EcoCAR Innovation Challenge Proposal

[University Name]
[Vehicle Track: GM or Stellantis]

Submission Deadline: December 18, 2026 at 4:00 PM EST

About this PPT Guide

This PowerPoint deck is designed as a structural guide to help you meet all proposal requirements and understand the expected content for each section.

While the guide helps ensure you address every required element, you are strongly encouraged to customize the design, layout, and branding to reflect your university's unique identity and strengths. Proposers should modify colors, fonts, graphics, and slide layouts to showcase your institution's brand and create a compelling visual presentation.

The guide's formatting is simply a starting point; what matters most is that you include all required content elements and audio/video components as specified in the RFP.

Note: Refer to the RFP for all program requirements. The RFP is the master document; nothing in this PPT guide supersedes the RFP

Proposal Submission Requirements

CRITICAL REQUIREMENTS:

- File Naming: [University Name] EIC Proposal [Vehicle Track]
- Format: One PowerPoint file (.PPTX)
- Maximum File Size: 1 GB
- Deadline: December 18, 2026 at 4:00 PM EST
- Proposal Submission: https://avtcseries.org/next-avtc-series/rfp-submission

Guidance for audio and video content

- All audio and video files must be embedded in the PowerPoint proposal
 - Recordings must be playable without external downloads
 - Do not submit standalone audio/video files
 - Proposers may post proposal videos to YouTube and include links to those videos (this is a <u>backup</u>, not a replacement for embedding media in the PowerPoint proposal)
- Take steps compress audio/video resolution and encoding bitrate
- Audio/video production quality will not be a competitive factor in the evaluation process
- Universities are permitted to professional assistance for audio/video production, but this is discouraged

Vehicle Track Selection

- Universities are eligible for selection into either vehicle track
- Universities may apply to both vehicle tracks
- Universities will only be approved to compete in one vehicle track
- Universities that apply to both tracks must submit separate proposals
 - One proposal for the GM vehicle track
 - One proposal for the Stellantis vehicle track
 - Each proposal must be standalone and meet all requirements
 - Content may be reused where appropriate

See RFP Section D-1.2 for more details

Teams may **apply** to **both** vehicle tracks





Teams are selected into **only one** vehicle track



Or STELL/NTIS

Audio/Video Embedding Instructions



SLIDE NARRATION (Audio recorded over a slide):

- Go to Slide Show tab → Record Slide Show → Record from Current Slide
- Click the microphone icon and speak your narration
- Press ESC when finished audio will be embedded in the slide
- A small speaker icon will appear indicating narration is present

EMBEDDING VIDEO FILES:

- Go to Insert tab → Video → This Device
- Select your MP4 video file and click Insert
- Right-click video → Format Video → Video tab → check 'Embed in file'
- Compress videos to 720p resolution to manage file size

RFP SECTION D-2.2: University Case for Selection

2 Slides Maximum

Audio/Video: REQUIRED

University Case for Selection

This slide (or slides) should be used to pitch why your school should be selected!



▲ AUDIO/VIDEO REQUIREMENT: 3-minute recording (embedded MP4 file or slide narration)

RFP SECTION D-2.3: Faculty Support

1 Slide per Faculty Member Audio/Video: **REQUIRED**

Lead Faculty Advisor

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Duplicate this slide and use for each Lead Faculty Advisor
- 2. Delete these prompts before inserting your content here.

Information Type	Details	
Name & Title	[Insert name, title]	
Department	[Insert department]	Let us know your
Tenure Status	[Tenured/Tenure-track/Non-tenure]	motivation for proposing to lead an
Faculty Accommodations	[teaching release, summer salary, etc. provided by the university]	EcoCAR team!
Relevant Expertise	[Specific qualifications for EcoCAR role]	
Competing Commitments	[Research/teaching obligations that may conflict]	

▲ AUDIO/VIDEO REQUIREMENT: 3-minute recording per faculty (embedded MP4/MP3 or slide narration)

RFP SECTION D-2.4: Additional Faculty, Mentors, SMEs, and Staff

1 Slide per individual Audio/Video: Allowed

Additional Faculty and Staff

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Duplicate this slide and use for each additional individual
- 2. Delete these prompts before inserting your content here.

