "Questions Relating to Caltrans' Call for MHD Charging and Hydrogen Fueling Project Concepts" to ZEV@dot.ca.gov. To ensure a timely response, questions for the FAQ must be submitted no later than **June 26, 2024**.

II. Evaluation Process and Criteria

A. Project Concept Evaluation

Responses to the Project Concept Questions will be evaluated based on the criteria described below. To evaluate concept submissions, Caltrans will organize an Evaluation Committee. The Evaluation Committee may consist of Caltrans staff and staff at other California state entities.

1. Administrative Screening Criteria

Responses will be screened for compliance with the Administrative Screening Criteria listed in Table 2. Submissions that fail any of the Administrative Screening Criteria may be delayed for consideration by the Evaluation Committee or removed from consideration altogether.

Table 2: Administrative Screening Criteria

Administrative Screening Criteria	Pass/Fail
1. The concept is received by the due date and time specified in the "Key Actions and Dates" section in Section I of this call for project concepts.	☐**Pass** ☐**Fail**
2. The concept received is complete and answers all questions specified in the "Project Concept Questions" in Attachment A.	☐**Pass** ☐**Fail**

2. Technical Evaluation Criteria

Project concept submissions passing all Administrative Screening Criteria will be reviewed by the Evaluation Committee according to the Technical Evaluation Criteria in Table 3 and assigned a score of Highly Recommended, Recommended, or Not Recommended.

Ratings of project concepts will be presented to Caltrans executive leadership and considered as part of the Department's process for nominating projects to TCEP.

A Highly Recommended project concept is one that receives a rating of Highly Qualified in at least three of the five Technical Evaluation Criteria described below and receives at least a rating of Qualified for each of the remaining Technical Evaluation Criteria described below. A Recommended project concept is one that receives at least a rating of Qualified for each of the Technical Evaluation Criteria described below. A Not Recommended project concept is one that receives a rating of Not Qualified for any of the Technical Evaluation Criteria described below.

Table 3: Technical Evaluation Criteria

Technical Evaluation Criteria		
Project Readiness		
Highly Qualified	**Qualified**	**Not Qualified**
The response demonstrates all of the following:	The response demonstrates at least one of the following:	The response contains does not demonstrate any of the following:
(1) a clear plan to site control or access; (2) a clear plan to securing necessary permits and environmental clearance; *AND* (3) a strategy for site energization and minimizing grid impacts or securing hydrogen supply	(1) a clear plan to site control or access; (2) a clear plan to securing necessary permits and environmental clearance; *OR* (3) a strategy for site energization and minimizing grid impacts or securing hydrogen supply	(1) a clear plan to site control or access; (2) a clear plan to securing necessary permits and environmental clearance; *OR* (3) a strategy for site energization and minimizing grid impacts or securing hydrogen supply
Budget		
(1) Project budget does not exceed $30 million in TCEP funding; (2) private cost match of at least 50%; *AND* (3) ranks in the top half of project concepts received for the total TCEP funding request cost per kW installed or kg H_2 installed	(1) Project budget does not exceed $30 million in TCEP funding; (2) private cost match of at least 50%; *OR* (3) ranks in the top half of project concepts received for the total TCEP funding request cost per kW installed or kg H_2 installed	(1) Project budget does not exceed $30 million in TCEP funding; (2) private cost match of at least 50%; *OR* (3) ranks in the top half of project concepts received for the total TCEP funding request cost per kW installed or kg H_2 installed
Equity		
(1) Air quality benefits to disadvantaged communities (see definition below); (2) consideration of the project's impacts on the surrounding community; *AND* (3) commitment to workforce development	(1) Air quality benefits to disadvantaged communities (see definition below); (2) consideration of the project's impacts on the surrounding community; *OR* (3) commitment to workforce development	(1) Air quality benefits to disadvantaged communities (see definition below); (2) consideration of the project's impacts on the surrounding community; *OR* (3) commitment to workforce development
Team Qualifications		
(1) Project will be led by a team experienced with MHD charger or H_2 installations; (2) project team has successful experience working with	(1) Project will be led by a team experienced with MHD charger or H_2 installations; (2) project team has successful experience working with	(1) Project will be led by a team experienced with MHD charger or H_2 installations; (2) project team has successful experience working with

government agencies and public funding; *AND* (3) project team is experienced in completing large complex projects on time	government agencies and public funding; *OR* (3) project team is experienced in completing large complex projects on time	government agencies and public funding; *OR* (3) project team is experienced in completing large complex projects on time
Strategic Alignment		
(1) project locations within five miles of an SB 671 corridor; (2) project supports industry's charging or hydrogen fueling needs; *AND* (3) project supports the needs of truck drivers	(1) project locations within five miles of an SB 671 corridor; (2) project supports industry's charging or hydrogen fueling needs; *OR* (3) project supports the needs of truck drivers	(1) project locations within five miles of an SB 671 corridor; (2) project supports industry's charging or hydrogen fueling needs; *OR* (3) project supports the needs of truck drivers

B. Costs Considerations

1. Program Requirements

TCEP funds may be used for project plans, specifications, and estimates; right-of-way; and construction phases. TCEP funds may not be used for the Project Approval and Environmental Documents phase.

For further requirements, please reference the TCEP Guidelines at: https://catc.ca.gov/programs/sb1/trade-corridor-enhancement-program

2. Recommended Project Concept Budget

Projects that utilize funding for equipment and construction related costs will be prioritized. Project concepts are recommended to be less than $60 million in total project costs and provide a private, cash match of at least 50%, i.e., less than $30 million in TCEP funding. Projects with budgets greater than the recommended amount or match less than the recommended amount will be considered.

