

Road User Fee Task Force September 26, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Task Force Members in attendance: Chair Craig Dirksen, Mayor Bob Andrews, Representative Margaret Doherty, Representative John Lively, Susan Morgan

Task Force Members on phone: Commissioner Sid Leiken

Task Force Members not in attendance: Commissioner Martin Callery, Commissioner Sean O'Hollaren, Senator Bill Hansell, Senator Chuck Thomsen, Senator Arnie Roblan, Representative Rich Vial, Jeff Allen

ODOT Staff in attendance: Jenna Adams-Kalloch, Linda Beuckens, Maureen Bock, Travis Brouwer, Andrew Dick, Paul Duncan, Tom Fuller, Art James, Kathryn Jones, Steph Nappa, Daniel Porter, Alyssa Rash, Randall Thomas

Public in attendance: Jocelyn Blake, Mazen Malik

Chair Craig Dirksen convened the task force at 2:33 PM.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the meeting on June 4, 2018 were approved.

Public Testimony

No public testimony.

OReGO Update and National Perspective

Maureen Bock, OReGO program manager, updated the task force on lessons learned from three years of operating the OReGO program. Bock then summarized the road usage charging efforts underway in Minnesota focusing on shared mobility.

Susan Morgan asked if there was any recent information about road usage charging from the federal government. Bock answered that although a number of federally funded projects related to road usage charging have occurred, the government has not published reports resulting from those at this time.

Chair Dirksen asked about the relationship between a geofenced corridor road user fee and a toll, and if such a fee might require federal approval. Kathryn Jones said that the answer to Chair Dirksen's question is unclear at this time.

Mayor Andrews asked how diesel vehicles contribute to transportation funding. Bock replied that fuels tax, although often known as “gas tax,” applies to all fuels used for motor vehicles, so it applies to diesel and other fuels.

Mayor Andrews asked about the automotive industry’s response toward shared mobility. Jenna Adams-Kalloch noted significant automotive industry investments in shared mobility companies.

OReGO Education Program

Tom Fuller, manager of ODOT communications, outlined the “Keep Oregon Connected” communications campaign set to be deployed in 2019.

Legislative Update

Rep. Lively said that this Friday (9/28/2018) is the first deadline for bills in the coming session and that he would like to work on a possible road usage charging bill early in the session.

Policy Discussion: Expanding Registration Opt Out

Steph Nappa, ODOT Office of Innovation policy analyst, presented on the revenue impacts of adjusting enhanced registration fee exemptions to vehicles of different MPG ratings. Economic analysis showed that expanding exemptions to 20+ mpg vehicles would cause a significant revenue loss over the next three biennia, expanding to 30+ mpg vehicles would cause a loss for two biennia and a gain in the third, and expanding to 40+ mpg vehicles would cause a gain in the next three biennia.

The task force agreed to maintain their previously agreed to position of expanding the enhanced registration fee exemptions to 40+ mpg vehicles in any forthcoming legislation.

Intersecting Topic: Task Force on Autonomous Vehicles

Andrew Dick, ODOT Office of Innovation, presented on the process and recommendations of the legislatively-created Task Force on Autonomous Vehicles and the relevance of automated vehicles to road usage charging.

Mayor Andrews asked if automated vehicles are envisioned to be shared. Dick said that it is hard to predict. He explained that TNCs offer shared rides already and that there is the potential to see high capacity shared automated vehicles, such as automated transit buses and low speed shuttles.

Future Meeting Date and Next Steps

The task force agreed to check in when the draft of their legislative concept is finalized and to meet sometime mid-session.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.