Information Type	Details
Name & Title	[Insert name, title]
Department	[Insert department]
University Role	[Briefly summarize the individual's role at the university]
EcoCAR role	[Summarize how/when/where they will be involved with the EcoCAR team]
EcoCAR coordination	[How their involvement will be coordinated and managed by the team]

▲ AUDIO/VIDEO OPTIONAL: 3-minute recording per individual (embedded MP4/MP3 or slide narration)

RFP SECTION D-2.5: Funding Commitments and Budgeting

4 Slides Maximum

Audio/Video: Encouraged

Four-Year Budget Overview

INSTRUCTIONS: Provide high-level four-year budget

	Category (these are examples)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
	Graduate Student Funding	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
	Vehicle Parts & Components	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
	Tools & Equipment	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
S	Testing and validation expenses	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
Costs	Team Travel	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
	Outreach & Promotional Materials	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
	Product Innovation Track Resources	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
	[other categories]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
	Subtotal	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
	Funded student positions	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
	Unrestricted cash	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
ces	Travel funding	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
Resources	Donated hardware	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
Res	Software & AI resources	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
	[other categories]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
	Subtotal	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
	Balance (resources minus costs)	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]

Additional Details on Projected Costs

INSTRUCTIONS: Provide additional details on projected costs

Item	Category (these are examples)	Offset by in- kind donation?	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
	Graduate Student Funding		\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
	Vehicle Parts & Components		\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
	Tools & Equipment		\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
	Testing and validation expenses		\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
	Team Travel		\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
	Outreach & Promotional Materials		\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
	Product Innovation Track Resources		\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
	[other categories]		\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
	·	Subtotal	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]

Additional Details on Anticipated Resources

INSTRUCTIONS: Provide additional details on anticipated resources

Category (these are examples)	Туре	Source	Confirmed?	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
Funded student positions	Cash / inkind	Ex: University	Yes / No	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
Unrestricted cash	Cash / inkind	Ex: EcoCAR program	Yes / No	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
Travel funding	Cash / inkind	Ex: local partner		\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
Donated hardware	Cash / inkind			\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
Software & Al resources	Cash / inkind			\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
[other categories]	Cash / inkind			\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]
	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Amount]	\$[Total]			

Include additional details on unconfirmed resources (next steps & timing)

RFP SECTION D-2.6:

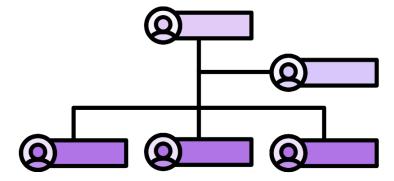
Team Organization, Structure, and Recruiting

10 Slides Maximum

Audio/Video: Encouraged

Team Organizational Structure

INSTRUCTIONS: Provide organizational chart



Highlight student leadership team positions and describe how they will be leveraged to engage volunteer student participants

Student Leadership Team Summary Table

Position	Core Functions (examples below from RFP Table 9)	Major	Funding Amount	Funding Source
[Position 1]	Team Leadership and Administration	Ex: BS / MS / Ph.D.		
[Position 2]	Project Management & Team Operations			
[Position 3]	Vehicle Track Technical Leadership			
[Position 4]	Vehicle Track Domain Expertise			
[Position 5]	Entrepreneurship & Commercialization			
[Position 6]	Innovation Product Development			
[Additional positions]	Marketing & Communications			
[Additional positions]	Artificial Intelligence			

