

# Improving EV Charger Grid Connection Rules and Practices

NY EVIIWG Presentation  
August 28, 2024



# IREC builds the foundation for rapid adoption of clean energy and energy efficiency to benefit people, the economy, and our planet.



The Interstate Renewable Energy Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works to achieve its mission through workforce development strategies, local clean energy solutions, and state regulatory engagement.

“Rooftop solar interconnections initially took a few months and now take a few days. We cannot complete charger installations in a few days, but we can make interconnections more routine, which is something that we learned in solar.”

Katie Sloan – VP, Design & Field Asset Services, SCE  
[Utility Dive article, April 2019](#)





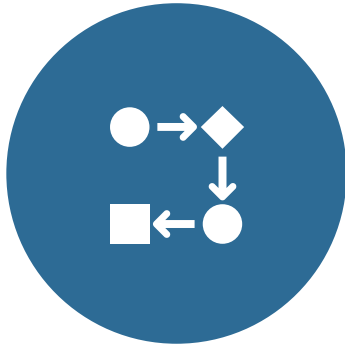
In 2021, IREC conducted a survey of EV charging service providers representing a broad share of the U.S. EV charger market.

**Purpose:**

- Identify existing challenges to installing Level 2 and DC fast chargers
- Highlight potential solutions to address any barriers



## Main Challenges Identified



Interconnection  
Process Barriers



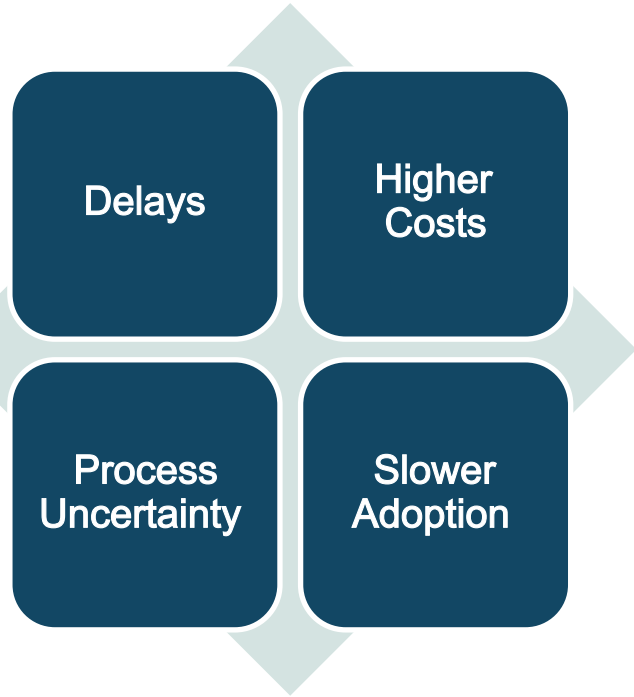
Difficulties Obtaining  
Easements



Slow Permitting  
Processes

# Challenges Identified

- Lack of dedicated staff
- Lack of EVSEspecific programs
- Long equipment lead times
- Lack of defined processes and timelines
- Lack of grid transparency
- Lack of utility performance measures
- Lack of efficient permitting processes
- Lack of approved easement language



# Lack of Dedicated Utility Staff and Resources



## Emerging Practices

- Offer upfront customer advisory services (e.g., fleet advisory services)
- Assign a single point of contact for each project or applicant
- Assign dedicated engineering staff and construction crews
- Create an online customer portal

# Lack of EV Infrastructure Policies or Programs

## Emerging Practices

- Adopt programs that reduce the cost of installing chargers and can streamline the interconnection process, such as make ready programs

*Beyond Paving the Way.*

- Proactive upgrade planning



# Long Lead Times for Utility Equipment Upgrades

## Emerging Practices

- Ensure that transformers and other common upgrade equipment are kept on-hand
- Track the time it takes to complete upgrades for EV infrastructure projects and reasoning for delays



# Lack of Clear Interconnection Processes and Timelines

## Emerging Practices

- Define the interconnection process steps and require utilities to publish average interconnection timelines for each step
- Publish guides for applicants that detail the interconnection steps and who is responsible for each

