Subcommittee on Road and Infrastructure Design Minutes
April 1, 2019

Attendance
Subcommittee Members: Marie Dodds, Ritchie Huang (alternate for Sean Waters), Jana Jarvis, Evan Manvell (alternate for Carrie MacLaren), Galen McGill, Eliot Rose, Becky Steckler, Lt. Tim Tannenbaum
Other Task Force Members: Brett Morgan (staff for Rep. Susan McLain)
ODOT Staff: Jenna Adams-Kalloch, Paul Duncan, Kevin Haas, Ali Lohman, Amy Joyce, Sarah Kelber, Michael Rock
Public: Jocelyn Blake (Association of Oregon Counties)

Introductions and approval of minutes

Subcommittee Lead Galen McGill welcomed the group and led introductions. The subcommittee approved the minutes from the previous meeting.

ETIA

Michael Rock, ODOT Planning Unit manager, gave a presentation on ODOT’s Emerging Technology Impacts Assessment, a study of the possible impacts of emerging technology on ODOT’s planning efforts. Rock’s presentation can be found here on the task force webpage. ODOT staff will share the Phase 1 report with the members of the subcommittee.

Oregon Traffic Control Device Committee Overview

Kevin Haas, ODOT traffic standards engineer, provided an overview of the Oregon Traffic Control Devices Committee and how it relates to the national process for the creation of standards governing traffic control devices. Haas’ presentation can be found here on the task force webpage.

McGill and Marie Dodds discussed the importance of developing traffic control device standards that can accommodate both human users and autonomous vehicles, especially during the time period where both are expected to operate on the roadway simultaneously.

Review of National Guidance and State-by-State Research

McGill introduced research memos on national and state efforts related to road and infrastructure design for autonomous vehicles. He invited the members of the subcommittee to review them and notify ODOT staff about any projects or work that they would like included as part of these resource documents.

Becky Steckler proposed including more work related to curbside management, including research done by Fehr & Peers with Uber. McGill noted that the memo includes ITE Curbside Management
Practitioner’s Guide. Eliot Rose suggested adding a study from Fehr & Peers about vehicle miles traveled (VMT) of automated vehicles.

Discussion of Infrastructure Readiness Memo

Rose provided an introduction to his memo about possible infrastructure impact areas needed to support automated vehicles and explained the categories he created to evaluate them including readiness, ability to further shared state and local goals, and areas where the state has a strong role in implementation.

The subcommittee discussed areas to be added to the evaluation template provided by staff. These included equity, differences in impacts to different communities, and interactions with active transportation and transit. Jocelyn Blake, representing the Association of Oregon Counties as a member of the public, added that there are some infrastructure owners who are concerned with the cost of updating and maintaining their roadways for autonomous vehicles.

Amy Joyce suggested adding a framing statement to the beginning of the recommendation document this subcommittee produces recognizing that different developments in this space will vary across communities and that the timelines when they will be needed are uncertain.

Rose asked Ritchie Huang about how much AVs might rely on onboard sensors as opposed to data delivered from outside the vehicle and on the road markings and signs. Huang said that redundancy will be critical for the industry and both wireless communications and onboard sensors will be part of how AVs operate. Dodds agreed.

Next Steps

McGill asked the subcommittee members to volunteer to research the discussed impact areas using the template provided. Steckler agreed to research equity and parking.

ODOT staff will check back in with subcommittee members about other possible research projects.