

Designation of Alternative Fuel Corridors In Accordance with the FAST Act

Section 1413 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act requires that the Department of Transportation (DOT) designate national alternative fueling corridors. DOT's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued a three-page notice July 22, 2016 inviting nominations from State¹ and local officials to assist the agency in making these designations. The DOT must designate these corridors by December 2016 (within 1 year of enactment of the FAST Act).

For the purposes of this solicitation, an eligible corridor is defined as a segment of the National Highway System (NHS)². However, to encourage the creation of a national network of alternative fueling infrastructure, a corridor may also include feeder routes/roads that connect to that NHS segment. Also, corridors within a single State and multistate corridors are eligible.

The DOT solicitation specifies a number of elements that must be included in a State's nomination including their goals for increasing the use of alternative fuels and the actual corridor being proposed for designation.

FHWA plans to designate alternative fuel corridors based on the following criteria, which are listed in order of priority (see the actual Federal Register Notice for additional information under each category, pages 47851-47852):

1. Alternative Fuel Facilities
2. Corridor Scale/Impact
3. Emission Reductions
4. Development of Team and Degree of Collaboration and Support

The FAST Act does not provide dedicated funding for designated alternative fuel corridors. However, FHWA believes the designation of these corridors serves an important purpose, among them being the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

FHWA does intend to develop appropriate signage that may be placed on designated corridors. Any such signage will distinguish between "zero emission" corridors (supported by electric charging infrastructure) and "alternative fuel" corridors (supported by propane or natural gas refueling infrastructure) to make clear the nature of the alternative fuel supported in each corridor.

¹ [Click here](#) for a list of, and link to, State Transportation Departments

² [Click here](#) for a description of the National Highway System as well as a link to State maps of the NHS (located at bottom of page).