

TRIBAL CLEAN TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



Welcome to ITEP's New Tribal Clean Transportation Program's Monthly Newsletter with information about Tribal clean transportation projects, funding sources, news stories/analysis, policy updates, and upcoming event/conferences. If this landed in your email inbox, you have been added to ITEP's TCTP listserv! If you wish to discontinue this, feel free to send an unsubscribe request to ryan.tsingine@nau.edu.

Featured News

Announcement! The Tribal Clean Transportation Program's Roundtable was held on October 4, 2023, and will be on the website in the next few days using the following link. This roundtable focused on three funding opportunities.

- US Department of Agriculture, **[Higher Blands Infrastructure Incentive Program \(HBIIP\)](#)**.
- US EPA's **[Deisel Emission Reduction Act \(DERA\)](#)** and,
- US EPA's **[Clean School Bus Rebates Program](#)**
- Use **[this link to access](#)** the recording and slides.

Announcement! The **[US EPA Clean School Bus Rebate Program](#)** is now open! The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021 authorizes EPA to offer rebates to replace existing school buses with clean, zero-emission (ZE) models. The 2023 Clean School Bus (CSB) Rebates process includes **[SAM.gov](#)** account registration, rebate application submission, review, and selection by EPA, and selectees will then submit purchase orders to request payment and then receive payment, which is followed by new bus delivery, existing bus replacement, and project closeout. The program guidance and application process differs from prior EPA school bus rebate programs, so please review the summary of program requirements below and the detailed Program Guide before proceeding.

- **[Click Here](#)** for Full NOFO, important dates, and eligibility requirements.
- Information is also listed in the upcoming events section of this newsletter.



Featured News

Announcement! The U.S. EPA invites you to **REGISTER AND PARTICIPATE** in a listening session for Tribal government and inter-Tribal organization representatives as we discuss Tribal interests associated with the tire dust oxidation product 6PPD-quinone (6PPD-q). Vehicle tires contain a chemical known as “6PPD” which reduces tire wear. 6PPD is released into the environment as particles known as “tire dust.” 6PPD-quinone is produced when 6PPD is exposed to ozone. Studies have indicated that 6PPD-quinone is ecotoxic with the potential to impact salmon and other fish populations. Many Tribes rely on healthy and accessible salmon populations for food and cultural practices, including the practice and protection of Tribal treaty rights.

U.S. EPA 6PPD-q Listening Session for Tribes

- **Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Eastern**

This session provides Tribes and Tribal organizations an opportunity to:

- (1) Understand EPA’s 6PPD-q initiatives;
- (2) Understand how EPA is collaborating across the Agency and with other federal partners; and
- (3) Ask questions, share perspectives, and explore ways to help make sure Tribal interests are fully considered.

Experts from the U.S. EPA, U.S. DOT, other federal agencies, Tribes, and Tribal organizations will describe what we know about 6PPD-q and some of the implications for Tribal interests. Attendees are encouraged to attend and share their perspectives on how tribes and the entire Indian country community can have meaningful participation in 6PPD/6PPD-q management activities moving forward, including research, stormwater management, regulatory tools, and others.

FEATURING:

- Willie Frank, Chairman, Nisqually Indian Tribe
- Russell Hepfer, Vice-Chairman, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
- Jane Nishida, Assistant Administrator, U.S. EPA
- Arlando Teller, U.S. DOT

- **[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tribalcleantransportation/)**



Clean Transportation News

US SOLAR DEVELOPERS SEEK TO REDUCE CONFLICTS OVER LAND USE

A top U.S. solar industry organization on Thursday said it had reached a wide-ranging agreement with environmental, conservation, farm, and tribal groups aimed at reducing conflicts over where to build big solar energy facilities. The deal between the Solar Energy Industries Association, The Nature Conservancy, and nearly two dozen other parties comes as developers of large solar projects needed to meet the nation's clean energy goals are encountering permitting delays and pushback in rural America.

- [Read More Here.](#)



Solar panels are set up in the solar farm at the University of California, Merced, in Merced, California, U.S. August 17, 2022. REUTERS/Nathan Frandino

CANOO FINALIZES INCENTIVE PACKAGE WITH OKLAHOMA, CHEROKEE NATION

Electric vehicle startup Canoo ([GOEV.O](#)) said on Monday that it finalized incentive agreements with the state of Oklahoma and the North American tribe Cherokee Nation for an estimated value of \$113 million over 10 years. As part of the agreements, Canoo said it has already started hiring for its vehicle assembly facility in Oklahoma City and the battery manufacturing factory in Pryor.

The company said the agreement with the Department of Commerce will enable Canoo to receive performance-based payouts and make it eligible for some state tax credits and exemption programs.

