

Washington State AV Subcommittee Recommendation

Subcommittee	AV Safety Subcommittee
Date of Meeting	September 26, 2019
Voting Members Present	

Instructions:

- 1) List subject of discussion
- 2) Write a detailed description of the recommendation, including the timeframe recommended for adoption, the agencies and stakeholders affected, and any fiscal implications. Identify potential challenges, including funding, regulation, legislation, education, etc. List recommended remedies to address identified challenges.
- 3) Check all required changes, and write in any that are not listed. Provide a brief explanation of the change needed
- 4) Check all impact areas affected and list recommendations for addressing identified impacts. Write in any impact areas not listed
- 5) If the recommendation has been voted on, please list votes in favor and against. If no vote was taken, please note why.

1) Subject of Discussion	Conduct an assessment of potential health impacts of AVs, with emphasis on identifying disproportionate impacts on disadvantaged populations.
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**2) Recommendation
Challenges, and
Mitigation**

Write a detailed description of the recommendation, including the timeframe recommended for adoption, the agencies and stakeholders affected, and any fiscal implications. Identify potential challenges, including funding, regulation, legislation, education, etc. List recommended remedies to address identified challenges.

Recommendation:

Similar to the recommendation put forward by the Washington State Transportation Commission in their [2018 Report to the Legislature](#), and consistent with the recommendation in *Washington's Transportation Plan 2035*: "Develop a Transportation Equity Analysis toolkit for use in evaluating the benefits and impacts of transportation policies and investments on historically marginalized populations in Washington," the Health and Equity Subcommittee again recommends that funding be made available to assess the health impacts of autonomous vehicle policies.

The assessment will outline the likely public health impacts of various scenarios so that policy makers can understand the implications of an approach before decisions are made. It will provide strategies to maximize the positive impacts, and develop mitigation strategies for negative impacts.

Details and potential approaches:

A traditional Health Impact Assessment (HIA) looks at potential health impacts of specific proposed policies. This work will look at a range of possible policies rather than one specific proposed policy. Though not a traditional Health Impact Assessment, we would be guided by practice standards from the Society of Practitioners of Health Impact Assessments ([SOPHIA](#)). The assessment of health impacts should consider the following elements to inform decisions:

1. Assess the potential health consequences of a proposed program, policy, project, or plan under consideration by decision-makers in advance of the decision in question.
2. Engage stakeholders affected by the proposal, particularly vulnerable populations.
3. Systematically consider the full range of potential impacts of the proposal on health determinants, health status, and health equity.
4. Provide a profile of existing conditions for the populations affected by the proposal, including their health outcomes, health determinants, and vulnerable sub-groups within the population, relevant to the health issues examined in the assessment.
5. Characterize impacts on health, health determinants, and health equity, while documenting data sources and analytic methods, quality of evidence used, methodological assumptions, and limitations.

6. Provide recommendations, as needed, on feasible and effective actions to promote the positive health impacts and mitigate the negative health impacts of the decision, identifying, where appropriate, alternatives or modifications to the proposal.

7. Produce a publicly accessible report or series of reports that include documentation of the assessment's purpose, findings, and recommendations, and either documentation of the processes and methods involved, or reference to an external source of documentation for these processes and methods. The report should be shared with decision-makers and other stakeholders.

8. Propose indicators, actions, and responsible parties, where indicated, for a plan to monitor the implementation of recommendations, as well as health effects and outcomes of the proposal.

A primary goal of this assessment of health impacts is to ensure health benefits of automated mobility are equitably distributed and that negative impacts are not disproportionately borne by traditionally marginalized communities. Funding could be used to harness existing resources at a state agency, to hire a contractor, or both.

In addition, this recommendation includes substantial funding for community engagement during all phases. Local community-based organizations should be hired to facilitate efforts wherever possible. There should be targeted outreach and significant community engagement across the state, from economically disadvantaged communities in urban centers, to rural communities across Washington. A consultant experienced in working with communities of color and other disadvantaged populations should be hired to manage this process.

This assessment of health impacts would study potential positive and negative impacts of AVs on race and social justice, and outcome metrics related to promoting equity, in addition to traditional health-related metrics. This could be done by integrating a modified Racial Equity Toolkit as developed by the City of Seattle, or using the scorecard for Equity Metrics by [SOPHIA](#).

The assessment should also acknowledge, evaluate, and provide guidance on mitigating labor implications of automated mobility, particularly in the for-hire, freight, and public transit industries, among others.

The AV Subcommittee on Health and Equity should define the scope of this assessment in collaboration with the co-chairs from other subcommittees. They will consider which of the nine general health topics to focus on including: air quality, mental well-being, physical activity, social connections, emergency medical services, water quality, noise,

green space, and safety in collaboration the Safety Subcommittee. Scoping may include holding a series of public scoping meetings conducted in various communities across the state, with a focus on supporting engagement from disadvantaged communities, prioritizing communities of color.