Student Leadership Team Role Descriptions

Position	EcoCAR Role
[Position 1]	
[Position 2]	
[Position 3]	
[Position 4]	
[Position 5]	
[Position 6]	
[Additional positions]	
[Additional positions]	

Verify All Bounding Requirements are Met

Note: Content in this table is an illustrative example. Proposals are not required to follow this format

Bounding Requirement	Position 1	Position 2	Position 3	Position 4	Position 5	Position 6	Additional
The student leadership team must include a minimum of 6 distinct positions			XX tot	tal funded po	sitions		
A minimum of 4 positions must be filled by graduate students currently enrolled in an engineering major	Х	Х	X	X			
All graduate students filling a student leadership team position must be fully-funded	Х	Х	X	X			
A minimum of 2 positions must be fully dedicated to the team's vehicle track. These positions must be filled by graduate students currently enrolled in an engineering major with an undergraduate degree from a STEM field.	X	X					
A minimum of 1 position must be filled by a student currently enrolled in one of the following majors: Communications, Public Relations, Strategic Communications, Organizational Communication, Visual Communications, or Journalism					х		
The 6 th required student leadership team position not covered by the above requirements may be filled by a student from any major or degree path						Х	
Positions responsible for executing project management functions must be filled by a graduate student who is either currently enrolled in an engineering program or holds an undergraduate degree in engineering.		Х		x		x	
EcoCAR teams must allocate at least \$170,000 annually to support funded student leadership positions.	\$XXX annually allocated to funded student positions						

Student Course Credit Integration

Mechanism	Department/Major	When available	Credit hours available (per term)	Credit hours available (maximum)

Speak to how the team fill leverage course credit as an integrated strategy for recruitment

Undergraduate Student Recruitment Strategy

Note: Content in this table is an illustrative example. Proposals are not required to follow this format

	Targeted Department			artment	Targeted Roles/Positions			
Tactic	ME	ECE	CS	Other	Role (align with org chart)	Track		
Ex: targeted event	y/n	y/n	y/n	[dept. name]	Ex: student leadership position	Vehicle / Product Innovation		
Ex: Faculty referrals	y/n	y/n	y/n	[dept. name]	Ex: powertrain volunteer	Vehicle / Product Innovation		
Ex: existing student organizations	y/n	y/n	y/n	[dept. name]	Ex: project manager	Vehicle / Product Innovation		
	y/n	y/n	y/n	[dept. name]		Vehicle / Product Innovation		
	y/n	y/n	y/n	[dept. name]		Vehicle / Product Innovation		

Graduate Student Recruitment Strategy

Required Content:

- What departments will be targeted
- What tactics will be used
- Will the approach evolve over time

Succession Planning

Required Content:

• Describe the team's approach to succession planning for key leadership roles (e.g., mentorship, shadowing, structured overlaps, etc.)

You may use the additional allowable slides to provide more detailed explanations of your recruitment and succession planning strategies.



RFP SECTION D-2.7: Research and Industry Partnerships

1 Slide Maximum Audio/Video: Allowed

Research and Industry Partnerships

INSTRUCTIONS: Describe research alignment and industry partnerships

- Describe any new, existing or targeted sponsors or research partners
- Highlight commitments provided in letters of support
- Articulate a functional plan for how partnerships will be integrated with EcoCAR activities.

Tell us about relevant planned or existing industry or research partnerships and how they will fit with EcoCAR activities!



