



STATE OF WASHINGTON
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Washington to create nation's first electric vehicle-friendly scenic byway along U.S. 2

Popular Visitors' Destinations in North Central Washington Announce Plans for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

OLYMPIA, WA –The [Department of Commerce](#) and the [Washington State Department of Transportation](#) today announced plans to make the Stevens Pass Greenway the first electric vehicle-friendly National Scenic Byway route. With Federal Recovery Act funding through the [State Energy Program](#), the state will install two to three electric vehicle (EV) fast charging stations along U.S. Highway 2. This route will connect to the I-5 "[electric highway](#)" enabling electric vehicle drivers to travel from across the west coast to North Central Washington by the end of 2011.

In addition to the state's investment, the [Port of Chelan County](#) and the Advanced Vehicle Innovations Consortium in Wenatchee have catalyzed private investment to install Level II charging stations at popular travel [destinations](#) along the U.S. 2 byway route. These destinations include [Stevens Pass Ski Area](#); Leavenworth's [Sleeping Lady Resort](#) and [Icicle Ridge Winery](#); and Wenatchee's Convention Center, Town Toyota Center and [SpringHill Suites by Marriot Wenatchee Hotel](#). Each of these venues plans to install Level II charging stations that will allow electric vehicle drivers to "fuel up" while they are enjoying the location's activities. Level II charging stations will complement the fast-charging stations installed by the state, which can charge the battery of some electric vehicles from zero to 80 percent in an estimated 20 minutes.

"Washington State is proud to announce another important step toward [enabling broad adoption of electric vehicles](#)," said Rogers Weed, Director of the state Department of Commerce. "Partnering to deliver charging infrastructure is essential in Washington, and this initiative keeps us moving in the right direction, promoting local jobs, rural businesses and clean energy."

Over a half-dozen additional destination property owners and public entities from Leavenworth to Chelan are also expected to announce their intentions to purchase and install charging stations by the time the EV fast charging stations are deployed on U.S. 2.

“Enthusiasm and preparation for electric vehicles arriving in North Central Washington has been ramping up for the past six years,” said Ron Johnston-Rodriguez of the Port of Chelan County, coordinator of the Advanced Vehicle Innovation (AVI) Consortium and its [PluginCenter](#) Charging Station project. “The State of Washington’s collaboration with the Port and its AVI partners has proven to be an energizing catalyst for community-wide efforts to facilitate and promote charging station deployment in the region. This investment in electric vehicle infrastructure by both private and public sectors accelerates the Consortium’s timetable for multiple activities to demonstrate and integrate electric vehicle technology into the fabric of this rural area’s tourism industry cluster.”

In addition to furthering the state’s vision for improving the energy efficiency of Washington’s transportation system, [Washington State Tourism](#) plans to promote eco-tourism opportunities in conjunction with the electrification of U.S. 2. The planned fast-chargers will be strategically located to support zero-emission, zero-oil travel along the 120-mile byway. The Stevens Pass Greenway is one of the richest scenic byways in Washington. Originally developed for the Old Great Northern Railroad, this route winds its way through dense forest, mountain ranges and green valleys, past orchards and wineries of Wenatchee, family farms and the Bavarian village of Leavenworth.

“Businesses along U.S. 2 rely on tourism,” said Marsha Massey, Executive Director of Washington State Tourism. “With fast charging stations along this scenic byway, travelers will be able to drive electric cars to popular destinations such as Stevens Pass, Leavenworth and Wenatchee.”

For more information, please visit:

www.westcoastgreenhighway.com/electrichighways.htm

www.PluginCenter.net

www.experiencewa.com

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