



General roadmap

Next steps leading up to construction

LEARNING FROM THE INDUSTRY

From January 15 to February 20, SOPEC accepted responses to our Request for Information (RFI), gathering input from industry stakeholders, vendors, contractors, engineers, and community partners to help shape the forthcoming Request for Proposals (RFP) from potential vendors for the RIDES project.

Highlights: RFI webinar with industry experts, Q/A period, RFI responses due

JAN-FEB 2026

WE ARE HERE!

ASSESSMENT PHASE

SUMMER 2026

PARTNER AUTHORIZATION

By **June 30, 2026**, all public-entity project partners must pass legislation from their governing bodies for eligibility to enter into a site host agreement. These resolutions are not a contract; they simply confirm that the governing body gives authorization for the *future ability* to sign a contract with SOPEC for this project (*not* that partners are required to). This is a federal requirement for this stage, and there will be opportunity to discuss details in the future to inform the design.

Highlight: SOPEC needs permission to proceed through the assessment phase.

ASSESSMENTS SUBMITTED

The RIDES project is funded through the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program through the Federal Highway Administration. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), is a U.S. federal law that requires government agencies to evaluate the environmental impacts of their proposed actions, such as installing EV charging stations.

Highlight: Once the assessments are complete, SOPEC will submit everything to the federal CFI committee for review and approval to proceed.

AUG-SEP 2026

FALL 2026

RFP RELEASED

Following NEPA approval, a request for proposals (RFP) will be released, inclusive of detailed project requirements. Vendor selection process begins.

Highlight: Any EV-project-related vendors that would like to be added to the contact list for upcoming bid- and project-related communications should email their contact information to RIDES@sopec-oh.gov.

CONSTRUCTION PHASE

VENDOR(S) SELECTED, DESIGN BEGINS

Based on the responses to the RFP, the RIDES project team will select vendors for project design, construction, and charger operation and maintenance. Pre-construction meetings will begin.

Highlight: SOPEC and selected vendor(s) will work with site hosts on design configuration.

WINTER 2027

SPRING 2027

SITE HOST AGREEMENTS

SOPEC and site hosts will enter into an agreement for the installation, ownership structure, and operations/maintenance for the EV charging stations. Signed site host agreements will formalize final charging station locations and all other agreed-upon details. **Highlight:** This step indicates the end of the assessment phase and initiates construction activity.