▲ AUDIO/VIDEO OPTIONAL: 3-minute recording per individual (embedded MP4/MP3 or slide narration)

RFP SECTION D-2.8: University Facilities

2 Slides per facility Maximum Audio/Video: **REQUIRED**

Team Office & Work Area

INSTRUCTIONS: Provide key specifications for the facility

Item	Specification
Description	[Square footage / layout / etc.]
Availability Date	[When space will be available]
Hours of Operation	[Access hours and student access policies]
Shared or Dedicated Space	[If shared, details about the other group and what facility resources are shared]
Security Measures	[How EcoCAR assets/data will be secured]
Location	[Distance/time to engineering center of campus]

Team Office & Work Area

INSTRUCTIONS: Provide a full-screen video walkthrough



Computing Facilities

INSTRUCTIONS: Provide key specifications for the facility

Item	Specification
Description	[Square footage / layout / etc.]
Availability Date	[When space will be available]
Hours of Operation	[Access hours and student access policies]
Shared or Dedicated Space	[If shared, details about the other group and what facility resources are shared]
Security Measures	[How EcoCAR assets/data will be secured]
Location	[Distance/time to engineering center of campus]
Compute resources available	[hardware description & specifications. Fixed or mobile]
IT Support available	[e.g., network storage, virtual machines, version control, CI/CD or automated test systems, sponsor software licensing, etc.]

If this facility is not currently available, provide a timeline and/or mitigation strategy to secure it

Computing Facilities

INSTRUCTIONS: Provide a full-screen video walkthrough



Garage Facilities

INSTRUCTIONS: Provide key specifications for the facility

Item	Specification
Description	[Square footage / layout / etc.]
Availability Date	[When space will be available]
Hours of Operation	[Access hours and student access policies]
Shared or Dedicated Space	[If shared, details about the other group and what facility resources are shared]
Security Measures	[How EcoCAR assets/data will be secured – including hardware tools/parts storage]
Location	[Distance/time to engineering center of campus]
Available PPE	[What PPE is available to students]
Vehicle Hoist	[Lift rating / type (4-post, swing-arm, fore-aft, etc.)]
Lift Table Equipment	[Lift rating / purpose (battery pack, battery module, subframe, etc.)]
Vehicle Charger	[EVSE rating]

Use this slide to provide a summary of specifications where it makes sense. Use the video walk through to supplement (ex: list of tools, list of PPE, HV work area description, exhaust gas evacuation, etc.)

If this facility is not currently available, provide a timeline and/or mitigation strategy to secure it

Garage Facilities

INSTRUCTIONS: Provide a full-screen video walkthrough



Battery Testing Equipment

INSTRUCTIONS: Provide key specifications for the facility

Item	Specification
Description	[Square footage / layout / etc.]
Availability Date	[When space will be available]
Hours of Operation	[Access hours and student access policies]
Shared or Dedicated Space	[If shared, details about the other group and what facility resources are shared]
Security Measures	[How EcoCAR assets/data will be secured – including hardware tools/parts storage]
Location	[Distance/time to engineering center of campus]
Battery Electrical Testing	[Intended use (cell, module, pack), charge & discharge ratings]
Battery Fabrication & Integration	[e.g., gas detection, fire suppression designed for lithium-ion systems, etc.] Note: this item may be covered in another section if it is located in that facility/area
Battery Thermal Testing	[Intended use (cell, module, pack), equipment ratings]

Use this slide to provide a summary of specifications where it makes sense. Use the video walk through to supplement (ex: areas for climate-controlled storage, compliance with UNDOT-38, additional facilities, etc.)

If this facility is not currently available, provide a timeline and/or mitigation strategy to secure it

