



National Highway Charging Collaborative

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure at Truck Stops



Key Takeaways:

- NATSO and ChargePoint have committed to helping leverage \$1 billion in investment to install EV charging infrastructure at more than 4,000 truck stops, travel plazas and fuel retailers by 2030.
- FHWA’s alternative fuel corridor network is serving as a roadmap for these partners to identify gaps in EV infrastructure along corridors and target EV infrastructure installations in those locations.

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NATSO, representing America’s travel plazas and truck stops, and ChargePoint recently partnered to build an extensive network of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at truck stop and travel plaza locations across the United States. This will increase access to EV charging along highways and in rural America by filling alternative fuel infrastructure gaps along the National Highway System, including along the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) designated alternative fuel corridors.

Context

Under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015, FHWA developed the Alternative Fuels Corridor Program to advance a national network of alternative fueling and charging infrastructure along National Highway System corridors. FHWA recognizes the invaluable role that truck stops play as convenient access points for highway drivers to refuel their vehicles. FHWA encourages alternative fuel vehicle stakeholders to consider collaborating with truck stops as a strategy to fill existing gaps along corridors. One example of a partnership that is advancing the collocation of multiple alternative fueling options at truck stops is the National Highway Charging Collaborative – a partnership between NATSO and ChargePoint.

National Highway Charging Collaborative

NATSO and ChargePoint have committed to leveraging \$1 billion in public and private capital by 2030 to deploy EV charging infrastructure at more than 4,000 travel plazas, truck stops and fuel retailers across the country. NATSO is a national trade association representing travel plaza and truck stop owners and operators. ChargePoint’s cloud subscription platform and software-defined charging hardware is designed internally and has helped in building out an extensive charging network across the United States.

NATSO and ChargePoint entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in February 2020 that solidified collaboration between the two organizations to accelerate the installation of EV charging infrastructure at truck stops, travel plazas and fuel retailers. The MOU formally launched the Collaborative and is an agreement to leverage public and private capital to provide EV charging infrastructure at strategic locations, connect existing FHWA-designated alternative fuel corridors, and to advocate for policy outcomes that reinforce a shared commitment to competitive forces in the charging marketplace in furtherance of the Collaborative’s objectives. The MOU also emphasizes the goal of improving EV access for rural communities.



NATSO and ChargePoint have a shared interest in promoting EV charging infrastructure at truck stops. Each entity wants to play a meaningful role in improving the emissions characteristics of transportation fuel through alternative fuel adoption, and each brings a critical contribution to the Collaborative. ChargePoint brings strong knowledge of EV infrastructure deployment, legislative and regulatory issues, funding, market opportunities, and EV charging solutions to meet the needs of NATSO's wide membership base of both large and small truck stop companies. NATSO coordinates education and outreach to its network of truck stops and travel plazas. NATSO's members benefit from ChargePoint's insights and best practices for installing alternative fuel infrastructure. Together, they use their partnership to advocate for policy solutions that facilitate alternative fuel adoption.

While the Collaborative is still in its early phases, truck stops in many states, including California, Washington, Wisconsin and Iowa, already have installed EV charging stations as a result of increased partner coordination. For example, the Collaborative has enabled ChargePoint to partner with 11 truck stops in Iowa to install EV charging infrastructure.



Figure 1. Three ChargePoint CPE250 fast chargers. These are the types of chargers installed at a plaza in Southern California as part of this initiative. Source: ChargePoint.

"We worked to ensure that the policy landscape in Iowa was conducive to generating a return on our EV charging investments. The success of that effort enabled us to work with ChargePoint, and we are currently installing DC Fast Chargers at our location."

-- Delia Moon Meier, Senior Vice President, Iowa 80 Group

Overlap with Alternative Fuel Corridor Work

The partners view FHWA's alternative fuel corridor network as a "roadmap" for determining where gaps in alternative fuel vehicle infrastructure exist along corridors. FHWA [hosts interactive maps of designated corridors](#) on its website, which provide the Collaborative with a tool to identify corridors they can target with private investment. Co-locating EV charging or other alternative fuel infrastructure at truck stops or travel plazas will enable long distance EV travel, create new opportunities to generate business for travel plazas and fuel stop owners, offers consumers comfort and the choice of several different fueling options, and enhance the FHWA corridor network. NATSO and ChargePoint are active stakeholders in FHWA's corridor program and have supported FHWA's alternative fuel corridor convenings, a series of collaborative events in support of the Alternative Fuel Corridor Program, which strengthened coordination among the varied partners involved in planning and implementation of alternative fuel corridors. NATSO and ChargePoint participated as speakers on panels, contributed ideas that helped shape the planning of the events, and engaged in discussions on how to identify and overcome barriers to corridor development. The Collaborative's efforts will not only support the FHWA but also State and local stakeholders through the building out of State and regional corridors.

Alternative fuel policy incentives over the past 15 years have encouraged fuel retailers to invest in infrastructure to bring new fuels to market. This experience informs our work on EV charging policies. FHWA's alternative fuel corridors play an essential role in advancing the adoption of EV charging infrastructure by helping retailers identify regions of the country where they can target investments."

-- Lisa Mullings, President and CEO, NATSO

Resources

- The National Highway Charging Collaborative website offers details on the partnership: www.nationalhighwaychargingcollaborative.com.
- ChargePoint published a press release that provides an overview on the MOU and the Collaborative's goals: <https://www.chargepoint.com/about/news/chargepoint-and-natso-launch-collaborative-significantly-expand-ev-charging-along/>.

