

## **Road User Fee Task Force November 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

**Task Force Members in attendance:** Vice Chair Rep. John Lively, Susan Morgan, Rep. Lynn Findley, and Marie Dodds (awaiting confirmation)

**Task Force Members on phone:** Jeff Allen

**ODOT Staff in attendance:** Maureen Bock, Roberto Coto, Michelle Godfrey, Randal Thomas, Jack Svadlenak, Linda Beuckens, Nick Herrera, and Amy Ramsdell

**Public in attendance:** Jocelyn Blake and Mazen Malik

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Vice Chair Rep. John Lively convened the task force at 10:05 am.

### **OReGO (HB 2881 Implementation), RUC West, and National Pilot Discussion Updates**

Maureen Bock, Chief Innovation Officer, provided an OReGO program update focused on House Bill 2881, communications, and two grant proposals. Maureen Bock credited Michelle Godfrey, Education & Outreach Coordinator, for the public meetings and marketing undertakings. Maureen also updated the Task Force on two grant proposals to the Federal Highway Administration, complimenting future RUC actions in connected vehicle ecosystem and blockchain. Randal Thomas, RUC West Administrator, informed the Task Force on RUC West newest members. The states of Nebraska and Wyoming joined the consortium in August and September 2019, respectively, bringing the group's total to 16 state transportation agencies.

Susan Morgan, RUFTF member, shared concerns around the public's misunderstanding on fossil fuels and electric vehicles not having to pay any road usage charges. Maureen highlighted the importance of the Keep Oregon Connected effort and how it aims to teach the public on such issues.

Jeff Allen, RUFTF member, recommended for a future presentation on registration fee increases and how ODOT is messaging to the public.

### **Member Roundtable**

The task force members discussed further on fairness concerns, the public's understanding on transportation issues, communication challenges, and how some interest groups can promote RUC as a

threat. Although ZEVs are a small percentage of vehicular makeup, current vehicle trends forecast a reduction in gross motor fuel tax revenue due to their fuel efficiency.

### **Implications to the State Highway Fund of GHG Reducing Policy Actions**

Daniel Porter, ODOT economist, presented on how GHG reducing policies have had a marginal impact to Oregon's vehicular fleet. Consumer preference, household income, vehicle prices, and life expectancy of the average auto are some of the factors slowing the replacement of internal combustion engine passenger vehicles.

### **Possible Legislation Discussion**

OReGO and HB 2881 presented ODOT with various lessons such as timing issues with enrollment and vehicle registration, lack of integrated system approach when pursuing enrollment, and educating dealerships. There was also discussion about whether to study the impact of bringing very efficient, medium duty vehicles into a road usage charge system because they will also be negatively impacting the state highway fund as they become more efficient.

Members asked what role ODOT is taking in educating the private sector such as car dealerships when it comes to OReGO and how these businesses can be encourage to educate the public. Maureen shared information on dealer outreach being undertaken by DEQ and DMV.

Maureen encouraged task force to consider future intersecting topics. Some topics to contemplate: connected vehicle ecosystem; mobility as a service; RUC West; emerging technology impacts; advances in automated vehicle technology; Smart Cities work, particularly in Portland.

### **Intersecting Topic: Emerging Technology Impacts**

Adam Argo, Principal Planner, updated the task force on the accomplishments paved by Ali Lohman, Automated Vehicle Policy Analyst, and the Autonomous Vehicles Task Force back in September 2019. The Autonomous Vehicles team created its second final report where they provide input and recommendations to the legislature on topics affecting vehicle codes, public safety, cybersecurity, data privacy, infrastructure design, land use, and workforce changes.

### **Future Meeting Date and Next Steps**

The task force agreed to meet during February legislative days for their next meeting and to select next intersecting topic.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10pm.