STELLANTIS TRACK ONLY Battery Testing Equipment

INSTRUCTIONS: Provide a full-screen video walkthrough



Machining and Fabrication Facilities

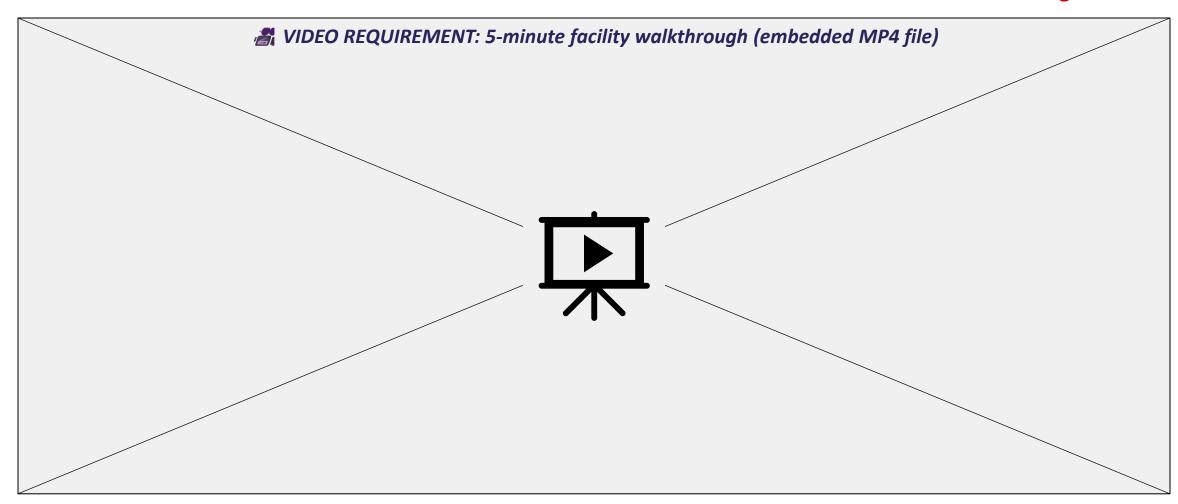
INSTRUCTIONS: Provide key specifications for the facility

Item	Specification
Description	[Square footage / layout / etc.]
Availability Date	[When space will be available]
Hours of Operation	[Access hours and student access policies]
Shared or Dedicated Space	[If shared, details about the other group and what facility resources are shared]
Security Measures	[How EcoCAR assets/data will be secured – including hardware tools/parts storage]
Location	[Distance/time to engineering center of campus]
Available Equipment	[ex: mills, lathe, saws, water-jet, etc.]
Available PPE	[What PPE is available to students]
Support staff	[number of staff, hours of support]

If this facility is not currently available, provide a timeline and/or mitigation strategy to secure it

Machining and Fabrication Facilities

INSTRUCTIONS: Provide a full-screen video walkthrough



Vehicle Testing Facility/Area

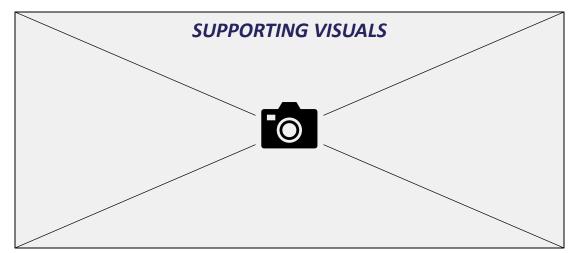
INSTRUCTIONS: Provide key specifications for the facility Duplicate this slide for every distinct vehicle test area

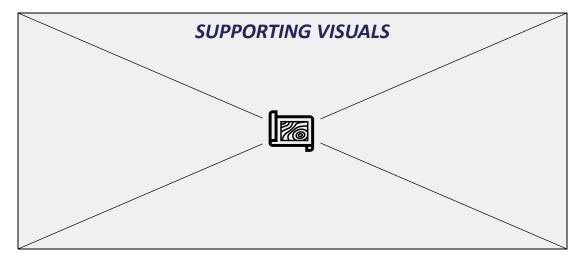
Item	Specification
Description	[Spatial dimensions and any track features (ex: banked oval, lane lines, road course, etc.)]
Types of Testing	[What kind of testing is this space suitable for (ex: straight-line acceleration, off-road evaluation, continuous driving, ACC feature evaluation, etc.)]
Availability	[Hours of operation, estimated lead time for securing access]
Access Procedure	[High-level process for securing access or test time]
Costs	[Any costs associated with renting or using the facility]
Closed Course?	[Method of controlling access to the area to ensure closed-course testing]
Location	[Distance/time to engineering center of campus]
Method of Vehicle Transportation	[How will the team transport their EcoCAR vehicle to/from the test area]