- [Read More Here.](#)



A view shows a Canoo LTV (Light Tactical Vehicle) electric vehicle, produced for the U.S. Army, at a manufacturing site in Livonia, Michigan, U.S. November 29, 2022. REUTERS/Rebecca Cook



Clean Transportation News

DOT ACCELERATING EV CHARGING PROJECT DELIVERY

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) is accelerating the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations by adopting a ***Department of Energy Electric Vehicle Charging Station Categorical Exclusion (CE)*** under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Why this matters

- DOT filed a ***Federal Register notice*** announcing the adoption, taking advantage of a new provision in the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA).
- This will allow for faster environmental review processes for state and local governments as they work to build out a convenient, accessible, and reliable EV charging network by allowing the vast majority of DOT's \$7.5 billion in EV charging investments to be considered under CEs.
- ***Read More Here.***

MANY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES FACE EV 'CHARGING DESERTS.' THESE 5 STRATEGIES CAN HELP.

The rapid acceleration of electric vehicle adoption in the United States comes with the risk of leaving historically disadvantaged communities behind if charging infrastructure isn't adequately expanded. Many people of color and people living in rural areas, low-income neighborhoods and other underserved communities already face ***financial hurdles to purchasing electric vehicles (EVs)*** — and the lack of access to charging infrastructure will only exacerbate the challenge. However, local governments can play a vital role in making sure public charging stations are equitably distributed and available at costs all residents can afford.

- ***Read More Here.***



COVER IMAGE BY: BROTHERS91/ISTOCK



Upcoming Events, Webinars, and Conferences



EPA CLEAN SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM: 2023 REBATES WEBINARS

Description: Authorized by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, EPA's Clean School Bus Program provides \$5 billion over five years to replace school buses with low- and zero-emission school buses. The third funding opportunity under this program is the 2023 Clean School Bus Rebates. Applications are due via the EPA online application portal before 4 PM ET on January 31, 2024. Webinar topics include:

- ~~Oct 12, 2023 @ 1 PM ET – JOET: Technical Assistance Overview & Utility Planning with Q&A~~
- **Oct 17, 2023, @ 1 PM ET** – Panel Discussion: Selectee and Utility with Q&A
- **Nov 2, 2023, @ 1 PM ET** – JOET: Fleet Planning & Route Analysis with Q&A
- **Nov 14, 2023, @ 1 PM ET** – Panel Discussion: Transportation Directors with Q&A
- **Dec 13, 2023, @ 1 PM ET** – OIG: Fraud Prevention & Best Practices with Q&A
- **Jan 9, 2024, @ 1 PM ET** – Popular Q&A with Extended Q&A session
- **Jan 24, 2024, @ 1 PM ET** – CSB Outreach: Topic TBD
- **Feb 7, 2024, @ 1 PM ET** – 2023 Rebates Feedback and Next Steps
- To Register for Webinars, **[Click Here.](#)**
- For more information, please visit our website: epa.gov/cleanschoolbus

2023 TRIBAL EPA & U.S. EPA REGION 9 CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 24-26, 2023 - ALPINE, CA



HOSTED BY

The Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians and
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**"Mutt Peyii Uumirrp"
This Land We Love**

The Tribal EPA & U.S. EPA Region 9 Annual Conference is proudly co-hosted by the Viejas Band Of Kumeyaay Indians and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the direction of the Viejas Environmental Department and in cooperation with EPA's Region 9 Tribal Branch.

- **[Click Here for Full Announcement.](#)**
- **[Click Here to Register.](#)**



Upcoming Events, Webinars, and Conferences Cont.



RES 2024 is the Summit to attend for those looking for high-caliber networking, winning teaming opportunities, business development sessions, and one-on-one consulting, all centered around American Indian Enterprise. The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) is embracing **STRENGTH IN UNITY** for the 2024 Reservation Economic Summit. The event features tribal leaders, members of Congress, federal agency representatives, state and local officials, and top CEOs on a national platform.

- [Click Here](#) for Full Announcement
- [Click Here](#) to Register

Funding Opportunities

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGER RELIABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY ACCELERATOR

AGENCY: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

TITLE: Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility

ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE: Grant Notice

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: 693JJ324NF00001

FUNDING INSTRUMENT TYPE: Grant

CFDA NUMBER(S): 20/205 ---Highway Planning and Construction

DESCRIPTION: This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) announces the availability of up to \$100 million in Federal funding to repair and replace existing, but non-operational, electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. Under this NOFO entitled Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator, the Government intends to award multiple grants to eligible applicants. Eligible applicants for this program are limited to State departments of transportation and local governments. See the complete NOFO document for details on the program requirements, applicant eligibility, and application content and submittal instructions.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: **November 13, 2023**

- [Click Here for Full NOFO](#)



Funding Opportunities Cont.

NATIONAL DIESEL EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT (DERA) NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

AGENCY: USEPA

TITLE: 2022-2023 Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) National Grants

ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE: Notice of Funding Opportunity

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: EPA-OAR-OTAP-23-03

ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER: 66.039

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Friday, November 10th, 2023; Final Date to Submit Questions
- **Friday, December 1st, 2023;** NOFO Closes – Application Deadline
- March 2024 Anticipated Notification of Selection
- June 2024 – August 2024 Anticipated Awards Application packages must be submitted electronically to EPA through Grants.gov no later than Friday, December 1, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) to be considered for funding.

The total estimated funding expected to be available for awards under this competitive opportunity is approximately \$115 million: \$58 million funded with FY 2022 funding and \$57 million funded with FY 2023 funding.

- [Click Here for Full NOFO](#)

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Thank you!