### Beyond *Paving the Way*.

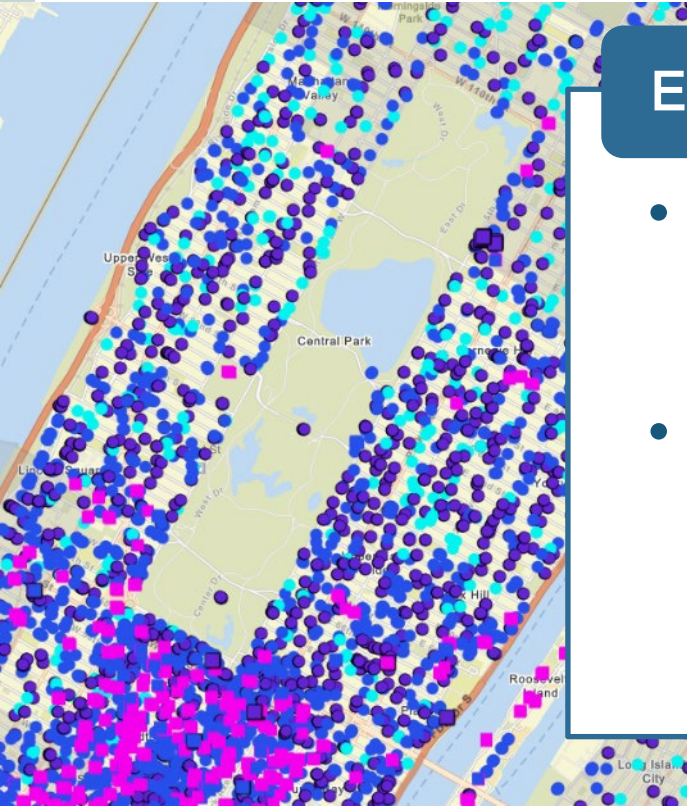
- Report on time lines annually



# Lack of Grid Transparency

## Emerging Practices

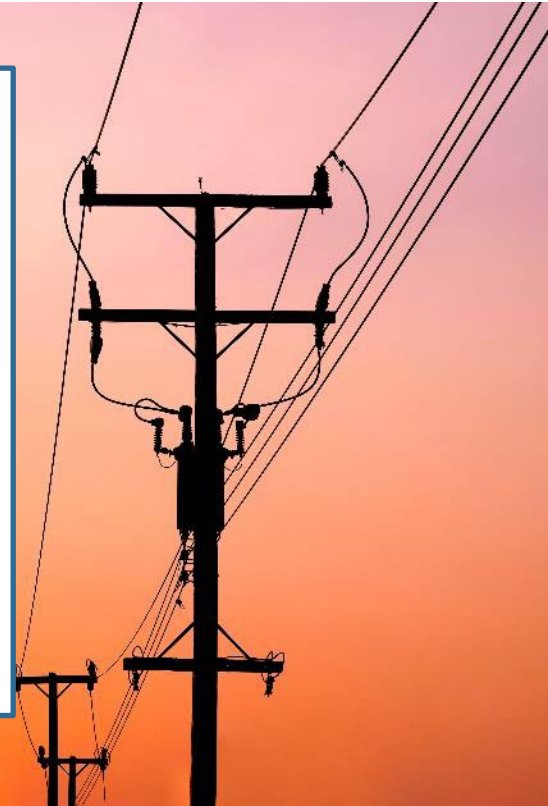
- Require utilities to publish hosting capacity maps to help applicants identify load capacity constraints on the grid
- Provide upfront evaluation services of multiple sites to help applicants identify ideal charger locations before submitting a service request



# Lack of Utility Performance Measures

## Emerging Practice

- Adopt performance incentives and/or penalties to encourage more streamlined interconnection processes



# Easements and Permitting

## Emerging Practices

- Utilities should publish approved language that can be used in lease agreements with site hosts
- AHJs should adopt expedited review policies and provide resources for navigating the process
- Legislators should consider model EV ordinances



# NY Checklist for Regulators and Utilities

## Dedicated staff/resources for EVSE projects

- Advisory services -----  Fleets; all MRP projects?
- Single point of contact -----  All utilities?
- Engineering & construction staff -----  ?
- Online customer portal -----  All utilities?

## EVSE-specific policies and programs

- Make-ready or other programs (e.g., CIAC) ---  Make-Ready Program
- Proactive upgrade planning -----  MHDV docket

## Utility performance measures

- Adopt a PIM or EAM ----- TE EAM (ConEd only)

# NY Checklist for Regulators and Utilities

## Easements

- Make language publicly available -----

## Upgrade equipment lead times

- Stock common upgrade equipment -----
- Track upgrade timelines -----

## Grid transparency

- Publish load HCA maps -----  Evolving
- Provide upfront site evaluation -----  Fleets; all projects?

## Interconnection process clarity

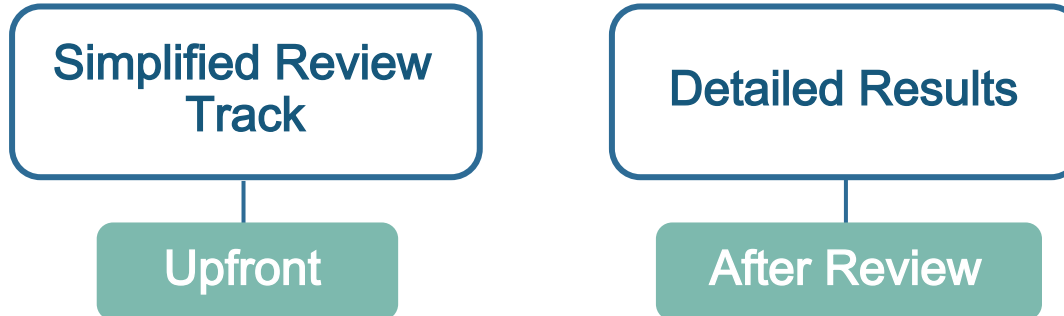
- Publish guides with defined steps, estimated timelines, and responsibilities -----  Noted in Proposal
- Publicly report on timelines -----  Just ConEd and not all process steps

# Other Considerations

## Queue Management & Accountability



## Load Review & Information Sharing





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