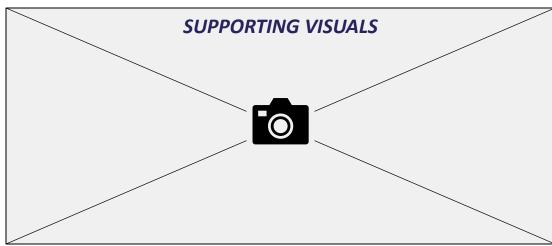
Vehicle Testing Facility/Area

VIDEO OPTIONAL: facility walkthrough can be embedded if valuable

INSTRUCTIONS: Provide supporting visuals and/or video (if valuable) that illustrate the characteristics of the test space Duplicate this slide for every distinct vehicle test area





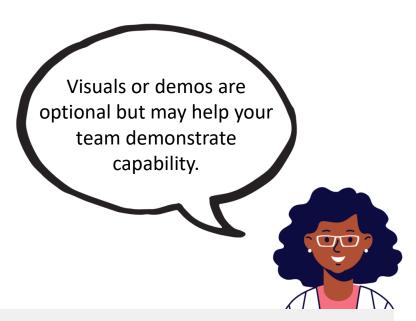


AI-Related Facilities (Optional)

INSTRUCTIONS: Describe AI resources if available (optional but favorable)

Optional Content to Include:

- Generative AI tools available to students
- GPU-equipped compute clusters or specialized hardware
- Access limitations and usage policies
- Al research partnerships and collaborations
- Student training and support for AI tools





Z VIDEO OPTIONAL: Facility demonstration if applicable

Additional Facilities (Optional)

INSTRUCTIONS: Describe AI resources if available (optional but favorable)

Optional Content to Include:

- Vehicle dynamometer with on-staff university support
- For Stellantis vehicle track proposals (see Section C-7.2)
 - Electronics lab for battery management system (BMS) development
- For GM vehicle track proposals (see Section C-7.3):
 - Indoor space suitable for controlled AV sensor calibration (radar, lidar, camera systems)
 - Smart-city or intelligent transportation research assets
 - Motor/drive unit dynamometer/test bench setup

Visuals or demos are optional but may help your team demonstrate capability.



Z VIDEO OPTIONAL: Facility demonstration if applicable

Location of Facilities

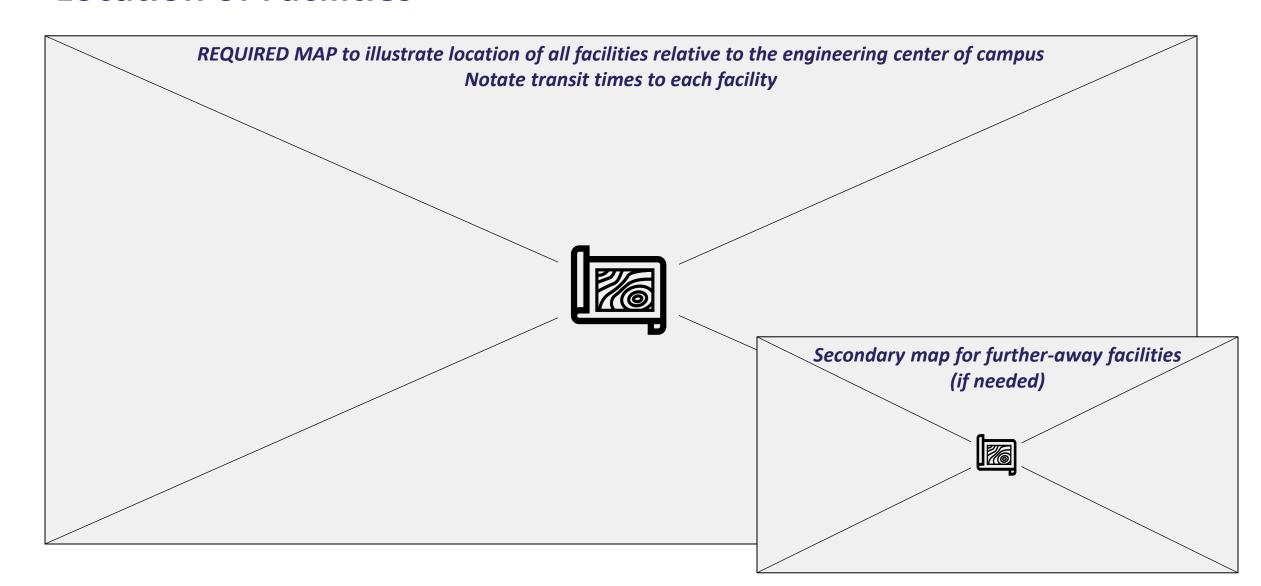
INSTRUCTIONS: Summarize potential modes of transit for each facility

