

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming Regional Electric Vehicle Plan for the West

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (Memorandum), made on this 13 day of December, 2019, by and between the States of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming (hereinafter referred to as the Signatory States), offers a recommitment to and enhancement of the Memorandum signed in 2017 by the Signatory States to establish a Regional Vehicle Plan for the West ("REV West Plan").

WHEREAS, the Signatory States recognize and reaffirm that improved availability of regional electric vehicle infrastructure will increase access to our highways, promote tourism and recreation in our rural communities, and support our economies; and

WHEREAS regional collaboration is a key driver of expanding transportation options;

THEREFORE, it is the mutual intention of the Signatory States to expand the Regional Electric Vehicle Plan for the West ("REV West Plan").

## **Purpose and Vision**

The vision of this Memorandum is to accelerate, through state leadership and coordination, the installation of an interconnected network of electric vehicle charging infrastructure throughout the Signatory States that enables electric vehicle drivers to travel the region. To achieve this vision, this revised Memorandum builds on partnerships developed over the previous two years since the original Memorandum was entered into and strengthens a platform by which the Signatory States can collaborate on the deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure through communication and by leveraging resources across the region.

The purpose of this updated Memorandum is to strengthen the framework of collaboration established in the original REV West MOU. This multi-state partnership will continue to work toward buildout of an Intermountain West Electric Vehicle Corridor that will make it possible to drive an electric vehicle across the Signatory States' major transportation corridors and other roadways.

# **Progress**

The Signatory States recognize the progress they have made collectively since the original Memorandum was signed in October 2017. Since signing the initial MOU, 90 new fast-charging stations have been built or planned by the private and public sectors to serve electric vehicle drivers in the intermountain west.

To support additional infrastructure buildout, the Signatory States have taken several collective actions, including:

- releasing an electric vehicle Policy Baseline Analysis to understand the current landscape of infrastructure deployment and policy readiness in the intermountain west;
- developing Voluntary Minimum Standards for DC fast charge stations to guide investment in the region;
- enhancing coordination between state energy, environment, and transportation agencies to identify key regulatory barriers to station deployment and address infrastructure gaps;
- pursuing and obtaining federal funding to identify barriers, raise awareness and enhance accessibility in rural and remote areas, and coordinate infrastructure investment; and
- retaining the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) to provide administrative, facilitation, and substantive support.

In addition to collective action, individual Signatory States have made significant progress toward achieving the goals outlined in the original MOU, such as committing a portion of their Volkswagen Settlement Environmental Mitigation Action funds to building out electric vehicle infrastructure in the region, investing in fast charging infrastructure, supporting electric utility investment in charging infrastructure, and working with the private sector to avoid redundancy and leverage public-private investment.

#### **Activities**

The Signatory States intend to undertake the following actions under this Memorandum:

- 1. Educate consumers and fleet owners to raise awareness of electric vehicles, reduce concerns related to "range anxiety," and increase electric vehicle adoption;
- 2. Coordinate on electric vehicle charging station locations to avoid redundancy and to ensure stations are sited at a frequency and locations so as to optimize utilization and a consistent user experience between charging infrastructure in each state;
- 3. Use and where appropriate, promote the REV West Voluntary Minimum Standards for electric vehicle charging stations, released in 2019, and explore opportunities for

championing and implementing the standards in the signatory states; identify opportunities for Signatory States to adopt and where appropriate, promote the stretch, tiered standards included within the Voluntary Minimum Standards, as well as go above and beyond the tiered standards, if of interest;

- 4. Identify and develop opportunities to incorporate electric vehicle charging station infrastructure into planning and development processes, such as building codes, metering policies, and renewable energy generation projects;
- 5. Encourage electric vehicle manufacturers to stock and market a wide variety of electric vehicles within the Signatory States;
- 6. Continue to identify, respond to, and where possible collaborate on funding opportunities to support the development of the REV West Plan; and
- 7. Support the expeditious build-out of fast charging stations along the corridors identified in the vision and purpose of this Memorandum, through direct state investment, partnerships with utilities, partnerships with local governments, public-private partnerships, or other mechanisms that are appropriate for the individual states.

## **Process**

- 1. The Signatory States will maintain a Coordination Group composed of senior leadership from each state.
- 2. The Coordination Group will continue to meet at least quarterly and team members will provide regular updates and input. Additional Working Groups may be formed to address specific challenges and opportunities, as needed.
- 3. The Coordination Group will maintain a supplemental document containing specifics pertaining to these actions, including resources for mapping locations.
- 4. The Coordination group will continue to identify regulatory barriers inhibiting privatesector and state supported station development, and develop strategies to remove these barriers.
- 5. The Coordination Group will complete an annual Progress Report summarizing progress made against the activities, and deliver the Progress Report to each state's Governor.
- 6. The Signatory States will ensure that the Coordination Group has the capacity and resources necessary to carry out the above actions.

NONBINDING AGREEMENT. This Memorandum is only a statement of the parties' mutual intentions and is not a legally binding agreement. This Memorandum does not create a contract or other legally enforceable commitments. It is mutually understood that any Signatory State

may, at any time at its sole discretion, discontinue participation in this Memorandum or reject or deviate from any proposals developed by the Coordination Group.

NOW THEREFORE, as Governors of the Signatory States we express our mutual understanding and cooperative relationship as follows:

- 1. OVERALL COMMITMENT The Signatory States agree to coordinate actions, and support the successful implementation of a robust electric vehicle charging station network within their respective state and connected between the states, by undertaking the actions outlined herein.
- 2. INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION WITHIN STATES Where appropriate, the Signatory States will cooperate with their respective state agencies and departments to facilitate the successful commercialization of electric vehicles and maximize use of electric vehicles for private and public transportation.
- 3. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS Where appropriate, the Signatory States will partner and cooperate with electric vehicle stakeholders, such as automobile manufacturers, electricity providers, electric vehicle charging infrastructure industry, corporate fleet owners, and financial institutions, to encourage electric vehicle market growth.

## 4. SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

- a. A Signatory State may terminate its participation in this Memorandum at any time and at its sole discretion through a written statement submitted to the other Signatory States.
- b. This Memorandum may be amended through the collective agreement of the authorized representatives of the Signatory States.

[Signatures on following pages]