This assessment of health impacts also should consider what equity impacts autonomous vehicles will have on:

- Access to transportation for all income levels
- Costs of AV transportation
- Distribution of AV services
- Accessibility and mobility for vulnerable populations, communities of color, people with disabilities, the young and the aging, rural populations, and other historically marginalized populations.
- Job losses from automation such as freight and goods carriers and for-hire drivers of passengers.
- Exposure to traffic and related impacts

The assessment of health impacts can be led by a state agency, but would certainly include the participation of many public and private partners, the public, and ethnic and minority populations who traditionally do not engage in public policy development.

One key aspect of an assessment is addressing equity concerns. This is done through outreach to those people who may be most negatively impacted, understanding the disadvantaged communities' real and perceived health risks, and piloting scenarios to help these communities develop a preferred vision. This would require a significant public engagement process to determine who's not currently at the table, and how to involve them.

Some examples of questions that could be answered include:

- Would AV Transportation Network Company (TNC) vehicles be more willing to go into a less desirable neighborhoods at night than the current taxi system?
- What issues are communities experiencing now, and how might AV improve that situation, or make it worse?
- What are Washingtonian's concerns about AV, and how can we mitigate those?
- How might testing AV technology on public roads disproportionately impact disadvantaged populations?
- What economic impact would a large reduction in annual fatalities have on our communities?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If less land is used for parking, what would happen to that land? Could more park or recreational land be created? • Will more AV transportation mean less walking, and could that increase obesity? • Will it mean less use of public transit? • How will these impacts change over time? • What might be the impact on bicyclists and pedestrians? • What might the impact be on access to health care? <p>Automated vehicles have the potential to provide many safety benefits, but it is imperative that we guide our adoption of AV in a manner that maximizes the public good.</p>
	<p>Timeframe: Start organizational and procurement work internally, with study launching as funding becomes available, ideally in July 2020. Include a funded scoping phase that includes the public and representatives of disadvantaged communities as participants in the scoping process. The assessment is estimated to take 1-2 years to complete.</p>
	<p>Agencies and stakeholders involved: The effort would be led by the Subcommittee on Health and Equity in coordination with all other subcommittee and participants from community-based organizations, including those that represent disadvantaged communities and communities of color.</p>
	<p>Fiscal implications: We are requesting funding in the FY2020–21 and FY 2021-22 budgets to complete the assessment of health impacts of AVs, and to develop suggested health and equity policies. Funding could be used to harness existing resources at a state agency, to hire a contractor, or both.</p>
	<p>Potential challenges and recommended remedies: It is challenging to seek input from traditionally disadvantaged communities, who may not have easy access to information or avenues for self-advocacy, but outreach to such individuals or communities is essential to ensure that equity is foundational within the advancement of AV mobility systems. Funding will be necessary to engage with social justice advocates and representatives of disadvantaged communities and/or individuals.</p>

	<p>Additional notes :</p> <p>For additional reference, the following resources provide more information in scoping the assessment through an equity lens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A rapid equity focused health impact assessment (EFHIA) of a policy implementation plan: This paper presents a case study and briefly describes the process and findings of the EFHIA. • Promoting Equity through the Practice of Health Impact Assessment: This report is a primer on how to “ensure that the practice of HIA maintains a strong focus on promoting equity” and “how HIA can be used as a tool to support equitable decision-making processes and outcomes.” • Communicating About Equity in Health Impact Assessment: A Guide for Practitioners
3) Requirements Identified Check all required changes, and write in any that are not listed. Provide a brief explanation of the change needed	<input type="checkbox"/> Cost impact mitigation <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative change <input type="checkbox"/> Regulatory change <input type="checkbox"/> Other
4) Identified implications/ impacts Check all impact areas affected and list recommendations for addressing identified impacts. Write in any impact areas not listed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure An assessment of health impacts would provide insight into how targeted infrastructure investments can mitigate health and equity impacts related to AV technology. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety An assessment would provide insight into how we can maximize the public benefits of AV while mitigating the potentially unforeseen negative impacts. <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health and livability

	An assessment of health impacts would provide the information needed for policy makers to create policy related to dissemination and implementation of AVs that would improve overall public health and livability.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental impacts
	<input type="checkbox"/> Economic impact
	<input type="checkbox"/> Work force impact
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equitable access impact
The overarching goal of this assessment is to ensure benefits of automated mobility are equitably distributed and that negative impacts are not disproportionately borne by traditionally marginalized communities.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
5)Votes If the recommendation has been voted on, please list votes in favor and against If no vote was taken, please note why.	Washington State Transportation Commission voted to include this recommendation in the 2018 report to the legislature.