



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

EV Advisory Commission

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Monday, April 13, 2026

1:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting: Attend in person at the City County
Building (210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Room 351) or
virtually via Zoom.

See below for additional instructions on how to attend the meeting and provide public
testimony.

A. Call To Order

Staff Present: Nicole Dewitt

The meeting was called to order by Kathy Kuntz at 1:11 p.m.

Present 15 - PHIL GRUPE, LYNN MCDANIEL, JIM SCHWINGLE, GREGG MAY, Chair KATHY
KUNTZ, DAPHNE XU, Vice Chair DAVID LONSDORF, EDWARD LEE, ERINN
MONORE-NYE, ANDREW BREMER, CRISTINA CARVAJAL, SAMANTHA
WORDEN, STEPHANIE ROBINSON, KARI GEHRKE, and DAVID SALMON

Absent 2 - JOSH GALASSO, and KAREN MENEDEZ-COLLER

B. Consideration of Minutes

A motion was made by MAY, seconded by LONSDORF, that the minutes from
January 13, 2026 be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote.

[2025](#)
[MIN-649](#)

DRAFT minutes from previous meeting (Jan 13, 2026)

Attachments: [Draft minutes from previous meeting \(Jan 12, 2026\).pdf](#)
[Registrations from previous meeting \(Jan 12, 2026\).pdf](#)

C. Action Items

D. Presentations

[2025](#)
[PRES-290](#)

Program Update

Attachments: [Program Update 04.13.26.pdf](#)
[20260319 EVCS Panel Presentation.pdf](#)

Kathy provided a program update (see also Program Update 04.13.26.pdf):

• Host Site Selection & Planning

- Federal Highway Administration - Wisconsin (FHWA-WI) has approved environmental paperwork for 35 sites (31 from Round 1; 4 sites from Round 2). Environmental paperwork for 16 additional sites from Round 2 is pending approval.

- The RFP for Round 3 closed on April 2, yielding 13 applicants from our priority areas. We are also revisiting some sites from Rounds 1 and 2 that were not initially moved forward.

- A couple of sites from Rounds 1 and 2 have notified us they are no longer interested. We are encouraging these sites to remain involved, but delays and uncertainty related to construction are contributing factors.

- The Office of Energy and Climate Change (OECC) continues to meet with individual host sites to maintain lines of communication and mitigate additional site losses.

• **Prepping for the Construction Phase** - with approval of the environmental paperwork, we are preparing to negotiate an amendment for final design and construction. Additional updates about this phase of the project will be discussed as part of the next agenda item during today's meeting.

• **EV Charging Infrastructure Summit** - Kathy, together with representatives from Kimley-Horn and KL Engineering, were invited to give a talk at the EV Charging Infrastructure Summit in March. It was a good opportunity to connect with other CFI grantees and to hear from national firms doing operation and maintenance (O&M) about workforce development issues.

• **CFI Legal Update** - while there is no timeline per se, we expect the CFI lawsuit files by state attorney generals against the U.S. Department of Transportation will be resolved in the next few months.

• **Buy America for CFI and NEVI** - in mid-February, the FHWA proposed a change to the Buy America rules for EV charging infrastructure, which would require 100% of components to be manufactured in the United States (up from 55%). The comment period, now closed, was very active with most opposing the change. FHWA has not provided a recent update. If we are able to finalize the amendment for final design and construction (Phase 2) before (and if) the rule changes are adopted, they would not apply to us. Barriers like this may continue to arise throughout the remainder of this project.

[2025
PRES-291](#)

Discussion of Construction Phase

Attachments: [20260413 Construction Tasks & Timelines.pdf](#)

Kathy provided an overview of the construction phase of the project (see also 20260413 Construction Tasks & Timelines.pptx).

- There are **two phases** to “Charge Up Dane County”: the planning phase (about \$1.3 million allocated) and the construction phase (almost \$12 million). The planning phase includes identification and verification of sites, preliminary designs, cost estimates, and environmental paperwork. The construction phase covers final design of sites, the development of an RFP to select a construction team, construction, and ongoing O&M for five years.

- There are **several key steps** (some of which would happen in parallel) in the second phase of the project.

1. Dane County will process a contract amendment with FHWA that moves approved NEPA sites to the construction phase, where they will be considered “obligated”. At the same time, we would update the KL Engineering contract to include final design.

2. KL Engineering will finalize the design and construction documents for the RFP. At the same time, OECC will get industry input regarding best way to achieve our RFP priorities, as well as to increase vendor understanding of our approach.

3. Dane County will issue a construction RFP which would cover construction, equipment and software (more discussion is needed, but we may want to issue a separate RFP for the O&M).

4. KL Engineering will work with the selected construction vendor(s) to build out the sites; in parallel, OECC will work with site host on various operational details and to ensure their readiness.

5. The O&M vendor will tune up sites twice per year, be on call for repair services, and provide site host support for five years.

6. OECC will track and report site usage, up time and down time, and verify compliance.

- Given the number of steps in the process, Kathy is setting expectations with site hosts that construction will likely not happen until 2027.

- Advisory Commission members, who played a critical role in promoting the site host RFPs, will have more outreach to do once we start construction. Entities can help us create awareness and excitement in the community. Until we launch that second phase, though, there is a bit of a lull as we await the next steps in the process.

- EV Advisory Commission **members provided feedback:**

- Confirmed the need to further discuss how to issue the RFP (or RFPs) so that we don't leave local vendors behind.

- Be wary of vendors claiming to be able to meet interoperability requirements; some are vertically integrated and not interoperable with all software.

- Practically, the number of vendors is/will be greatly narrowed due to Buy American rules.

- Having boots on the ground is very important for non-scheduled maintenance and good customer service for site hosts.

- For purposes of budgeting the O&M portion of the project, it might be helpful to plan on about 30% of installations having issues associated with stations going offline unexpectedly.

- EV charging station stickers get weather worn, making barcodes impossible to scan and directions difficult to read.

- Connectivity will be variable. This can be anticipated and signals can be boosted up front.

- Consider doing outreach and promotion with car dealerships.

E. Reports to Committee

F. Future Meeting Items and Dates

G. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

H. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

I. Adjourn

A motion was made by LEE, seconded by LONSDORF, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nicole Dewitt, pending committee approval.