

Road User Fee Task Force
February 28, 2020 Meeting Minutes | APPROVED

Task Force Members in attendance: Chair Councilor Craig Dirksen, Vice Chair Rep. John Lively, Jeff Allen, Martin Callery, and Mayor Steve Uffelman (awaiting confirmation)

Task Force Members on phone: Marie Dodds and Julie Brown

ODOT Staff in attendance: Maureen Bock, Travis Brouwer, Roberto Coto, Daniel Porter, Galen McGill, Linda Beuckens, Monica Love, Randal Thomas, Michelle Godfrey, Mary Brazell,

Public in attendance: Jocelyn Blake, Judith Gray, Caleb Winter, and Mazen Malik

Chair Councilor Craig Dirksen convened the task force at 1:02 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Meeting minutes for April and November 2019 approved.

OReGO, RUC West, and I-95 Corridor Coalition Updates

Maureen Bock, Chief Innovation Officer, informed the task force that the DMV and OReGO system changes advised by HB 2881 (2019) implementation have been completed. OReGO team continues to do public outreach, informing Oregonians how transportation funding works and how to join OReGO. Enrollment for this RUC program continues to increase.

RUC West membership is now composed of 16 state transportation organizations. The consortium, managed by Randal Thomas at ODOT, brings together various transportation agencies to share best practices and research RUC. Utah DOT RUC platform went live on January 1, 2020 and by the end of the month had close to 1,000 vehicles participating in the program. Several other states are currently testing RUC pilots.

I-95 highway that runs from Maine into Florida is a key freight corridor presently studying interoperability with tolling. To address industry challenges and remain informed with technological advances, the I-95 Corridor Coalition and OReGO are joining 5GAA, OMNIAIR Consortium, and Maas Alliance.

Task force members discussed whether potential OReGO enrollment is deterred by privacy concerns. Maureen informed the task force that when it comes to OReGO, most participants opt for the GPS option.

Because OReGO is a voluntary program, participants feel comfortable with the technology and do not see it as invasive. Marie Dodds asked what could be done to increase awareness and acceptance of the program. Michelle Godfrey, Education & Outreach Coordinator, informed members that since OReGO's "Keep Oregon Connected" campaign started, ODOT staff connected with over 5,000 people and on February 2020 close to 1,000 Portland Auto Show participants had one on one conversations to become better acquainted with OReGO. Maureen recommends the task force to visit KeepOregonConnected.org and direct interested parties to the Office of Innovation for presentations. Mayor Steve Uffelman stated that in rural communities, the lack of electric vehicles charging stations is a real issue that discourages residents from purchasing electric vehicles.

Maureen suggested for a future presentation on the West Coast Electric Highway and charging infrastructure to update members on those topics.

Member Roundtable

Jeff Allen reminded members and the public that 33rd World Electric Vehicle Symposium is taking place in Portland, OR June 14-17th.

Jeff also shared that the state registration fee is a concern many electric vehicle users are voicing. The trend is also generating pushback from EV advocates.

Economic Implications for the Highway Fund

Daniel Porter, ODOT Lead Economist, presented background on light to medium vehicle fuel efficiency and the effects increasing vehicular MPGs have projected revenues. Presentation was delivered to help task force members consider future studies, such as charging commercial vehicles based on weight-mile or enrolling them through OReGO as they become more fuel efficient, or electrified.

The task force approved ODOT research options for collecting medium-weight commercial vehicle fees. Members also approved ODOT study different options to achieve revenue neutrality between fuel efficient and non-efficient vehicles.

Maureen introduced possible timelines for changes leading to a mandate that would gradually enroll vehicles into RUC. Future discussion on legislative mandate to be scheduled.

Intersecting Topic: Developing a Connected Vehicle Ecosystem

Galen McGill, ODOT Transportation Systems Manager, presented an overview on connected vehicle ecosystems, federal funding opportunities, and how digital advances can potential serve as a basis for RUC.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05pm.