



Autonomous Vehicle Work Group

2019 Annual Report

A YEAR OF LEARNING AND EXPLORATION

Autonomous vehicles (AVs) and related technologies are rapidly penetrating the market, with lower-level automation becoming mainstream in newer vehicles today, and higher levels of automation being tested and deployed across the country. As of late 2019, twelve companies had self-certified with the Washington State Department of Licensing their ability to safely test and operate AVs on public roads in the state. To prepare for this evolution in transportation, the Washington State Transportation Commission (WSTC) is carrying out requirements in current law (RCW 47.01.510¹), which mandate the convening of an executive and legislative Work Group to gather information and develop AV policy recommendations to address the operation of AVs on public roadways in the State of Washington.

The Work Group hit the ground running in 2019, with subcommittees actively meeting, developing and executing work plans, convening subgroups to explore topics in more detail, and engaging public and private leaders in each subcommittee's respective focus areas to gain a broad understanding of the current landscape and prioritize efforts moving forward.

Several recommendations were cultivated and advanced through the Work Group's process, including policy recommendations needing legislative action as well as operational changes to make the Work Group itself more effective. These recommendations further demonstrate the momentum gained by the Work Group in 2019. More information on recommendations can be found in the 2019 Annual AV Work Group Report.

Figure 1: Washington State Autonomous Vehicle Work Group Structure

AV Work Group Executive Committee

Government Representatives and Key Stakeholders from:

- Governor
- Four members from Senate
- Four members from House
- Insurance Commissioner
- DOL Director
- WSDOT Secretary
- WSP Chief
- Traffic Safety Commission Director
- State Chief Information Officer
- Transportation Commission Member
- Health Secretary
- Employment Security Director
- Labor & Industries Director
- Data, Technology & AV Testing
- Shared, Electric, TNC & Transit
- Automakers
- Local Governments
- Consumers/Traveling Public
- Environment
- Academic
- Underrepresented Communities
- Freight
- Labor

SUBCOMMITTEES

| Licensing | Safety | Infrastructure & Systems | System Tech & Data Security | Liability | Health & Equity | Workforce |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 2 Co-Chairs DOL Lead Agency | 2 Co-Chairs WTSC & WSP Lead Agency | 2 Co-Chairs WSDOT Lead Agency | 2 Co-Chairs State CIO Lead Agency | 2 Co-Chairs Insurance Comm. Lead Agency | 2 Co-Chairs DOH Lead Agency | 2 Co-Chairs ESD and L&I Lead Agency |

¹ RCW 47.01.510 Autonomous Vehicle Executive and Legislative Work Group <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=47.01.510>

The Work Group further expanded its knowledge of AVs and their far-reaching impacts through discussions and expert presentations. The Disabilities Rights Washington advocacy group and the National Federation of the Blind addressed considerations and potential impacts AVs will have on the disabled communities, pressing the importance of engaging these communities and

the concept of equity in AV policy conversations. The Work Group also learned more about advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS), such as blind spot monitoring and rear collision warnings, and how these crash avoidance ADAS technologies are reducing crashes and adjusting driver behavior for safer roadways.

2019 Work Group Accomplishments

Meetings between January and October, 2019

- ▶ 2 Executive Committee meetings
- ▶ 27 Subcommittee meetings



18 additional members appointed to Executive Committee

- ▶ State and Local Governments
- ▶ Private Sector & Non-profit organizations
- ▶ Academia



2 New subcommittees established

- ▶ Health & Equity
- ▶ Workforce



Education: 13 expert presentations

- ▶ Industry and technology overviews and current progress
- ▶ National and state level regulations
- ▶ Legal considerations and recommendations
- ▶ Public perception and education opportunities
- ▶ Considerations for safety, insurance and law enforcement



Recommendations

- ▶ 4 policy recommendations made it through this year's process (See Table 1)



Launched AV Work Group website

- ▶ Information on AV Work Group structure, priorities, Executive Committee and Subcommittees
- ▶ Education on AV-related initiatives happening within the state
- ▶ Progress of AVs across the country in the public and private sectors
- ▶ <https://avworkgroupwa.org/>

2019 Recommendations

All recommendations brought forth by subcommittees and the Executive Committee are advanced to the WSTC. The WSTC, in turn, advances these recommendations to the Legislature and Governor via this annual report, regardless of the Executive Committee's or the WSTC's actions on the recommendations, as a matter of maintaining a complete public record of the process and results.

To this end, provided below are all recommendations brought forth by the Work Group for the Legislature and Governor's consideration, along with the actions taken by the Work Group's Executive Committee and the WSTC.

Table 1: Recommendations Advanced to the Executive Committee and WSTC for Consideration

| Source | Recommendation | Executive Committee Action/ Recommendation | WSTC Action/ Recommendation |
|---|--|---|--|
| POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS | | | |
| Liability subcommittee | Enact legislation requiring self-certified (DOL) AV testing companies to maintain umbrella liability insurance no less than \$5 million per occurrence for damages. | Endorsed | Endorsed |
| Infrastructure & Systems subcommittee | Adopt 8 policy goals to enable the Infrastructure & Systems Subcommittee to continue work on the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Cooperative Automated Transportation (CAT) Policy Framework and, as a next step, develop specific strategies. | Endorsed | Endorsed |
| Infrastructure & Systems subcommittee | Encourage the development of a statewide CAT/AV Policy Framework that would integrate the WSDOT CAT policy goals along with policy goals developed by other subcommittees. | Endorsed | Endorsed |
| Health & Equity subcommittee | Conduct a Health Impact Assessment of AVs. | No voting action | Endorsed** |
| OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS | | | |
| Safety subcommittee | Establish new "Health & Equity" Subcommittee. | Endorsed | WSTC Created |
| Executive Committee | Establish new "Workforce" Subcommittee. | Endorsed | WSTC Created |
| Executive Committee | Appoint a disabilities rights representative to the Executive Committee. | Endorsed | WSTC Appointed |
| RECOMMENDATIONS REQUIRING FURTHER WORK | | | |
| System Technology & Data Security subcommittee | Adopt "AV Privacy and Data Security Principles" and "Data Standard revision 0.1" developed by the subcommittee. | Request further exploration of best practices and standards | Agreed with Executive Committee action |

** Commission supports conducting this study with expectation that Health & Equity subcommittee will develop a detailed proposal.

Work Group Roadmap to 2023

The Executive Committee is working on aligning the Work Group activities undertaken to date and currently underway, with the legislative mandate to ensure by the end of the five-year period of existence, policymakers will have a sense of where we have been on this exploration, and where we are headed.

To this end, the Executive Committee is discussing the possibility of establishing goals and charting major milestones the Work Group wants to accomplish, as well as establishing guiding principles surrounding AV use in Washington State to assist in shaping AV legislation. Direction and expectations defined by the Executive Committee will be established in collaboration with subcommittees to align expectations and available resources.