Facility	Accessible via Walking	Accessible via Public Transit	Accessible via Personal Vehicles
Team Office	Accessible (Yes/no), transit time	Accessible (Yes/no), transit time, route frequency	Accessible (Yes/no), transit time, parking availability
Computer Lab			
Garage			
Machine Shop			
Test Lab			
Vehicle Testing Area 1			
Vehicle Testing Area 2			
Additional Facilities			

If the proposed garage area, team office area, computing facilities, or fabrication facilities are located further than a 20-minute walk from the engineering center of campus, outline an operational plan to overcome those distance-based barriers to access.

Location of Facilities

INSTRUCTIONS: Provide one map that includes all facilities and notates transit times to from engineering center of campus



RFP SECTION D-2.9: Safety Preparedness

5 Slides Maximum Audio/Video: Allowed

University Oversight

INSTRUCTIONS: Describe university safety policies and oversight

Required Content:

- Oversight for higher-risk student activities (e.g., fabrication, machining, HV work, etc.)?
- Stellantis Vehicle track: oversight for HV and always-energized work
- Team safety culture

Safety Resources and SMEs

INSTRUCTIONS: Identify safety subject matter experts that will support the EcoCAR team

Expert Name	Organization / Department	Role / Area of Expertise	EcoCAR Role
[Expert Name]	[Position/Role, internal/external]	[Safety expertise area]	[how/when/where they will be involved with the EcoCAR team]

Include narrative explaining how SMEs will interact with team and advisors

Safety Resources and SMEs: Training Topics

INSTRUCTIONS: Identify safety subject matter experts that will support the EcoCAR team

Training Topic	Who is Supporting	Method of Delivery
[Expert Name]	[Name, organization]	[ex: Hands-on practical, quarterly group trainings, ad-hoc 1-1's, self-paced virtual training, etc.]

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

INSTRUCTIONS: If not already covered in the facilities section, provide a table of available PPE (type, source, access method). Describe PPE access and compliance procedures

PPE Type	Source	Access Method
Ex: Safety glasses	[University/Team/Individual]	[How students obtain PPE]
Ex: HV gloves	[University/Team/Individual]	[How students obtain PPE]

Include narrative description of how the team will ensure proper PPE usage and replenish PPE when needed

Submission Checklist

Before submitting, ensure you have:

- Completed all required sections with appropriate content
- Embedded required audio/video content where specified
- Named file: [University Name] EIC Proposal [Vehicle Track]
- Compressed videos to manage file size
- File size is within 1 GB
- Verified all embedded files play without external downloads
- Prepared separate University Administration Support Letter (PDF)
- Prepared optional additional support letters (PDF) if applicable
- Reviewed all content for accuracy and completeness
- Ready to submit by December 18, 2026 at 4:00 PM EST
- Submit file here: https://avtcseries.org/next-avtc-series/rfp-submission