Cash match means funds expended for a project after any discount or rebate is applied. Examples of matching expenditures include expenses such as labor hours, equipment, materials, and supplies, including those incurred by subcontractors.

III. Attachment A: Project Concept Questions

Please indicate "n/a" for any questions that are not applicable to the project concept.

Please list the locations of projects with a minimum specificity of the project's city.

1. **Project Description**
   1.1. Please provide a summary of the project (100 words or less)
   1.2. Who is proposing this project? Who will build, own, operate and maintain the infrastructure? (100 words or less)
2. **Project Readiness**
   2.1. Please complete the following table for site(s) agreement model and status.

Location(s)	Site Agreement Model (Own or Lease)	Status of site agreement (e.g., letter of intent, purchase and sale agreement)	Name of electric utility servicing site

2.2. Please complete the following table to estimate the project timelines.

Phase	**Estimated Start Date**	**Estimated End Date**
Planning		
Planned and Environmental Documents Phase (not an eligible expense in TCEP)		
When is CEQA/NEPA clearance expected for the site(s)?		
Design		
Right-of-way, e.g., final site control		
Construction		

2.3. Please complete the following table about site energization, grid impacts and hydrogen supply.

Location(s)	Has the utility verified its ability to provide sufficient power to the site?	Will any electric infrastructure upgrades be needed on either the utility or customer side of the meter? If yes, describe what they are and a timeline for completion.	Please describe any aspect of the project to support grid resiliency such as battery storage, solar panels, and load management strategies.	If providing hydrogen fueling, please describe the source of hydrogen, e.g., electrolysis, and how hydrogen will be supplied to the site, including any fuel contracts secured.

3. Project Specifications and Budget

3.1. Please complete the following table to estimate the project funding.

Location(s)	Total Site Project Cost	Public Funding Request (TCEP)	Match Funding (Private)[2]	Match Funding (Other Public Funding)

3.2. Please complete the following table for site(s) characteristics as applicable.

Location(s)	Number of Truck Charging Stalls	Number and Power of Charging Ports (kW or MW)	Simultaneous Site Charging Capacity (MW)	Energy Storage System – Capacity (MWh) and Power (MW)	On-site Renewable Energy Generation (type, e.g., "solar") and Power (MW)	H_2 Fueling Capacity per day (kg H_2/day)	Number of H_2 fueling nozzles

[2] Distribution grid or other equipment costs that are otherwise covered by programs or tariff rules of electric utilities are excluded, as are nonrenewable distributed energy resources.

4. Equity

4.1. Please provide the following information for project locations.

Location(s)	Describe the type of land use surrounding the project site, e.g., proximity to existing warehouses, distribution centers, port of entries (land and maritime), other fueling facilities, residences (100 words or less)	Is the project located in a disadvantaged community or low-income community?[3] (Y/N)

4.2. Has the project team considered any methods to avoid impacts of the project on residents and businesses within the project area? If yes, please describe. (100 words or less)

4.3. Is the project expected to increase truck traffic on roads not traditionally served by commercial trucks? (100 words or less)

4.4. Has the project team completed any community engagement for this project? If yes, please describe it or describe the plan for community engagement. (250 words or less)

4.5. Please describe any local economic benefits expected from this project and workforce development plans associated with this project. (250 words or less)

4.6. Please describe other community benefits expected or planned for this project. (250 words or less)

5. Team Qualifications

5.1. Describe the project team's qualifications and success with deploying MHD ZEV projects, entering into agreements with government agencies (e.g., successful grant award reporting and administration), meeting deadlines and completing milestones associated with large, complex projects, including examples of previously successful complex projects. (500 words or less)

[3] The following geographic areas are defined by the California Environmental Protection Agency as disadvantaged: (1) census tracts receiving the highest 25% of overall scores in CalEnviroScreen 4.0; (2) census tracts lacking overall scores in CalEnviroScreen 4.0 due to data gaps, but receiving the highest 5% of CalEnviroScreen 4.0 cumulative pollution burden scores; (3) census tracts identified in the 2017 DAC designation as disadvantaged, regardless of their scores in CalEnviroScreen 4.0; (4) and areas under the control of federally recognized Tribes. Low income community is defined as a Census Tract with a median household income at or below 80% of the statewide median income or with median household incomes at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development's list of state income limits adopted under Section 50093;

6. **Strategic Alignment**

6.1. Indicate if a site is located within the following strategic locations.

Location(s)	Is the project site(s) within five miles of Clean Freight Corridors identified by the SB 671 Clean Freight Corridors Efficiency Assessment (see pages 14 and 25)? Please list which of the "Top 6" and/or "Top 34" freight corridors will be served by the site(s).
Ex. Los Angeles	Top 6 Corridors: Interstate 5 Top 34 Corridors: State Route 60

6.2. Describe freight sector(s) served by project sites. (250 words or less)

6.3. Is the site(s) for public use, private use, or both? Please describe intended customer type and use case, e.g., overnight charging, opportunity charging, etc. (250 words or less)

6.4. Will a publicly accessible reservation system be used for charging bays? If so, please describe. (100 words or less)

6.5. Is there space and utility capacity to add additional fuel dispensers or charging ports in the future? (100 words or less)

6.6. How many *new* truck parking spaces will the site(s) support besides those for charging or hydrogen fueling, i.e., to help alleviate the state's truck parking shortage?

6.7. Will the site(s) provide 24 hours of customer service? If no, how many hours of customer service will be provided and in what time windows? Will the customer service be provided in-person or accessible some other way? (100 words or less)

6.8. Are there any amenities planned at the site(s) such as restrooms, showers, food, or other services? (100 words or less)